



# The Masonic Philatelist

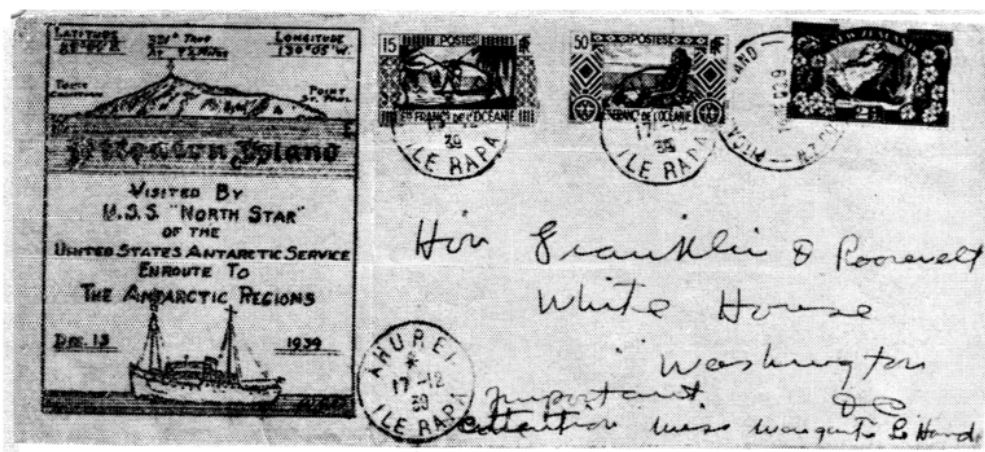
VOL. 19

MARCH 1963

NO. 7

## Masonry and Polar Expeditions, Part II

By Dr. Irwin M. Yarry



Illustrated above is envelope hand-addressed by Admiral Richard E. Byrd to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. See also within a copy of the letter which was enclosed.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 19 NO. 7  
MARCH 1963

★ ★ ★ ★

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.

★ ★ ★ ★

## OFFICERS

President and  
Curator of Archives Shelton W. Osterlund  
3 Admiral Drive, Tuckerton, N. J.  
1st Vice Pres. and Editor Norman H. Sehlmeier  
1616 East 10th Street, Brooklyn 23, N. Y.  
2nd Vice Pres. and Sec. Stanley A. Salomon  
1200 Fifth Avenue, New York 29, N. Y.  
Treasurer Joseph Munk  
1010 Sherman Avenue, Bronx 56, N. Y.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Elliot M. Nordheim 3 years  
Jose Rueff 2 years  
E. Milnor Peck 1 year

## TREASURER EMERITUS

Fred Wendel

## PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Carl Pihl ..... Chairman  
Sam Brooks, Dr. S. Duffield Swan, Dr. Irwin Yarry

★ ★ ★ ★

Membership Peter I. Lee  
1235 Grand Concourse  
Bronx 52, New York

Publicity Herbert C. Walton  
49 Kenwood Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey

Copyright 1963—The Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.

## *By the sign of the Gavel*

Our February meeting was well attended, and all present enjoyed very much the scholarly presentation by Professor John N. Myer of the Stamps of Colombia. An equally interesting evening may be anticipated for the March meeting, when we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mr. Malcolm O'Reilly speak on the Postal History of Ireland.

We welcome two new names on our Masthead—Bro. Peter I. Lee on the Membership Committee, replacing Bro. Carl E. Pelander who has resigned, and Bro. Herbert C. Walton, on the Publicity Committee. Bro. Walton will relieve our hard working Secretary Stanley Salomon, who has heretofore been doing a splendid job on our pub-

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month  
Collectors Club Building  
22 East 35th Street, N. Y. C.  
22nd meeting Mar. 1, 1963  
Malcolm O'Reilly speaker on "The  
Postal History of Ireland."

licity. I am confident that these two relatively new members will continue the fine work accomplished by their predecessors.

Be sure to make a note and reserve the date—May 24, 1963. This is the night appointed for the customary high-light of our year, the Annual Dinner. Full details will appear in our next issue.

—Shelton W. Osterlund

## A CORRECTION

Our newly appointed Chairman of the Membership Committee, Bro. Peter I. Lee, writes as follows:

"In reading the February Masonic Philatelist, I note an error in the article about our January meeting. It states that Bro. Peter Lee showed Christmas stamps of Norway. Actual-ly these stamps were Official Stamps."

I can readily understand how they were considered to be Christmas stamps because of their brilliant color and design, but I respectfully request that if at all possible a correction be made in a subsequent issue.

I also feel that I, myself, am largely to blame, inasmuch as I did not make any comment about the stamps as I should have, the main reason being that after having witnessed and heard the comments on all that wonderful stuff shown by the other Brothers, I got the feeling that the less said the better."

## OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Bro. Reggel, on behalf of one of our members who was present but who preferred to remain anonymous as to the source, presented to each member a first-day cover of the intentionally issued Dag Hammarskjöld invert error.

We were very happy to see Bro. Richard Bruder in attendance after a long absence because of his business having transferred him out-of-town. Also welcomed by our President were two new members, Bros. Wettach and Walton.

After a very short business meeting, Bro. Sehlmeier introduced our guest of the evening, Professor John Myer

Continued on Page 4

## Masonry and Polar Expeditions, Part II

By Dr. Irwin M. Yarry  
concluded

The next great event of Admiral Byrd's Antarctica explorations brings us to the expedition under the complete auspices of the Federal Government, and known as the U.S. Antarctica Service Expedition with Admiral Byrd in command. This was the second exploratory expedition (Wilkes' Expedition of 1839 was the first), and left Boston in November 1939 with the "North Star" and the "Bear." President Franklin D. Roosevelt, an old friend of Admiral Byrd, gave him all the assistance and encouragement which one brother of the Craft might be expected to give to another under such circumstances. An indication of the friendship and cooperation which existed between these two distinguished members of the Fraternity, may be discerned from the few words written in the most personal and informal manner in the letter as illustrated, with reads:

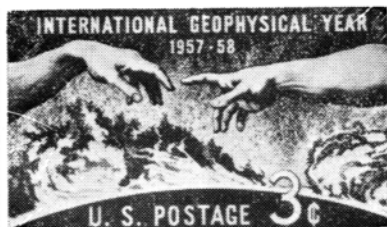
"My dear Franklin, Greetings from the South Seas! I want to tell you what a very tremendous lot your messages have meant to all of us. We will certainly try to do a good job for you. The next you hear from us we will be trying to do our stuff. With affectionate regards, Dick Byrd."

This letter, in Admiral Byrd's handwriting, was written at Dunedin, New Zealand. The envelope, which is illustrated on our Cover Page, bore a cachet for Pitcairn Island, and was franked with a New Zealand 2½ pence stamp cancelled Pitcairn Island 14 Dec. 39 and French Oceania 15 and 50 centimes stamps cancelled Ahurei, Ile Rapa 17-12-39. The reverse side bears the signature of R. E. Byrd, 9 Brimmer St., Boston, Mass. Note that the cover is addressed to Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, White House, Washington, D.C. Important—Attention Miss Margaret Le Hand.

The result of this third trip to the South Pole brought many new discoveries and mappings of the coastline. Admiral Byrd next was placed in charge of the Navy's Antarctic Developments Project with the most ambitious popular expedition of 13 vessels, planes and 4,000 men and officers on Operation High Jump in 1947.

The climax of recognition came to Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd, now in his 60's, when Operation Deep Freeze

was sponsored by the Federal Government to take place between 1955-59, to explore the Antarctic Continent and to participate in the proposed International Geophysical Year of 1957-58 or the I. G. Y. as it is now known. Many nations participated in the I. G. Y. and issued stamps to commemorate it. The United States issued a special stamp (Scott No. 1107) which is illustrated herewith.



This expedition was set up by the Navy in several phases. The 1955 phase was to involve 7 ships, 14 aircrafts and 1800 men, for the building of two large year-around bases in Antarctica at Kainan Bay, Little America, and the other on Ross Island in Mc Murdo Sound. Further projects included a station at Marie Byrd Land, 500 miles away. For 1957 an additional 12 ships, 38 aircraft and 3525 men were detailed with further bases at the South Pole and to supply all these with added bases at Knox Coast and Weddell Sea. The third phase in 1958—to resupply all stations. The fourth phase—the participation in the I. G. Y. Scientific Program in 1958-59.

The realization of this vast project is now history, but Admiral Richard E. Byrd did not survive to witness it all. He died in his sleep at his home on Brimmer Street in Boston on March 11, 1957,—death being attributed to a heart ailment brought on by overwork in connection with his many activities with Operation Deep Freeze. Shortly before his death, he had been decorated with the Defense Department Medal of Freedom, climaxing many honors and decorations bestowed upon this great American man of peace, Mason and worker for the betterment of mankind.

Brother Richard Evelyn Byrd.  
Born: October 25, 1888 — Winchester, Virginia.

Raised: March 19, 1921 in Federal Lodge #1, Washington, D.C.

Affiliated: September 18, 1928 with Kane Lodge #4, New York, N.Y.

Member: National Sojourner Chapter #3, Washington, D.C.

Received the Kane Medal on March 7, 1929.

Decorated by President Roosevelt in January 1945 with the Legion of Merit.

Received the Masonic Distinguished Achievement Medal of New York State, from Most Wor. Gay H. Brown at Grand Master's Dinner on May 6, 1947 (see photo in February issue of "The Masonic Philatelist")

Died: March 11, 1957—Boston, Mass.

## MUSINGS OF AN "OLD HAS BEEN"

### Article No. 5

Well do I remember my first auction! It was soon after my interest started to revive in stamps.—I had decide to buy some Spanish stamps which I had seen (yes, Goya nudes), and went to the office where I had seen them. I arrived to find the place all rearranged,—about 20 people were seated and one man was on a platform. Some one thrust a leaflet into my hand and pointed to a number. I sat down too, and started listening and watching.

Numbers were called by the platform man and values and bids made. I couldn't understand how he got his figures on bids,—no one seemed to say anything, but he sold the lots just the same, and every once in a while there seemed to be spirited bidding. Finally it dawned on me to watch two men up near the front and I learned a new use for a pencil.

One of the peculiar features of that auction to me was that there was no evidence of display of the wares being sold, as is the usual custom at other auctions. Later I found that they were on display at a front table where three men were seated, but that most of the bidders had viewed them in advance and made an evaluation for their prospective bidding.

Needless to say, I did not get my Goyas, nor did I buy anything at that auction. Later, I inquired about method of payment and delivery, which of course are slightly different from the general auctions which I had seen before this. It is interesting to recall that auction was run by a man who is presently a member of our Club, and on this occasion was called

by a member of our Fraternity. That was many years and auctions ago, but I still find that there is something exciting about attending a stamp auction of the better variety.

### Lake Erie Chapter

The regular third Wednesday of the Month meeting of the Lake Erie Chapter #2 of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was held at 8.00 P.M. on March 20th with 17 members present. Of this group 10 joined in the Dutch Treat Dinner preceding the meeting.

The Philatelic Activities Committee reported that 50 display frames were in the process of manufacture. These frames will be used for our future exhibits and for displays in other shows.

The committee also reported that they were busy assembling a display to enter in the Garfield Perry Clubs inter Club show.

About 8 lbs. of stamps, several albums and catalogs were turned in for the Crippled Childrens Hospitals.

A 5 minute talk was given by Bro. James Lambert on the life and history of Albert Pike.

Many good items were entered in the regular auction. Due to the quality of the merchandise the bidding was very spirited and well handled by Bro. James Lambert.

The main speaker for the evening was Bro. L. W. Christenson whose topic was "The First Issues of Stamps of Japan." Bro. Christenson has one of the world's best and complete collections of Japanese Stamps.

—Corresponding Secy. Harry A. Pahl

## OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Continued from Page 2

of New York University, who had many pages of his extensive Colombia collection displayed in the frames.

Our speaker gave a most interesting and scholarly presentation of the stamps of Colombia. He had a very detailed tape recording, which he had made himself, on the background and postal history of Colombia, which served as a constructive introduction for his main talk which was amply illustrated with color slides of many of his prized stamps and covers of that country. His talk was most comprehensive and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The turnout for Prof. Myer was indeed gratifying, as the room was almost filled by our members.

—Stanley A. Salomon

11.542  
11.543  
Reputation Dunedin

The Grand Hotel,  
Dunedin, N.Z.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
JAN 29 10 38 AM '30  
RECEIVED

my dear Franklin,  
Greetings from the South  
Isles!

I want to tell you what  
a very tremendous lot your  
messages have meant to  
all of us. We will certainly  
try to do a good job for  
you.

The next you hear of us  
we will be trying to do  
our stuff.

With affectionate regards

Dick Byrd

**FROM BRO. WALTER R. HARBESON**

"I am enclosing an article on a subject that has not been mentioned regarding Masonry on Stamps, so far as I know. This information is from an article by Fred Kleinknecht, Jr. 33°, which appeared in the Mansfield, Ohio, Mason. I trust it will be of enough interest to be used.

I am getting along fine. I have been to a meeting of my home lodge, to my K. T. Inspection, Eastern Star and the Stamp Club, so I am getting around a bit. I am still at the hotel, using a cane all the time now; in fact, sent my walker back to the Temple yesterday. Managed to walk over to the Temple one day for lunch; when the weather improves, hope to do so often.

Remember me to the boys at the Club. I do hope that Uncle Jake is getting along O. K. He evidently did not get to Florida this winter. I hear from Bros. Loke, Dailey and Carr regularly and enjoy getting mail."

3 5 7 9

Three-five-seven-nine are known as the Mystic Numbers. The only set of number stamps that show all four numbers is the U.S. Postal Note issue and can well be included in a Masonic collection.

In Freemasonry the number three is the most sacred. There are three symbolic degrees; three principal officers; three greater and three lesser lights; three original Grand Masters; three raps; three steps; three circuits of the lodge; three pillars of wisdom, strength and beauty and three movable and immovable jewels. No symbol is more important than the equilateral triangle used as a symbol of Deity.

Five is a sacred number inferior only to three and seven. There are five points of fellowship; five senses; five orders of architecture, five pointed star. The last one is not found among the old symbols and is of recent origin.

Seven is called the perfect number, being made up of three and four, the triangle and the square. Solomon was seven years building the Temple. It was dedicated in the seventh month and the festival lasted seven days. There are seven arts and sciences, seven winding stairs, and seven are required to make a perfect lodge.

Nine—since three was deemed the most sacred of numbers, three times three was ranked highest in holiness. Nine was regarded with a degree of tenor, and to the ancients, a symbol of change and an emblem of frailty of man and his affairs. According to the Kabbalists, the cypher nine symbolized

the generative egg or the image of a little globular being.

The arithmetical progression should be noted

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 09 | 18 | 27 | 36 | 45 | 54 | 63 | 72 | 81 | 90 |

The regular series is the first line. The second line reproduces it with two digits in each number, the first digit in each ascending from 0 to 9, the second digit reverses from 9 to 0. The sum of the two digits in each number on the second line is 9.

In Masonic language, nine is derived from three times three and is used most often in that way. Twenty-seven, or three times nine, and eighty-one, or nine times nine, are used as sacred numbers in the higher degrees.

**VACATION REMINISCENCE**

During our last vacation, I drove my family through a small, sleepy Texas town, named Chappell Hill. It is a quiet little town, inhabited mostly by cotton farmers, and is rich in history and folklore.

We stopped and talked with the local banker and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Winfield. It just so happened that the Masonic Lodge was across the street from the bank, on the second floor, and that Bro. Winfield is the W. M. of Hubert Lodge #67 at Chappell Hill, whose charter dates back to January 24, 1851. The Lodge currently has 26 members. Brother Winfield has the original charter and the original gavel with which the Lodge was first opened safely stored in the vault of his bank. He is also able to tell you where the Lodge procured the bell, used to toll "low twelve," and which now hangs on the landing of a set of stairs leading up to the second story, where the communications are held. He can also relate many, many fascinating tales of the charter members and some of the early brethren. Some of them were fine people, and some, like young Longly, wound up as an outlaw, hanging from a tree. Besides the stories he likes to tell, Bro. Winfield has a fine collection of guns, rifles and many curios which one could spend hours examining.

The most unusual part of this story is that among the multitude of treasures Bro. Winfield has, is one that he gave me when I told him of my interest in Masonic Philately. It is a manila envelope, 9 1/2" x 4 1/4", with the return address of the Farmers State Bank in the upper left hand corner. He had placed two single 3¢ Gadsden Purchase Commemorative stamps (Scott #1028)

about 1 1/4" below the top one. The top one bears a cancellation mark of "Chapel Hill, Tex. 5 P.M., Oct. 31, 1953." The lower one bears a post mark "Chappell Hill, Tex. 5 P.M. Nov. 1, 1953." Bro Winfield told me that he personally initiated the petition to have the Post Office Department change back the spelling to its original way, that is, with the double "P" and double "L" in Chappell.

This is the only instance that I know of wherein one envelope bears two separate and distinct cancellation marks from office of origin.

Such chance meetings are rare and infrequent, and one is much richer for making such acquaintances. I felt that the brethren would be interested in this episode.

—George S. Mann (Houston, Texas)

## NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

### UNITED STATES

- Jan. 9—5¢ American Flag regular postage stamp, Washington, D.C. Unlimited printing (red and blue on white).
- Feb. 15—6¢ Precancelled Airmail Postal Card (Bald Eagle), Maitland, Florida. Unlimited printing (red)
- Mar. 22—1¢ Andrew Jackson regular postage stamp, New York 1, New York. Unlimited printing (green) (5¢ each cover).
- April 6—5¢, 300th anniversary of the granting of the Carolina Charter, Edenton, N.C.
- May 3—15¢ Montgomery Blair, Silver Spring, Md.
- May 31—1¢ Jackson stamp coils, Chicago 7, Illinois. Unlimited printing (green) (5¢ each cover).
- June 4—5¢ Food for Peace, Washington, D. C.
- June 20—5¢ West Virginia statehood, Wheeling, West. Va.
- July 1—5¢ Battle of Gettysburg "Civil War Centennial" commemorative stamp, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- July 12—6¢ Airmail stamp (Bald Eagle) Boston 9, Massachusetts. Unlimited printing (red) (if envelope used, additional 2¢ in stamps must be affixed to each cover by sender to meet airmail letter rate).
- July 24—8¢ Amelia Earhart commemorative airmail stamp, Atchison, Kansas.
- \*5¢ Emancipation Proclamation commemorative stamp.
- \*Science commemorative stamp.
- \*American painting commemorative stamp.

Aug. 17—Alliance with Central American issue.

\*Oct. 11—Eleanor Roosevelt commemorative stamp.

\*5¢ Christmas postage stamp.

### UNITED NATIONS 1963

Feb. 4—5¢, 11¢ Development Through Science and Technology.

Mar. 22—5¢, 11¢ Freedom from Hunger.

April 26—5¢, 8¢ airmail envelopes, 4¢, 5¢ airmail postal cards, cost each 1¢ extra.

June—6¢, 8¢, 13¢ airmail regulars.

Oct. 1—West New Guinea Operation.

Oct. 1—25¢ to honor UN program in West New Guinea.

Orders may be sent to Postal Administration, Philatelic Dept., United Nations, N.Y.

### CANADA 1963

Feb. 4—1¢, 4¢ Queen Elizabeth definitive series; 2¢, 3¢ on sale May 2.

Mar. 5—5¢ commemorative to honor the birth of Sir Casimir Cowski and famed settlers.

June 14—\$1 export markets scene.

July 29—5¢ for explorer Sir Martin Frobisher.

Aug. 23—5¢ for opening of first post office at Quebec City, Montreal, Three Rivers.

Sept. 30—15¢ replacing the gannet design, this to picture four geese in flight.



