



# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 20

JUNE - SEPTEMBER, 1963

NO. 1

## *Our Annual Dinner of May 24, 1963*



President Shelton W. Osterlund presenting Certificate of Appreciation to guest speaker, Abraham Sterman, Deputy of the U.N. Postal Administration, at the Annual Dinner held on May 24, 1963 at the Masonic Club. Seated is Herman Herst, Jr., the toastmaster for the occasion. See within for pictures of others who attended.

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## *By the sign of the Gavel*

Thanks to the members for having honored me by electing me to take over the helm until the incorporation is perfected. Actually, it is very pleasing to report that the Certificate of Incorporation was filed on June 28, 1963 at the Office of the Secretary of State of New York. The Organization Meeting of the Incorporators was held in July; your By-Laws Committee has been holding sessions to draft new By-Laws, and the Organization Meeting of our Membership will be called for October 4, 1963 for the purpose of considering and adopting new By-Laws and electing officers and directors.

This issue of The Masonic Philatelist

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month  
Collectors Club Building  
22 East 35th Street, N. Y. C.

First Meeting September 6, 1963  
Get together, show summer acquisitions, relate vacation experiences.

is designed to cover the summer period, June to September, and thereafter monthly issues will be forthcoming. There have been inquiries from newer members; actually with the Club adjourned for the summer recess, we do not issue this publication for the months of July and August.

Hope that all of you have enjoyed pleasant and healthful vacations, and that those of you who are able to attend our meetings, will appear regularly. For those of you who are unable to attend because of distance or other reasons, we shall be only too glad to welcome your participation by sending in articles or news items or other communications to the Editor.—Norman H. Sehlmeier.

## OUR ANNUAL DINNER

An overflow crowd was present the 29th Annual Dinner of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, which was held at the Masonic Club on May 24, 1963. The food was excellent and an enthusiastic spirit of fraternal good-fellowship prevailed.

Abraham Sterman, Deputy of the U.N. Postal Administration, pinch-hit for his chief, David Thomas Clements, as the guest speaker of the evening and did a splendid job. He brought with him a beautiful set of souvenirs for each guest, which included copies of the 5¢ and 11¢ Freedom from Hunger stamps in a neat folder, and the new 4¢ and 6¢ postal cards and the 5¢ and 8¢ envelopes all with first day cancellations.

Herman Herst, Jr., did the expected good job as toastmaster; Shelton W. Osterlund, the president, delivered the address of welcome; Sam Brooks delivered the invocation and benediction.

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry was chairman of the Dinner Committee, assisted Emanuel Reggel and Stanley A. Salomon. The writer had the privilege of distributing Awards of Appreciation to all those mentioned, in addition to Norman H. Sehlmeier, 1st VP, and Joseph Munk, Treasurer. Jacob S. Glaser received a rising ovation.

The pictures shown herein and on the cover page were taken by Adrien

Boutrell, official photographer for the Collectors Club.—H. L. Lindquist.

**MASONS ON STAMPS**  
**DANIEL O'CONNELL (1775-1847)**



In the preceding issue, Part I of "The Papal Bulls and Freemasonry" made reference to Daniel O'Connell, the great Irish national leader known as "The Liberator." It is timely, therefore, to furnish some further information regarding him. Denslow reports that O'Connell was born on August 6, 1775. He united Irish Roman Catholics under the leadership of their priests into a league for urging Irish claims, and in 1823 originated the Catholic Association, and perfected its constitutional method of agitation for repeal of civil disabilities by mass meetings. He was elected a member of Parliament in 1828, but took his seat only after the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, which was forced on Wellington and Peel by public opinion.

He led the agitation for the abolition of tithes of the established church in Ireland, and opposed the movement against rent. He was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1841, and revived the earlier demand for repeal of the union between Great Britain and Ireland. He recreated the Catholic Association in 1842, and was arrested for seditious conspiracy in 1843, being released the following year. He found his power broken by dissension, opposition by young revolutionaries, and distress from the potato famine.

Daniel O'Connell was raised in Lodge No. 189, Dublin, Ireland, in 1797, and served as Master of the same in 1800.

He later became a member of Lodge No. 13, Limerick, and a charter member of the Lodge in Tralee. He once defined Freemasonry "Philanthropy unconfined by sect, nation, color or religion," and stated that he was "pleased to own himself a Mason." In 1800 he was selected by the Grand Lodge to explain to the grand master that the appointed district deputy grand master was disliked and should be removed. He fulfilled this delicate mission with success.

Throughout the Seaton Rebellion (1808-14), he acted as standing counsel for the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Little more is recorded of him as a Freemason, until August, 1837, when in reply to an inquiry, a letter from O'Connell appeared in "The Pilot," a Dublin newspaper, as follows:

"A paragraph has been going the rounds of the Irish newspapers purporting to have my sanction, and stating that I have been at one time Master of a Masonic Lodge in Dublin, and still continuing to belong to that society. I have since received letters addressed to me as a Freemason, and feel it incumbent on me to start the real facts.

"It is true that I was a Freemason and a Master of a Lodge. It was at a very early period of my life, and either before an ecclesiastical censure had been published in the Catholic Church in Ireland prohibiting the taking of the Masonic oaths, or at least before I was aware of the censure. I now wish to state, that having been acquainted with it, I submitted to its influence, and many, very many years ago, unequivocally renounced Freemasonry. I offered the late Archbishop, Dr. Troy, to make that renunciation public, but he deemed it unnecessary. I am not sorry to have the opportunity of doing so.

"Freemasonry in Ireland may be said to have (apart from its oaths) no evil tendency, save so far as it may counteract in some degree the exertions of those laudable and useful institutions—institutions deserving of every encouragement—the temperance societies.

"But the great, the important objection is this—the profane taking in vain the awful name of the Deity—in the wanton and multiple taking of oaths—of oaths administered on the Book of God either in mockery or derision, or with a solemnity which renders the taking of them, without any adequate motive, only the more criminal. This objection which, perhaps I do not state strongly enough,







is alone abundantly sufficient to prevent any serious Christian from belonging to that body.

"My name has been dragged before the public on this subject, it is I think, my duty to prevent any person supposing that he was following my example in taking oaths which I certainly would not take, and consequently become a Freemason, which I certainly would not now do."

The foregoing letter written by O'Connell is quoted from the recently published book by Alphonse Cerza, entitled "Anti-Masonry." Cerza points out that O'Connell was Master of his Lodge in 1800; that the Most Reverend Dr. Troy had published the Papal Bulls in 1799, which action was widely publicized, and that it was very unlikely that Daniel O'Connell was not aware at the time of what had been done. Cerza surmises that later, however, when the matter was called to O'Connell's attention in a more forcible way, he was compelled to make a choice; he chose to leave Masonry and to stay with the Church.

When his defection was reported to the Grand Lodge, O'Connell was expelled by resolutions. Ironically the presiding deputy grand master had himself been made a Mason by Daniel O'Connell.

O'Connell is pictured on stamps of Ireland (Scott Nos. 80-82) issued in 1929 to commemorate the centenary of Catholic Emancipation in that country.

## THE PAPAL BULLS AND FREEMASONRY

### Part II

The case is on all fours with that of the Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay, who delivered his Oration in Paris in 1737, only to find it nullified, and himself stultified, by the publication of the Papal Bull in that city in 1738. The Chevalier, being a devout disciple of the great and good Fenelon, was bound no less than the Bishop, by the dogma of infallibility.

One of the reasons for this popularity of the Craft among Roman Catholics in Ireland may be found in the refuge our Lodges presented them from the cruel penal laws which prevented Irish Roman Catholics from associating elsewhere on terms of equality with their Protestant fellow-countrymen. No such tyranny oppressed them in the Lodges. There, alone among the social institutions of Ireland, they were received on the level, and were sure of treatment in accordance with their merits. Little wonder that Freemasonry was popular

in Ireland, and that no village was without its Lodge in those days.

After the Rebellion of 1798, an end was put to this state of affairs by the Most Rev. Dr. Troy, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, who, in the following year published, with due ecclesiastical solemnities, the Papal Bulls against Freemasonry. His example was followed in other dioceses. Then the Roman Catholic Freemasons fell away. The minutes of the Grand Lodge attest the representations made to the ecclesiastical authorities of that religion. Necessarily, these remonstrances were to no purpose, for the Papal Bull is the expression of Infallibility. Still, many Roman Catholics of the more cultured class adhered to Freemasonry, and were content to put off their renunciation of its principles "to the point of death," the Mandamentum phrases it. This state of affairs lasted till within living memory. When the present writer was received into the brotherhood, there was hardly a Lodge in Dublin which had not an admixture of Roman Catholics. The present writer can recall more than one instance of the prosperity of the Lodge being due to the zeal and devotion of Roman Catholic members. Then came the elevation of His Eminence Cardinal Cullen to the See of Dublin. His Eminence had been, while in Rome, the Director of the Bullarium, and had special and intimate knowledge of the import of the Bulls. He felt bound to put them in force without relaxation, and for the last half of a century the Roman Catholics of Ireland have held aloof from the Craft. "'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis, 'tis true."

Although, or because, the Church of Rome has so many ways of imparting to the Faithful the infallible utterances of the Supreme Pontiff, the Papal Bull has always been held the most solemn, weighty and authentic mode of expression at command of the Holy See.

Four Bulls, in all, have been launched against Freemasonry, and, in common with all documents of their class, are known by their initial words.

The earliest in date is the famous Bull of Pope Clement XII, 1738, quoted as the Bull, or Constitution, "In eminenti."

The next in order is the Bull of Pope Benedict XIV, 1751, entitled *Providas*.

The third is dated 1821, and was issued by Pope Pius VII, under the caption "Ecclesiam a Jesu Christo."

The fourth and last, which recapitulates the three previous, was promul-

gated by Pope Leo XII, 1825, with the style "Quo graviora." In the recapitulation, the Latinity of the first issue is now and again amended.

These heavy pieces of ecclesiastical ordinance have been, and are being, constantly reinforced by innumerable lesser fulminations, among which may be specially noted two celebrated *Epistolae Encyclicae*. The earlier of these Encyclical Letters was under the hand of Pope Pius IX, 1846, and is known as "Qui pluribus," the other, known as "Humanum genus," was published by Pope Leo XIII, in 1884. This latter document was answered in a vigorous manner by Gen. Albert Pike, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States.

### OUR MAY MEETING

Our May 3rd meeting was well attended. Among the guests present were Bro. S. E. Holland, Theodore Roosevelt Lodge No. 219, Mr. James Fleming, Dr. Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Early and Mr. Weisburg.

Bro. Reggel presented the report of the nominating committee, showing the following slate proposed for the Annual Meeting:

For President, Norman Sehlmeier.

For 1st Vice-President and Secretary, Stanley A. Salomon.

For 2nd Vice-President and Treasurer, Joseph Munk.

For Board of Governors (3 year term), E. Milnor Peck.

It was announced that Bro. Sam Brooks was scheduled to give the Middle Chamber Lecture on the conferring of the Degree of Fellowcraft in his Lodge, Vigilantia No. 1108, meeting at the Masonic Temple on May 6. All members of the Club were requested to attend, as Bro. Sam may be counted on to give a perfect rendition.

The meeting was then turned over to the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, who introduced Dr. Harold Eiber, a prominent physician and member of the Collectors Club, who promised to give a wonderful talk, with slides, on the subject of Medicine on Stamps. He paid particular attention to the famous doctors and scientists and chemists who have been honored with their portraits on stamps of various countries. Color slides were projected on the Collectors Club large screen to illustrate the Doctor's very interesting talk.

Dr. Yarry thanked Dr. Eiber for his

educational talk and made some brief comments concerning Dentistry on Stamps. At the conclusion of the program, Bro. Reggel presented the Doctor with a certificate of appreciation from the Club.

Bro. Reggel announced that Bro. Peck had kindly invited the members of the Club up to his home in Pleasantville for an outing on June 15. Bro. Robert Peck was appointed to the committee to handle arrangements for this. — Stanley A. Salomon.

### OUR JUNE MEETING

Our final meeting of the season, prior to the summer recess, was held on June 7, 1963, Brother Osterlund presiding. Our Secretary, Bro. Stanley Salomon was unavoidably absent, and Bro. Yarry was appointed acting secretary.

Bro. Sam Brooks thanked the Club for the large delegation which had attended his Lodge (Vigilantia No. 1108) on the occasion of his delivery of the Middle Chamber Lecture. Bro. Reggel, in turn, congratulated Sam on the splendid performance which he gave at that meeting. A letter was read, inviting our Club to put on a program at one of the meetings of the Collectors Club to be held in the fall of 1964, and it was agreed that we should accept.

The Acting Secretary read letters received from a number of brothers. Bro. Albert Greck was especially greeted and best wishes were extended to him on his forthcoming retirement to sunny Florida. Dr. Yarry read his report on the Annual Dinner, and a rising vote of thanks was given to him and his co-worker, Bro. Reggel for the great success of this outstanding event.

Our retiring President, Bro. Shelton Osterlund, then delivered a speech in which he thanked the Board of Governors and all of the other members for their splendid support during the past year. He stressed the overall excellence of the programs, our participation in the ASDA Show, the balancing of our budget, and the large attendance at meetings and at our Annual Banquet. He thanked all of his fellow officers, and urged continuance of the same support to our incoming President. Bro. Carl Pihl congratulated Bro. Osterlund, and also urged full cooperation with the new administration. A rising vote of thanks was then given to Brother Osterlund for his outstanding work.

In the absence of Bro. Salomon, the annual report of the Secretary was not available, so that was held over for the

fall meeting. Reports of the Treasurer, Bro. Joseph Munk, and of the Finance Committee were then read and approved.

Bro. E. Milnor Peck next presided over the election of officers to hold office until the new corporation becomes effective and holds its organization meeting. The slate proposed at the preceding meeting by the Nominating Committee, to-wit:

President, Norman Sehlmeier.  
1st Vice President and Secretary, Stanley A. Salomon.

2nd Vice President and Treasurer, Joseph Munk.

3 Year Member of Board of Governors, E. Milnor Peck.

The slate was duly submitted to the vote of the members present, and each was unanimously elected. Bro. Pihl conducted the installation ceremonies.

In his acceptance speech, Bro. Sehlmeier pledged to carry on the fine work of his predecessors. He stressed the need for more new, active members to replace in activity some of our heretofore workers who are no longer able to attend due to illness or retiring to distant climes. He reappointed all existing committees to serve until the reorganization upon the consummation of the incorporation proceedings.

Bro. Richard Bruder mentioned that the Grand Lodge of the State of New York will participate very actively at the World's Fair to be held in New York in 1964. Further details will be available at our next meeting.—Irwin Yarry, Acting Secretary.

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER NO. 1

The fourth stated meeting of the Chapter was held on June 8, 1963 at the home of Bro. Kitchin and was opened in due form by the President at 8 p.m.

The Secretary reported on the membership, and the Treasurer on the finances. The meeting approved the new By-Laws as amended and filled vacancies on the Board of Directors. Bro. Christenson reported that he is unable to attend meetings of the Chapter and has therefore resigned from all his positions in the Chapter. Bro. Kitchin was elected to fill his vacancy on the Board, and Bro. Wm. Salomon was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The Board then met and appointed the following officers for the 1963-1964 term: President, William E. Salomon; Vice-President, Glenn E. Kitchin; and Secretary-Treasurer, Glenn E. Kitchin.

The Secretary-Treasurer was author-

ized to sign and issue all membership cards. The Board also supervised the transfer of the following property to the new Secretary-Treasurer:

1. Engrossed Charter issued by The Masonic Stamp Club of New York to George Washington Chapter No. 1.

2. Minutes of the meetings for 1961-62 and 1962-3.

3. A gavel presented by Lake Erie Chapter No. 2 to Chapter No. 1 on its resumption of labor in 1961.

4. The balance in the treasury.

The members discussed programs for the coming chapter year and expressed the hope that there will be enough members ready to take the Master of Philately Degree this year. They approved support for the local Stamps for the Wounded project and will collect stamps, albums, catalogs, etc. for distribution by the local project director to patients in various hospitals.

Under the new By-Laws as amended by the Annual Meeting in June 1963, stated meetings of the members have been abolished. The business of the Chapter will be carried on by the Board of Directors and its officers during the year.

Visitors welcomed to the meeting included Bro. Walter Silvester of York Lodge No. 225 and Bro. Sam Bernstein of Samuel Gompers Lodge who talked on his collection of specialized Israel stamps and covers. Prospects for increasing our membership look promising.

The meeting closed in due form at 10 p.m. and adjourned for refreshments kindly provided by the host.—Glenn E. Kitchin, Secretary-Treasurer.

#### AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. ELIOT M. NORDHEIM, of our Board of Governors on the recent untimely death of his beloved wife, Josephine.

Glad to report that Bro. JACOB GLASER, in and out again of the hospital, is now recovered and has resumed his varied activities.

Bro. WALTER HARBESON also very much on the mend and commencing to resume his researching. For example, we thank him for the following timely reports:

"Virgil Grisson, astronaut, is a member of Mitchell Lodge #228, Mitchell, Indiana, since 1949.

"Steven Rogers, navigator of the Savannah (Scott No. 923) was a member of Union Lodge #31, New London, Connecticut."