

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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By the sign of the Gavel

We had a good attendance at the April meeting, and a large number of the members displayed a favorite page from their albums. The program was enjoyed by all present.

It was very gratifying to note the virtually unanimous approval of our membership of the proposed incorporation of our Club. Out of a total of 535 postal cards received, expressing the vote of our members, 521 were in favor of incorporation; 10 were opposed and four were returned with no vote. The affirmative vote was therefore 97.4%.

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York has sanctioned our application, and the necessary legal steps are now being taken. Full details will be

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th Street, N. Y. C.
Ninth Meeting May 4, 1963
Dr. Harold B. Eiber will display
and talk on his famous collection
of Medicine on Stamps.

submitted at a later date.

We anticipate another very interesting program at our May meeting, when Dr. Harold B. Eiber will display and talk on his famous collection of Medicine on Stamps.

—Shelton W. Osterlund.

MUSINGS OF AN "OLD HAS BEEN"

Article No. 7

Masonic Cancellations

Having brought up a subject that is dear to my heart, it might be a good idea to give it some discussion.

You may well ask just what are Masonic cancellations, and how did they ever get started?

A hundred years ago the postal regulation was that stamps on delivered envelopes had to be obliterated. At first only town and numerals, such as 3, 10, 12½¢, etc., were used. Some ingenious postmaster conceived the idea of cutting a cork or broom handle and making a smear cancel. From this developed the fancy cancellations, of which there are so many beautifully executed examples. Finally some Mason—possibly recently initiated as a member—in his enthusiasm, cut a square and compasses and thus started this field of cancellations. At that time there were over 40,000 post offices, so it is not at all surprising that over 250 of them are known to have issued Masonic cancellations.

There is no hard and fast rule about what constitutes a Masonic cancellation. For general purposes there are three groupings: 1. Square and Compasses; 2. Lesser insignia, such as the trowel, cane with two dots, the square, the gavel and King Solomon's seal; 3. Associated insignia, such as Royal Arch seal, Knight Templar cross crown, the all-seeing eye, the sp. etc.

Cork representations of the square and compasses vary in many respects. The most common ones are the negative type. I have tried to make it my rule that the corner of the square should be within the cork, but have found cases where the postmaster was a Mason and the angle of the square was neither within the cork or a right

angle. Generally square and compasses with the letter G can be attributed to a Mason. Good copies of Masonics are at a premium, and those on cover now bring a good price. During the past year about 100 covers and stamps have passed through my hands, and several of the brothers have been recipients of many which were duplicates. I still have a wide Masonic correspondence and get offers of items in direct sale. I also receive many for inspection only, as some of the brothers consider me to be an expert on this subject.

OUR APRIL MEETING

A large number of members were present at the April 5th meeting, for the scheduled "My Favorite Page Night". In addition, we were pleased to greet visitors, Bro. Lebow of Humanitas Lodge #1123 and Bro. Phil Kamil of Ezra Lodge #215. Bro. Eilert also attended, it being his first appearance since having joined.

Pres. Osterlund introduced Bro. Herbert Walton who is now handling publicity for the Club. Our President then appointed a nominating committee for year 1963, consisting of Bros. Reg-Yarry and Grossman.

Dr. Yarry, Chairman of the Annual Dinner Committee, reported that the arrangements for the dinner have been completed and that the charge will be \$5.00 per member attending. The date is set for May 24th at the Masonic Club. He also reported that Bro. Christenberry would be unable to attend as guest of honor, due to another commitment.

Bro. Sam Brooks announced that he is giving the Middle Chamber lecture at his Lodge, Vigilantia #1108 on Monday, May 3rd. A number of those present expressed their intention to be present. Bro. Osterlund expressed regrets for omitting Dr. Swan's name in the listing of Masonic Stamp Experts that he mentioned in his monthly message which appeared in the February issue of the Masonic Philatelist. Bro. Brooks also reported that Bro. Sol Glass regretted his inability to attend the meet-

The interesting program, "My Favorite Page," was commenced by Bro. Reggel with a comic page, using the new "seeing eye" stamp of India commemorating the International Congress of Ophthalmologists.

Bro. Swan displayed the frontispiece of his Masonic Stamps album. Bro. Rueff showed a page containing a first flight cover of Curacao.

Dr. Yarry showed two pages from

his Fiji collection, which included his two rarest covers—Fiji stamps used in Tonga. Bro. Salomon's page contained stamps with Masonic Cancellations. Bro. Grossman showed a letter and cover from Los Angeles, Israel. Bro. Lee had a page of Goya Nudes.

Bro. Greck—a page of Norwegian Victory Overprints, and Bro. Reggel concluded with a crash cover sent in 1920 from N.Y. to San Francisco, with 2¢ postage. This cover was accompanied by a certificate from the Philatelic Society.

—Stanley A. Salomon, Sec.

MASONS ON STAMPS RUBEN DARIO



One of the most outstanding poets and short story writers of Latin America was Ruben Dario, whose portrait appears on several stamps of Nicaragua: 407, 687, C-257-60 and on Cuba E-11. Although his given name was Felix Ruben Garcia-Sarmiento, he was better known by his pen name—Ruben Dario.

Before his birth January 18, 1867 at Metapa, Department of Segovia, Nicaragua, his parents separated and he was brought up by relatives in Leon. As a child prodigy he wrote verses at the age of 5 or 6 and became known as the boy poet. He studied at the Jesuit secondary school in Leon and at the National Institute.

For several years Ruben Dario worked as a journalist in Santiago, Valparaiso and Buenos Aires, returning to Nicaragua in 1889. In Chile he edited the journal "La Epoca."

In 1892 he was sent to Spain as a delegate to the Fourth Centennial Celebration of the discovery of America. The following year he visited Paris and New York; then on to Buenos Aires where he held diplomatic and journalistic positions including that of correspondent to "La Nacion."

Thereafter he traveled extensively and lived temporarily in various Latin American cities, and in Paris and Madrid. It was while in Managua, Nicaragua, that he became a Freemason, being initiated in Lodge Progreso No. 1 on January 24, 1907.

His health undermined, he died on February 6, 1916, in Leon. His tomb appears on Nicaraguan stamp No 707.

—Marshall S. Loke.

Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition

Following the interesting articles by Dr. Yarry in preceding issues, we illustrate on our cover page, a cover in the possession of Bro. Carl E. Pelander, who had received it from Richard Wesley Konter, along with letter dated Feb. 8, 1961, reading as follows:

"Perhaps by now you have forgotten a promise I made you at the last meeting of the Society of American Wars a few weeks ago.

Here is the souvenir of Admiral Byrd's 1928-1930 Antarctic Expedition of which I was a volunteer member, and also on his Arctic Expedition of 1926.

The enclosed was my private stationery which I used to send back to my personal friends while we were around 750 or more miles from the South Pole.

Our ship, The City of New York, was an official U.S. Post Office, and her Master, Captain F. C. Melville the expedition Postmaster, who allowed me to cancel extra envelopes while in the Antarctic.

The date, Feb. 19th, 1930, was our last day off Little America, or the day we left the Bay of Whales, Ross Sea, Antarctica, to return to civilization.

Because the paper is showing signs of old age I would advise you to keep it against something solid, or do as most are doing, frame it.

The older this gets the more priceless it will become for there cannot be any more first flights over the poles and I hope you like it.

Faithfully yours,
Richard Wesley Konter,
Director of the Jolly Troubadors."

Also illustrated herein are various other types of Antarctic cancellations.

Some of our readers have pointed out that the cover page of the March 1957 Philatelist showed an envelope addressed to Raymond V. Bahr, Spring-

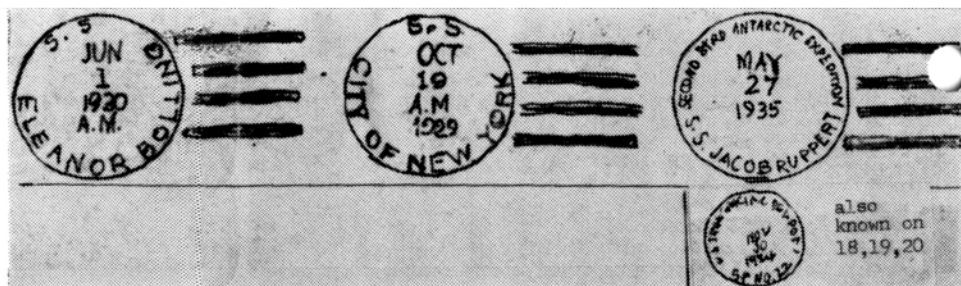
field, Illinois, which bore several autographs, including that of Admiral Byrd. It is timely now to repeat the description which accompanied this illustration:

"This envelope is of unusual interest to members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York not only because it was sent from the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition by one Mason to another, but the inscription in longhand reads 'S.S. Jacob Ruppert, arrived Cristobal 1:55 P.M., Oct. 30, 1933 Gerald D. Bliss.' Brother Bliss is a member of the MSC and was Postmaster, The Canal Zone, 1905 to 1934. Gerald Bliss is now in Miami recuperating after a long siege of illness. Inside the envelope was an interesting card, and without trespassing on its privacy, let us print the beginning: 'Dear Noble, Did you know that the four men who flew over the So. Pole on the first Expedition are all Masons, and three—Byrd, June and Capt. McKinley are members of the same Lodge, Kane 454 New York City while Bernt Balchen is a member Norseman's Lodge, same place and Kismet Temple, Brooklyn. Balchen told me he dropped his fez on the Pole!'"

Eleanor Bolling (ex. Chelsea), freighter of 800 tons left Norfolk, Va. on September 25, 1928; reached Dunedin, N.Z., Nov. 18; met the City of New York at sea to transfer coal and then returned to Dunedin on Dec. 20. Left Dunedin in Jan. 1929, and reached Little America Jan. 27th.

City of New York (ex. Samson), built 1882, 515 tons, left Hoboken Aug. 28, 1928; reached Dunedin Nov. 26; left Dunedin Dec. 2, 1928, and arrived in Little America Jan. 1, 1929.

The 2nd Byrd Antarctic Expedition used the S.S. Jacob Rupert, as illustrated, from Oct. 8, 1933 into 1935.



DAVID THOMAS CLEMENTS

The following is a thumbnail sketch of the scheduled guest speaker for our Annual Dinner, May 24, 1963.

David Thomas Clements succeeded Reidar Tvedt of Norway in June 1960, as Chief of the United Nations Postal Administration, after having served the UN in a variety of other assignments at the New York Headquarters and abroad since 1946. He is a 53-year old professional engineer, an expert in standardization, an international troubleshooter, and a sailboat enthusiast.

As an authority on standards, with a record of having achieved uniformity in equipment and material for the United States Treasury Department and the Army, Mr. Clements' first post at the UN was as chief of its Standards Section.

Although he has never been a stamp collector, Mr. Clements is a friend of Philately. One might suppose that his driving force for standardization would result in uniformity of stamp design and a minimum of new issues, but such is not the case. He believes in giving the public bright colors, attractive designs and a variety of interesting themes to promote the sale of UN stamps and getting the message of peaceful cooperation into all corners of the world.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was three months old when his father, an international travelling salesman for an import-export firm, took the family to live in England. They returned to the United States in 1922, and the 13-year-old boy enjoyed country life on his grandparents' farm at Cape May, New Jersey. Mr. Clements is a graduate of Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn, with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

His first fulltime job was in the procurement division of the Treasury Department where he developed standards for all kinds of government equipment. Inducted into the Army in 1940 as a lieutenant, he was mustered out in 1946 with the rank of Colonel, as chief of procurement division, Quartermaster Corps, European Theater. He served on the General Staff in World War II, with General Eisenhower in France. The Croix de Guerre is among the decorations he received for his contributions to Allied victory.

When Mr. Clements joined the United Nations administration, that body was in its first temporary quarters in Hunter College. He saw it move to Lake Success, Long Island, and later to its permanent headquarters along the East

River in New York City. A variety of assignments included a 1947 mission to Palestine; 1950 to Korea; 1954 to Indonesia; 1956 to Egypt; 1960 to Congo.

Mr. Clements modestly attributes his success as Chief of the Postal Administration to his capable staff and particularly to Kamil Tooni, Chief of the Commercial Management service, of which the Postal Administration is a component. Mr. Tooni, an Iraqi national, is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

THE PAPAL BULLS AND FREEMASONRY

Bro. George H. Wettach has furnished the following interesting article taken from the July 1927 issue of "The Master Mason." It is by Bro. W. J. Chetwode Crawley, from Transactions of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, London, Vol. 24.

The Church of Rome sets the dogma of Papal Infallibility in the forefront of its controversial array, and claims that the dogma is justified alike by the words of Scripture, by the teaching of the Apostles and the Fathers, and by the traditions of the early Church.

In order to convey authoritatively the utterance of the Pope to the Faithful divided by race, language, and nationality, an intricate system of ecclesiastical promulgation was devised in the course of ages by the Pontifical Chancery. When the Holy See came to concern itself with modern Freemasonry, the Holy See had many ways of expressing its infallible judgments, ranging from Consistorial Acts of the utmost solemnity, to the private addresses of the Pontiff. First and foremost come the Bullae, or Bulls, with their congeners, the Brevia, or Briefs; followed by Decreta, laying down regulations; Edicta, construing or enforcing doubtful points; Rescripta, in answer to queries or suggestions from without; Epistolae proprio motu, inspired from within; Allocutiones, or Addresses in Secret Consistory; and so through a multitude of ecclesiastical indications and proclamations, merging into the Epistolae Encyclicae, which have become of late years the favorite mode of declaring the infallible judgment of the Vicar of Christ.

All these, and many other forms of Papal admonition and instruction, in one sense possess an equal value. For each of them is an expression of infallibility, and infallibility does not admit of degrees. But they differ widely in the solemnity of promulgation, in method of application, and above all, in

the ecclesiastical sanction involved. At the head of them all stands the minatory Papal Bull and it is with the Bulls against Freemasonry we have to do.

The Papal Bull, no less than its progenitor, the Imperial Bull of the Eastern and Western Empires, derives its name from the "bulla," or blob of metal on which the authenticating seal of the Papal or Imperial Chancery is impressed, and which is attached to the document by cords or narrow ribbons. In the case of Papal Bulls, both the cords and the metal vary in material with the nature of the document. The Bulls are divided into two classes, "Indulgentia," or Acts of Grace, and "Mandementa," or Acts of Condemnation. The former have the Bullae attached by red and yellow ribbons of silk; the latter by hempen bands. In special cases, where the Pope has it in mind to express highest approval, the lead of the Bulla may be replaced by gold, and the document is known as a Golden Bull. A notable instance of this supreme distinction is the Bull of Pope Leo X, dated 11th October, 1521, conferring on Henry VIII the title of Defender of the Faith (Fidei Defensor), still borne on the coins of English monarchs. Considering the course of events, this exercise of infallibility would seem to afford an adequate, though awkward, test of faith in the dogma.

At the time when the growing enlightenment of the age had led to the corresponding acceptance of the principles of modern Freemasonry, the issue of a Papal Bull was fenced about with an array of legal formalities that sometimes defeated their own ends. No clearer object lesson could be found to explain the derivation of diplomacy from the word diploma. The Bull, to be valid evidence of the Papal utterance, had to be engrossed on the rough side, and no other, of the parchment roll. The writing itself was in no script even current in mundane literature, but in eclectic characters made up from many sources. The Latin text was couched in technical abbreviations so intricate of arrangement and so difficult of decipherment, that the later Bulls were often accompanied by translations. The very folding and endorsement of the document formed an art, requiring special training. Then having emerged from the hands of a host of Abbreviatores, Scriptores, Registratores, Plicatores, Bullatores, et hoc genus omne, the Bull passed into the domain of ecclesiastical promulgation.

Here the ceremonies attending its publication in Rome were to be repeated, with similar solemnity and equal particularity, in each individual Diocese. Without such local publication, the Faithful might plead ignorance in excuse for disobedience, and mortal sin be reduced thereby to a venial inadvantage.

This construction of the Canon Law will help to explain frequent diversities in the demeanor of the Vatican towards particular countries, and even towards particular Vicariates of the same country. Thus, the Duke of Norfolk, who served as Grand Master in 1730, before the Bull was issued in Rome, and Lord Petre, who served as Grand Master in 1772, before the Bull was formally published in England, seem to stand on the same footing. Neither seems to have incurred the dire penalties of the Mandamentum, though both these noblemen were ornaments of the Roman Catholic Church. In Ireland, the case was still more striking.

The present writer has satisfied himself that, in the closing decades of the eighteenth century, a large proportion of the rank and file of the Craft belonged to the Roman Catholic religion. In some districts, the proportion was so large as to amount to a majority. The eminent student of Irish Craft History, R. W. Bro. F. C. Crossle, D. G. M. of the Province of Down, has left it on record that in Protestant Ulster, there were lodges largely, if not exclusively, composed of brethren of the Roman Catholic persuasion. These lodges, working in perfect amity with the other lodges of the Province, are, according to Dr. F. C. Crossle, repeatedly mentioned in the minutes of their sister lodges as the "Roman Bodies."

The protagonist of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, the famous liberator, Daniel O'Connell, belonged to two local lodges in the Province of Munster, in addition to the Metropolitan Lodge, of which he was a member for many years. Later still, he was among our counsel in the protracted legal proceedings that resulted, in 1808, in the establishment of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland over the whole of the Kingdom.

A curious and still more convincing instance of the favor with which Freemasonry was regarded by the Roman Catholic authorities in the Province of Munster is furnished by the artless annals of Lodge No. 60, Ennis. As far as is known, no attempt was made to publish the Papal Bull in Ireland till after the suppression of the rebellion

of 1798. Then the ecclesiastical publication began in the Archbishopric of Dublin, and crept from one Diocese to another as occasion might serve. Evidently it was slow in reaching the distant Diocese of Killaloe, of which the ancient town of Ennis has been the ecclesiastical capital since the introduction of ecclesiastical jurisdiction into Ireland. In 1800, on St. John's Day in Summer, the great festival day of the brotherhood in Ireland, the lodge formally attended divine service in the Roman Catholic Chapel, where the officiating clergyman was no less a personage than the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese.

The simple wording of the Minute is of a piece with the rest of the Transaction Book, and the paragraphs immediately preceding and succeeding it have been supplied in our facsimile for comparison. Whatever we may think of the episode today, the writer of the Minute saw nothing unusual in the proceedings and set them down as matter of course.

The wording of the Minute is as follows:

Ennis Lodge N 60 June 24th, 1800

"This being Anniversary of St. John the Lodge assembled to celebrate that day marched to prayers where an excellent Sermon on the subject of Masonry was preached by the Rev. Doctor McDonough in the Chappel of Ennis the Members dined together and were honored with the company of the following Gentlemen and Brethren, viz:

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Revd. Priest McDonough | 229 |
| Major Lestor | 229 |
| S. Beck | 660" |

It should be explained that in Ireland at that date, and long subsequently, the terms priest and chapel were used exclusively of the Roman Catholic religion. The title of Coadjutor Bishop, unknown outside of ecclesiastical circles, and of doubtful legality in lay ears, is naturally merged by the writer of the Minutes in the generic term priest, by which all Roman Catholic clergymen were known in common parlance. But there is no doubt of the ecclesiastical status of the celebrant. In 1793 an act was passed by the Irish Parliament, which necessitated the subscription of all Roman Catholics who claimed relief or benefits under its provisions. The Roll of Subscribers' names are preserved in the Public Record Office, Ireland, and the name of the Most Reverend Patrick McDonough appears as Coadjutor Bishop of Killaloe, residing at Ennis. Thus, on the

very eve of the publication of the Papal Bulls in his Diocese, the Bishop, who saw that Freemasonry stood for Brotherhood, had nothing but good to say of the Craft in Ireland.

(to be continued)

BADEN POWELL AND FREE MASONRY

Repeatedly one hears report that Baden Powell was a Freemason, and that the Scout Movement was based on Masonic principles, although no reference was ever made to which Lodge he was assumed to have joined. Also Denslow does not mention his name in his monumental listing of Masonic biographies, but strangely enough, a facsimile of his signature appears on the covers of these books along with a number of other signatures of famous Masons.

At the initiative of the Librarian of the Grand East of the Netherlands, research was made with the following results:

1. Bro. A. R. Hewitt, the Librarian and Curator of the United Grand Lodge of England wrote: "There is no information in this Grand Lodge that Baden Powell was ever a Mason, and I was curious to read your statement that he was."
2. The late Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Bro. George S. Draffen, wrote: "I have been making further enquiries and careful research and I can find no record of Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, founder of the Scout Movement, was a member of any Scottish Lodge. We have no records in Edinburgh of his being a member of any Scottish Lodge at any time, and I rather think that had he been a member of the Craft, we would have known about it in Edinburgh."
3. The International Secretary of the Imperial Head Quarters replied: "I have made careful enquiries and it seems that Baden Powell was never a Free Mason. Ted Wood, our publicity manager, has made stringent enquiries and is now completely satisfied that this is true."
4. In reply to a letter I myself addressed to Lady Baden Powell, I received the following from her secretary, under date of May 10, 1963: "Lady Baden-Powell has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 6th May and to tell you that her husband, the late Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, was not a Free Mason." Based on the above informations, we are now definitely able to say that

Lord Baden Powell was not a Freemason, and, accordingly, his name should be deleted from the checklist which appeared in the October 1961 issue of The Masonic Philatelist.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER NO. 1

The third stated meeting of the Chapter met April 19, 1963 at the home of Bro. Kitchin, and was opened in due form by the President at 8 P.M.

The Secretary reported that the minutes of the first stated meeting appeared in the December 1962, and of the second stated meeting, in the February 1963 issue of The Masonic Philatelist.

The membership of the Chapter now stands at 27 with the acceptance of Bro. Glenn E. Kitchin's application. The Treasures's report was then read.

Bro. Kitchin reported a good return on the membership forms and wished to thank the brethren for their response. He noted that 90% of the Chapter's membership already have received the M.P. Degree.

Bro. Kitchin has received a supply of birthday cards from the Eastern Star, and will send greetings to all members whose birthdays are listed with the Chapter.

Bro. Wm. Salomon reported on dedication ceremonies for the Carolina Charter stamp, which he had attended at Edenton. A part of the ceremony took place in the Masonic Hall there. He reported that the brethren had

built this hall with their own hands. In it is a chair which had been presented in 1779 to Edenton Lodge by Bro. George Washington.

The meeting closed in due form at 10 P.M. and adjourned for refreshments kindly provided by the host.

—Glenn E. Kitchin,
Secretary-Treasurer.

LAKE ERIE #2

The regular third Wednesday of the month meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club, Lake Erie Chapter #2, of Cleveland, Ohio was held at the Masonic Temple, 3615 Euclid Ave., May 15, 1963.

A session of the Board was held before the regular meeting, also the regular Dutch Treat dinner was enjoyed.

The regular meeting was opened by President Gordon J. Cole, Sr. at 8:00 P.M. with 13 members present. Progress report was made on frames for exhibitions. Lou Brown, our Secretary, exhibited at the East Cleveland Stamp Club Show and received the Gold Trophy and also a first on his U.S.

Bro. Harry Bollbach spoke on Andrew Johnson, 17th President, and his Masonic history. Bro. Mark Snow, 3rd then showed his collection of "Rarities, Proofs and Essays of the First Two Issues of Czechoslovakia." His very interesting talk and explanations in regard to this collection were much enjoyed. After a short social period the meeting adjourned.

—Harry A. Pahl,
Corresponding Secy.