



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 24

DECEMBER 1967

NO. 4

*The important thing in life is
not to win, but to take part;
not to triumph, but to struggle;
not to conquer, but to fight well.*

With apologies to Baron Pierre de Coubertin for his famous motto of the Olympic Games in 1896.

Happy New Year!

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BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

At our last meeting we welcomed a few out-of-town members who were in town for business, and spent Friday night with us at the meeting.

Among them were Brother Kayser from the Masonic Club in Philadelphia, Brother Don Miller from our Cleveland Chapter, and Brother John Britt who retired to sunny Florida.

Our participation in the recent A.S.D.A. Show was successful from the philatelic and fraternal viewpoint. Many thanks to our volunteers who manned the booth at all times.

We heard from Mr. "Stamps" our Brother Lindquist that our beloved Uncle "Jack" Glaser was home after a siege in the hospital. I spoke to Uncle Jack and he is doing nicely and

★ MEETINGS ★

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

sends his love to our brethren. Keep well, Uncle "Jack."

I was pleased to welcome Brother Reggel who is also recuperating from surgery. After a long siege of illness, Brother Robert Peck was well enough to pay us a short visit. Please, brethren, keep well!

Mr. Wylie, editor of the Western Stamp Collector paid us a short visit at the booth. He kept us spellbound with his stories for a few pleasant minutes. Thanks for the visit.

As we approach the coming year, I hope that more members will take an active part in our club, and attend meetings more regularly.

In closing, I want to wish all my brothers and their dear ones a Happy Holiday Season, and a most enjoyable and healthy New Year.

—Joseph Munk

ROYAL MASONS

Royalty on stamps includes many Masons. Since William IV became a Mason in 1786, all British kings have been Freemasons. Those since Queen Victoria's time have appeared on stamps of the dominions and colonies, as well as on stamps of the Mother Country. Other members of the royal family have also been Masons, including Prince Philip.

In 1796, King Gustav IV of Sweden issued a decree making all princes of the royal family Masons by right of birth, and the king is Grand Master of the Craft. Prior to this time, Gustav III is the only Swedish king honored philatelically, who had been a Mason, the order having been introduced into Sweden in 1735.

A Masonic check list shows more than 25 kings, emperors and sultans who have been Masons.

Music on stamps lists many composers and lyricists who were Masons. Well-known names include John Philip Sousa, Beethoven, Goethe, Lessing, Mozart, Liszt, Pijper, Schiller, Sibelius, Benoit, Gomes, as well as other lesser-known musicians.

Freemasons are well represented on the topic of fighting men on stamps. Throughout the history of the Craft, Freemasons have led the fight against tyranny and oppression wherever it

has occurred, and all of Washington's generals were Masons.

Add to this list such names as John Paul Jones, John Barry, Sam Houston, Stephen Decatur, David G. Farragut, Douglas MacArthur, Oliver Hazard Perry, Lord Nelson, Simon Bolivar,

Jose San Martin, Garibaldi, Mazzini, Eduard Benes—and you have an imposing layout for an album, yet this is only the beginning.

Brave men who were Masons, who fought for freedom, are found in practically every country of the globe.

Freemasonry and U.S. FDCs

By R. M. Needham

(Editor's Note: Masonic cachets are those that emphasize in their designs the connections with Masonry of the stamps' subjects. The article that follows, by a Mason, discusses these covers).

To this writer's knowledge, the first cacheted United States first day cover with any connection with Masonry was that prepared for the TIPEX souvenir sheet (Scott 778) issued on May 9, 1936. The cachet was printed in black on an oversized envelope (5x8 inches) and included the seal of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The wording runs: Issued by MASONIC STAMP CLUB of New York—Member of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs (seal) Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of New

York—Commemorating THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION (photo of TIPEX emblem). At Grand Central Palace—Lexington Ave., and 47th St., New York—May 9th to 17th 1936. I have a copy of this first day cover in my collection.

The next one which I know of, but do not have, is that prepared for the Washington Inauguration commemorative (No. 854), issued April 30, 1939. It too was sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, and 10,000 such covers were prepared.

The third oldest Masonic first day covers were in a set of three, again sponsored by New York's Masonic Stamp Club, for the three postal items that came out at CIPEX in New York City during May, 1947. The first was



Masonic cachet issued by Masonic Stamp Club of New York for TIPEX sheet. Note cancellation in lower right indicating cover was carried on the airship Hindenburg on return trip of special flight to Third International Philatelic Exhibition. From Masonic collection of Jacob S. Glaser.

for the 3-cent Stamp Centenary commemorative (No. 947) and the cachet was bi-colored purple and violet with Masonic symbols in the overall design. For the souvenir sheet (No. 948) the cachet was similar in design but colored purple and gold. For the 5-cent air mail stamped envelope (No. UC17) that came out on May 21, the cachet was in purple and included the seal of the Grand Lodge of N.Y., F. & A.M. All three were produced by Fleetwood, E. Milnor Peck, the owner of the firm, being a member of the New York Club.

To our knowledge, the next Masonic cachet was prepared for Alexandria, Virginia's air mail stamp (No. C40) issued on May 11, 1949. The cachet was printed in purple and was sponsored by the National Sojourners, Ft. Belvoir Chapter No. 276. The National Sojourners is an organization of all officers of the U.S. Armed Forces who also are members of Freemasonry. The Masonic Stamp Club of New York also sponsored a cacheted cover for this stamp, and it depicted the Washington Masonic Memorial Building on Shooters' Hill near Alexandria.

The next cachet was that produced by the Illinois Masonic Home printery, sponsored by John A. Mirt, for the Samuel Gompers stamp issued January 27, 1950 (No. 988). The cachet was printed in blue. Now, from all indications, John Mirt had been sponsoring Masonic first day covers previous to this, but I never saw any of those put out before the Gompers one, and furthermore I do not know when the Mirt covers first appeared on the philatelic scene.

It was this Masonic cacheted cover of the Gompers stamp, that started me thinking that perhaps I could duplicate this and produce my own Masonic cacheted first day covers. Since I'm a printer by trade, this was a simple step. So, for the Statue of Freedom stamp (No. 989) first day on April 20, 1950, I prepared a Masonic cachet in the same color as the stamp, blue, and that practice has been followed—as much as possible—to the present day. These cachets are known in the trade as Mahdeen Masonic Cachets.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York has continued to sponsor cacheted first day covers, and these have been produced for them by Fleetwood. The design for the Lafayette stamp of last year (No. 1097) depicted Lafayette and Washington with Washington's Masonic Apron, which Lafayette had given to him, between

them. Two more recent cachets have been for the 25-cent Paul Revere regular stamp and the 3-cent James Monroe commemorative.

BRO. ROBERT BURNS

Born January 25, 1759, in the parish of Alloway, Scotland, Bro. Burns was initiated in St. David's Lodge, Tarbolton, July 4, 1781, and passed and raised in the following October. A year later, he and other members of St. David's reconstructed St. James lodge in Tarbolton as "Tarbolton Kilwinning St. James'" now No. 135. Meetings were held in Cross Key Inn. It was to the Brethren of this Lodge that he wrote his famous "Farewell" in contemplation of a trip to Jamaica, which never materialized.

And you, Farewell! whose merits claim
Justly, that highest badge to wear!
Heav'n bless your honor'd, noble Name
To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request, permit me here
When yearly ye assemble a'—
One round, I ask it wi' a tear,
To him the Bard that's far awa'...

Bro. Burns was a zealous and enthusiastic Mason throughout his short life—he died in Dumfries, July 21, 1796, at the age of 37. Many of his poems were written for and dedicated to the Craft. His eloquence was often displayed at the festival board and poetry flowed from his lips. In his third year as a Mason, he became Deputy Master and frequently conducted the proceedings of his Lodge. On March 1, 1787, he was inaugurated as poet laureate of Canongate - Kilwinning Lodge No. 2, Edinburgh. That year he also was made a Royal Arch Mason in St. Ebbe Lodge, Eyemouth—at an "encampment" especially convened to honor the poet.

The last five years of his life were spent in Dumfries where in 1788 he became a member of St. Andrew's Lodge. He attended Lodge regularly and Freemasonry inspired many of his productions.

His life was beset with tragic poverty and frequent disappointments. Nevertheless, his poems are unsurpassed for their beauty and their music. They poured out his feelings for his people and his country.

Back numbers of the Philatelist are available for 25¢ from Peter I. Lee, 1235 Grand Concourse, New York City, New York 10452.



COMMEMORATIVE CACHET FOR INDIANA LODGE

On January 12, 1968, the exact 150th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Indiana at Madison, Indiana, handsome steel-die engraved commemorative cachets will be postmarked and mailed from the pioneer Hoosier city.

Each envelope will contain a specially prepared card on which is printed pertinent information about that memorable and historical event.

The cachet contains an engraving of the Schofield House, at Madison, in which the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Indiana was founded on January 12, 1818.

The Sesquicentennial commemorative cachet covers are available at three for \$1. Orders and remittances should be addressed to Sesqui Covers, Box 1005, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. When ordering, either enclose self-addressed stickers for each cachet to be mailed, or include a self-addressed postage-paid envelope for the return of postmarked cachets.

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

The vice-president of the United States of America, Hubert Horatio Humphrey, has been a Freemason for over twenty years.

He received his Craft degrees in Cataract Lodge No. 2, AF & AM, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 13, December 7 and December 18, 1946. He was exalted in St. Anthony Falls Chapter No. 3, R.A.M. on April 30, 1948.

H. H. H. is pictured, along with L. B. J. and J. F. K., on the 5 rupee stamp No. 25 of the Ajman 1965 Kennedy set.—Marshall S. Loke.

FREEMASONRY IN AUSTRIA A CENTURY AGO

In the "Freemason's Monthly Magazine" of June 1846 (121 years ago) I came across an item concerning Freemasonry in Austria. It pointed out that the country was under Catholic sway and that "although Freemasonry established itself in those countries, the clergy opposed it with ultimate success." The item is of particular interest to Masonic philatelists because it can be illustrated with four Austrian stamps of the 1908-13 series. I quote it in part:

"The first law against the practice of the Craft is that of the Empress Maria Theresa (No. 111) in 1764, in consequence of the refusal of three Masters of Lodges to make her acquainted with the secrets and arrangements of the Order. It does not appear that she was aware of her husband (*) being a member. . .

"That enlightened monarch, Joseph II (No. 112), allowed the Freemasons every indulgence and privilege, restricting the number of lodges to three in large towns but giving distinct instructions to all departments in the state to assist and support the Freemasons. He publicly patronized them, and a Masonic Journal was published in Vienna. The enthusiasm of the people was at the highest, and daily prayers were offered for the prince.

"When Leopold II (No. 114) ascended the throne affairs altered, the meetings were prohibited. His successor, Francis II (No. 116), went still further, requesting all the German princes to extirpate all secret societies, by whatever name they might be called. . . His wish in this respect was confined to Austria, but to be certain of its results, he insisted that every man officially employed should swear that he was not and never would become a member of either of the secret societies of Freemasons, Rosicrucians, Illuminati or whatever other name they might bear. No alteration has taken place and Freemasonry is not tolerated in Austria."

(*) Francis I of Holland, who was initiated at the Hague in 1731 when he was the Duke of Tuscany. The ceremony was performed by the Earl of Chesterfield.—Mirt.

Edwin McMasters Stanton



A48, A48a
Stanton

Edwin McMasters Stanton is an interesting figure in United States history. He is remembered today as Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of War; and his abilities as a lawyer and versatile administrator have never been questioned. However, few people are cognizant of the fact that Stanton, a Democrat, also served as attorney-general in James Buchanan's cabinet. Even fewer people are aware of the fact that President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Stanton to a justice-ship on the United States Supreme Court.

After Lincoln's death, Stanton retained his post under Andrew Johnson until overexertion and internal ailments undermined his health, necessitating a complete rest. He resigned as Secretary of War, May 26, 1868.

Following Grant's election, friends prevailed upon the President to give Stanton a place on the Supreme Court bench as a replacement for Roger Brooke Taney who died October 12, 1864. Grant named Stanton for the supreme bench and his nomination was confirmed on December 20, 1869, the day following his 54th birthday. Four days later Stanton was dead.

Edwin McMasters Stanton was a

native of Steubenville, Ohio, where he was born December 19, 1814. He was admitted to the bar in 1836, and in 1840 at the age of 25 he became a Freemason.

E. M. Stanton was initiated an Entered Apprentice, February 25, 1840 in Steubenville Lodge No. 45 F & AM, Steubenville, Ohio. As this was a "case of emergency," a special meeting was held on February 26, 1840. Lodge was opened on the 2nd degree. Bro. Stanton was introduced and passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Lodge was then opened on the 3rd degree and Bro. Stanton was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Records show his dues paid and attendance at lodge up to 1844. He became a charter member of Washington Lodge No. 253 F & AM, Pittsburgh, Pa., March 25, 1851 and he remained a member until he resigned November 29, 1859.

Stanton appeared on the 7¢ U.S. stamps of the 1870's, Scott No. 138, 149, 160, 171, 196. Honduras in 1959 issued No. C292 representing Lincoln reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet. Stanton is seated by the table.

—Marshall S. Loke

50-YEAR MEDAL

Past President S. Duffield Swan received his 50-year medal in Ivanhoe Lodge No. 610 this fall.

THE WHITE CANE

Dear Bro. Hilburn:

Enclosed find my check for Masonic Stamp Club dues.

You may be interested in the following news item for The Masonic Philatelist which was in a recent issue of The Irem News, a publication put out by the Irem Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Robert C. Haven, member of Beta Lodge No. 647, Wilkesburg, Pa., who originated the white cane as a symbol for the safety of blind persons, received his 50-year membership award in 1965.

There are several stamps relating to eyes and blindness.

With best fraternal wishes,

Sincerely your,

Rexford H. Clift.

Janus, the old Roman God of Gates, has two faces, one looking forward, the other backward. The Romans consecrated the first month to this God.

MASONIC PHILATELY

Many methods have been used in teaching Masonry. Stamp collectors often utilize these by combining their hobby with their love for Masonry. In assembling a Masonic stamp collection, collectors often discover that they have a very enjoyable method of increasing their Masonic knowledge as well as a method for disseminating this knowledge to others.

At first one would think that a Masonic stamp collection would be limited in size and scope because of the lack of a sufficient number of stamps of Masonic importance. This is far from the truth. A Masonic stamp collection is almost endless because it would be as monumental a task as compiling a Masonic encyclopedia.

A Masonic stamp collection may be organized in at least 7 categories:

Masonic cancellations on United States postage stamps.

Postage stamps showing Masons.

Masonic buildings on stamps.

People connected with Masonic legend on stamps.

Stamps related to Masonic events and Masons.

Anti-Masonic stamps.

Masonic symbolism on stamps.

Each of these can again be subdivided. The purpose of this article is to show that Masonic Philately can and is being used for research in all fields of Masonry. One must first know Masonry before it can be recognized on postage stamps.

Masonic philately took its form as early as 1847, the period of postal history when but a few post offices had canceling devices. Prior to that stamps were canceled either by ink or a device created by the postmaster. These devices were cut from cork or other materials and as many postmasters were Masons, they used many Masonic symbols. These included the square and compass, the tillers' sword, the all seeing eye and the Eastern Star.

Postage stamps depicting Masons is perhaps the most popular form of Masonic philately. All the Masonic Presidents of the United States have been shown on stamps, excepting Harry Truman who is seen on an issue of Brazil in 1947. A great composer of Masonic music, Wolfgang Mozart, has been shown on many Masonic stamps.

Masonic buildings on stamps is perhaps one of the smallest groups. In 1956 Cuba issued a stamp showing the Masonic Temple in Havana. Honduras issued a stamp showing a Mason-

ic Temple in 1935.

Postage stamps with Masonic subjects are the smallest philatelic group because they also fit in other groups. Israel issued a stamp showing a picture of King Solomon which belongs in a Masonic group.

The number of stamps related to Masonic events and Masons is unbelievable. Among them should be included all the Masons who helped make America. The Statue of Liberty was the work of a French Mason, Frederic Bartholdi. James Upham, Cinverse Lodge, Malden, Mass., wrote the pledge of allegiance. Gregory Lucy published a 65-page album "Freemasonry in the making of a nation." It contains a good many stamps that fit in this category.

Masonic symbols on stamps are not only those used in the Blue Lodge but in other Masonic Bodies as well. This includes the Holy Bible, the trowel, the keystone, as well as the bee hive and the all-seeing eye. Canada issued a stamp in 1962 dedicated to education which contains eleven Masonic symbols. Anti-Masonic stamps complete the collection. Heading the list is John Quincy Adams, an antagonist of Freemasonry. He did everything to curb the Order. There have been many other anti-Masons in history such as Hitler. But the most prominent anti-Mason stamps are those of Serbia issued in 1941. One has to see them to believe.

This is but a brief highlight of a broad Masonic philately. The research is never ending and the knowledge gained therefrom would be the greater. There is no better way to "gain more light in Masonry."

Fred Jelsema,
810 St. Joe Street,
Rapid City, S. Dakota.

Harry S. Truman — Brazil 673

Initiated in Belton Lodge No. 450, on Feb. 9, 1909, and raised March 18, 1909. He served that Lodge as Junior Warden. In 1911 he assisted in the organization of Grandview Lodge, No. 618, and was Worshipful Master under dispensation, as well as the first Master under the Charter. For a time he was Secretary of the Lodge and was serving as the fifth Master when he left for the army in 1917.

He served as District Deputy Grand Master and District lecturer for the 59th Masonic District from 1925 to 1930. Because of his proficiency as a ritualist he was chosen as Lecturer by the then Grand Master, James R. MacLachlen,

his friend and admirer. At the 1930 Communication of the Grand Lodge, he was appointed Grand Pursuivant by Grand Master William R. Gentry and progressed regularly until his election as Grand Master in 1940.

M. W. Brother Truman is a member of all the associated Masonic organizations, both York and Scottish Rite, but his activities, as a Freemason have been largely limited to the Lodge, where he rendered a conspicuous service to the Ancient craft. He is a member of the Orient Chapter, No. 102, R.A.M., Shekinah Council, #24 R.A.M. the A.A.S.R.S.J., and Ararat Shrine, all of Kansas City, Missouri, and of the Palestine Commandery, #17, Knight Templar, Independence, Missouri.

He was the first president of the United States to have been a Grand Master. President Truman was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri from Sept. 2, 1940 to Oct. 1, 1941. He was awarded the 33rd degree in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 19, 1945. He is the only President to receive this award.

Rufus Putnam — U.S. 795

Raised in 1799 in American Union Lodge. Acting as Junior Warden in 1790. He was elected Master in 1791. However, he graced the East in 1794, 1798, 1800, 1801, 1804 and 1805. In 1808 he was elected the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Putnam served in the French and Indian Wars. He later was Military Engineer in the Revolution. He was a leader in the formation of the Ohio Company and of the Northwest Territory.

From the opening of the first settlement at Marietta, Freemasons took an active part in the life of the new communities. Among them were General Arthur St. Clair, General Samuel Holden Parsons, and Lewis Cass, later to become Grand Master of Ohio in 1810, and of Michigan in 1826. In the pioneer Lodges of the period, freemasons found brotherhood and companionship in their tasks.

Sam Houston — U.S. 776

Raised July 22, 1817 in Cumberland Lodge #8 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was President of the first Masonic Convention at Houston, Texas to form the Grand Lodge of Texas on December 20, 1837. He later affiliated with Holland Lodge #1 at Houston, Texas. He became Junior Warden in 1821, and Junior Deacon in 1818.

He served in the war of 1812, and in many battles with the Mexicans for the Independence of the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1838, and again from 1842 to 1844. He was Governor of Texas from 1859 to 1861; Governor of Tennessee from 1827 to 1829.

Daniel C. Beard — U.S. 995

He was a member of Cornucopia Lodge #563, in Flushing, New York. The 3¢ stamp issued on June 30, 1950, honors the work of the Boy Scouts of America in building character and future citizenship, is of Masonic interest. The Stamp pays homage to Daniel Beard for his life work toward scouting. He led in the formation of the Boy Scouts in 1910. The Stamp shows the Statue of Liberty, beacon of light of freedom. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies, August 5, 1885, by the Grand Lodge of New York.

Cedars of Lebanon — Lebanon #137

King Solomon's use of the cedars of Lebanon in building the great Temple is well known and is found in I Kings, 5:6, where he says to King Hiram of Tyre: "Now therefor command that thou hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon." And a few verses later, Hiram sent to Solomon saying, "I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea, and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shall appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there."

MASON BRINGS FIRST LOCOMOTIVE TO ARGENTINA

In 1948, Argentina issued two miniature souvenir sheets, each bearing four designs of stamps. The 55¢ value on one sheet shows the first railway train to run in Argentina, and this is of Masonic interest.

The locomotive was named "La Portena" and is preserved in the Lajuan Museum. Reportedly built for India but diverted for war use in Crimea in 1847, the locomotive was brought by Thomas Allen to Argentina where it had its first run—a distance of six miles—in 1857. Allen was the first initiate of "Excelsior" Lodge, founded in 1853 and the oldest lodge working in Argentina under the English Constitution.

For a Knights Templar presentation, Monaco issued five values in the Knights in Armour design in 1951.