



The Masonic Philatelist

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NO. 3

Israel Festival Stamps



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By the sign of the Gavel

At our last meeting instead of having a speaker, some of our members exhibited beautiful material and described same in a professional manner. A good time was had by one and all.

Brethren, as you all know, we will have a lounge at the coming ASDA Show which will be held in the new Madison Square Garden, Nov. 22-24. I hope that many of us will get together; after spending most of your money buying bargains and walking your feet off, you can join us in the lounge and spend a few pleasant moments.

Brother Ed. Meyer celebrated his Golden Anniversary last month. "Now

★ MEETINGS ★

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

we know why you took your bride to Hawaii."

I was privileged to witness the presentation of a beautiful bronze plaque to George I. Silberberg, founder and chairman of the Philatelic Hobbies for the Wounded. It was presented by our own Harry Lindquist from the Royal Arch Foundation during a luncheon in the Indian Room of the New York Athletic Club. George is very proud of the honor bestowed upon him.

—Joseph Munk

Government Publication's on Philatelic Matter

A sheet is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. on which are listed various publications devoted to the United States Flag, the Government and Freedom Documents. Some of this material is of interest generally, some specifically to stamp collectors as write-up and information. Send a request to the given address and you will be serviced.

Prices of the pamphlets and brochures range from 10¢ to \$1.75. There is one offering which is delivered at \$15.50, "The Constitution of the United States of America." It is clothbound, has 1693 pages with illustrations, but is more for the student of history and government than hobbyists.

Stanley Hodziewicz, Curator of the Post Office Department's Philatelic Museum in Washington has sent copies of interesting booklets which are available to requests. Direct your mail to The Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. 20260. Give the name of the piece, and the name and address to which it is to be sent.

"History of United States Postage Stamps, Postal Cards, and Stamped Envelopes" has 12 pages and illustrations and commemoratives. "Standards for United States Commemorative Postage Stamps;" it has 14 pages and stamps illustrated.

A couple of other brochures with good information are titled, "The Postal Inspector," and "Mail Fraud." These give a guidance in case you have been abused through the mails, by asking the cooperation of the Inspectors, and further advise you how to avoid unpleasant involvement initially with crooked schemes.

The following are the "Standards for Commemorative Stamps" excerpted from the publication of the same name.

"As a special service to individuals, organizations, and groups who may wish to sponsor a commemorative postage stamp, or submit ideas to the Post Office Department, a set of criteria has been adopted by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to govern their issuance.

"The seven criteria listed below serve as the basis for the recommendations on commemorative stamps made by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to the Postmaster General.

"1. No living person shall be honored by portrayal on any US postage stamp. (Title 31; USC 413).

"2. Commemorative postage stamps honoring individuals preferably will be issued on significant anniversaries of their births, such as 100th, 150th, etc.

"3. Commemorative postage stamps shall be issued on even-date anniversaries, preferably starting with the 50th year and continuing at 50-year intervals.

"4. Only events of widespread national appeal and significance will be considered as subjects for commemorative postage stamps.

"5. Commemorative postage stamps shall not be issued to honor fraternal, political or sectarian organizations, a commercial enterprise, or a specific product.

"6. Commemorative postage stamps are not considered appropriate for charitable organizations. (Poster stamps issued by philanthropic organizations to raise funds, as well as postal slogan cancellations are more useful in arousing public interest.)

"7. Commemorative stamps shall not be issued for cities, towns, municipalities, counties, schools, or institutions of higher learning, since so many are reaching significant anniversaries. Due to the restrictions which must of necessity be placed on the stamps program, it would be most difficult to single out one anniversary for commemoration to the exclusion of the many others with justification for postal recognition.

"Individuals or organizations sponsoring suggestions for commemorative postage stamps meeting the standards outlined above should present their request in writing to the Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. 20260, preferably 12 months in advance of the proposed date of issuance of the stamp requested. This allows sufficient time for consideration by the Committee and for design and production if the stamp is approved."

"HARD CURRENCY"

During World War I, certain stamps in Europe began to be treated as "hard currency." To have a perfect standard of value, these stamps had to be **mint**, because canceled copies vary too greatly in price. Furthermore, each copy had to be **never hinged**, because all had to be the same, exactly as two "blocks of gold."

Before and during World War II, this practice spread far more extensively in Europe. A pack of cigarettes or a pound of coffee had their respective "investment value." But for the sophisticated investors mint n.h. stamps in top condition became one of the best substitutes for gold, because hoarding this metal was punishable by death in Occupied Europe. Issues like the Belgian Helmet, the Austrian 1908 and 1910 Jubilees, the 1936 WIPA sheet, the Dollfuss and the Orphan semipostals of France were the speculators favorite. Also, the United States Columbians and Trans-Mississippis in top mint condition n.h. were sought after, not by philatelists but by speculators, who preferred these "gold" stamps to the valueless paper currency in many European countries.

What happened was that this practice after World War II spread to philately, when some European collectors and dealers only would buy a mint stamp without the slightest trace of a hinge or hinge mark. The idea took hold and then spread all over the philatelic world.

What can we do about it? As you wrote, "very little." It seems to me that business has become too much of a part of this fine hobby of philately. Too many stamp dealers are more interested in **profits** than in philately. But far too many collectors also are more interested in making money with stamps rather than deriving pleasure by collecting them.

—Alex S. Juliard, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dror Ben-Dov-Designs

Israel Festival Stamps

By Zev Vilnai



Dror Ben-Dov was born in Haifa in 1934. Ever since he began drawing as a child he was keenly interested in art and after completing his army service he studied at the "Bezalel" Art School in Jerusalem, and graduated in 1959.

Ben-Dov won first prizes for the emblem of the 26th Zionist Congress and of the Nature Protection Authority as well as prizes for a number of other designs.

Ben-Dov works in Tel Aviv as a graphic artist and an exhibition architect.

Nestling in the gentle hills of Judea is the ancient city of Jerusalem, the eternal and universal city, cornerstone of three great religions and the focal point of the yearning of the Jewish People in their countless generations of exile.

The Temple built in Jerusalem made the city a holy one for the earliest of Jews. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ, which centered in Jerusalem, made "The City of Peace" sacred to Christianity.

For the Moslem Jerusalem has immense religious significance, but it is surpassed by the Arabian city of Mecca.

But for the Jews, no place on earth is more sacred and revered than Jerusalem. Every holy-day and festival, the words "next year in Jerusalem" are fervently uttered in Jewish homes, and for thousands of years of impoverished exile, Jewry has clung stubbornly to the hope of someday returning to the city. Throughout the ages, Jews were always leaving the diaspora to come and settle in Jerusalem. They were often hated and despised by their non-Jewish neighbors, but they were content, living in the town they loved so dearly. Some came to pray, to prostrate themselves on the graves of their forefathers, and others came there to die and be buried in God's city.

There were always Jews living in Jerusalem. Conqueror after conqueror

drove them out, but they always returned to rebuild what had been destroyed. And a hundred years ago, the braver and hardier of Jerusalem's Jewish population ventured out of the walls of the Old City to build a new Jerusalem on the undeveloped hills outside—a Jerusalem which was to grow and expand at breathtaking pace as immigrants to the newborn state of Israel arrived in ever-increasing numbers.

The first men to envisage a reborn state of the Jews (the Zionists) also made Jerusalem the focal point of the Return. And it was they who settled there to prepare it for its future task as capital of Israel.

In the 1948 War of Independence Jerusalem's people fought bravely and fiercely for the Holy City, and after the war, the vision became a reality. Jerusalem was crowned capital of Israel.

Today, the entire government is situated in Jerusalem, along with the Knesset (parliament), the residence of the President and the Prime Minister, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Chief Rabbinate, the Jewish Agency, the Hebrew University, the National Library, the Hebrew Language Academy and the Israel Museum.

But for all its growth and development over 19 years, Jerusalem's joy was never complete, for it was a divided city, cut off from the walled Old

City and bereft of Judaism's holiest shrines.

The promise of free access to these shrines after the 1948 war was never kept, and Jewish pilgrims were kept out by barbed wire, mines and hostility. From afar, devout Jews gazed longingly at the Western (Wailing) Wall, the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount.



But now the desolation is ended and the city is redeemed.

On June 5, 1967 the Jordanian army began bombarding the Israel side of the Holy City. Two days later, after bitter and bloody fighting, Israel soldiers burst through the fortifications and handed the other half of the city back to the Jewish people.

On this historic day, Jews wept at the "Wailing" Wall for the first time in 19 years.

Shortly after the Six-Day War, Israel declared the city united and granted its new Arab citizens equal rights. The barbed wire and fortifications were torn down, and Arabs and Jews mingled in an atmosphere of friendship and good neighborliness. Free access to holy shrines of all faiths was guaranteed, and this time the promise was kept.

The divided city became one city of peace.

Major-General LACHLAN MACQUARIE

Born on Ulva in the Scottish Inner Hebrides, January 31, 1762; died July 1, 1824, at 49 Duke Street, St. James, London, and buried on his estate at Gruline in Mull, Scotland.

Joined the Army as a volunteer in 1776, and went to Canada with the 84th Regiment; commissioned in the same year. He served with the 84th and 71st Regiments throughout the American War of Independence at Halifax N.S., New York and Charleston, also in Jamaica. In 1788 he accompanied the 77th Regiment to India as a Lieutenant, reaching Bombay in August. He served in various areas until 1801, when he was appointed Deputy Adjutant-General and Chief-of-Staff of the Indian Army. He went to Egypt, and later assumed command of the 86th Regiment in India in July 1802. He visited England in 1803, acted as Assistant Adjutant-General to the London Command. He inherited the estate in Mull from an uncle. He returned to Bombay in August 1805 in charge of the 73rd Regiment, an offshoot of the Black Watch, and returned to England by October 1807. Following the Bligh rebellion, he arrived in Sydney on Dec. 28, 1809 to take up an appointment as Governor of N.S.W., and served as such until Dec. 1, 1821 when he was relieved by Thomas Brisbane, and sailed for England on Feb. 15, 1822.

From the time of his arrival at the end of 1809, he was troubled by the lack of a generally acceptable currency standard and means of making payments. The problem caused him in 1816 to consider banning local "colonial currency" but, to do so, he had to provide an effective "sterling" substitute as a means of exchange. After discussions with the Judge Advocate John Wylde, Macquarie instructed his secretary, John Thomas Campbell to invite a select group of magistrates and merchants to a "friendly consultation" at Wylde's chambers on Nov. 20, 1816. At this and subsequent meetings, 13 signatories pledged themselves to become subscribers and to support the Bank with all their influence and interest if the Governor would give it his sanction. On Dec. 5, 1816 a public meeting allowed all interested to become subscribers to the new Bank of New South Wales. Forty-six names were listed. Campbell became president of the bank and six others formed the Board of Directors.

It seems that Macquarie was a Freemason, though his Lodge membership has not yet been established. At the laying of the foundation-stone of the old St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Sydney on October 29, 1821, he made public the information that he was "a very old Freemason." An article in the

"N.S.W. Freemason," journal of the Grand Lodge of N.S.W., stated that he was initiated in a Lodge in Bombay, India, but it was not stated whether under EC, IC or SC.

Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania, discovered in 1815; Macquarie Island, 800 miles S.E. of Tasmania, discovered in 1810; Lake Macquarie in NSW, 15 miles north of Sydney, and Macquarie Rivers in Northern NSW and in northern Tasmania are all named after him. The Australian Post Office will issue a commemorative stamp late in 1968 featuring the MACQUARIE LIGHT-

HOUSE on the south head of Sydney Harbour, and in 1970, a stamp will feature a portrait of Governor Macquarie. In 1966 a stamp was issued to commemorate the sesquicentenary of banking in Australia—in fact, this was the establishment of the Bank of NSW by Governor Macquarie; this bank is still functioning throughout Australia as the leading private bank of the nation. One of its original directors, Surgeon John Harris was a Freemason, and a later director, the famous explorer John Oxley was also a Freemason.

The Disease of Philately and Their Treatment

There was a parson on whom I called who combined theology with philately. "Oh do come in!" said his wife, "Ted will be back in a minute, he's just pottering about the church." Comfortably seated she launched forth into personal details of her physical condition which caused me to suggest that housewives ran about too much and that she would be more comfortable if she put her feet up for half an hour after lunch every day. Hearing her husband arrive she called out: "Ted—

Doctor Lowe is here to see you," "He's no doctor, he's a philatelist," was the reply and a pair of feminine cheeks turned scarlet.

I am not a doctor but I have seen a fair share of philatelic diseases which broadly fall into three classes, physical, criminal and personal.

First of all we should define the pastime. It appears to me that "stamp collecting" is a hobby that "philately" is the science of "stamp collecting" just as "postal history" is the humanity.

THE PHYSICAL

Before enumerating the diseases one must consider the object of any treatment. This is a visual hobby and if the adhesive postage stamp is soiled or in any way diseased, then the object is to restore it to its original pristine condition or as near this state as possible. It is better, and more natural, to under-treat than over-treat, for in the latter case you have an unnatural condition which cannot be successfully altered. In all paper there is size which can be removed by over-treatment and the paper then loses its natural appearance and becomes flabby and tired.

Personally, I would rather have the battle-scarred warrior than anything that looks unnatural so all these questions of treatments and cures are matters of degree.

I am not a chemist or a scientist, but a collector who loves stamps. If within the bounds of nature I can improve them, then I will, but no matter what skill is possessed by the most exper-

ienced physician and surgeon, a number of patients are lost. Because of this loss we mourn, but this does not mean that the benefits of medicine and surgery are denied or unappreciated.

Before going any further let me stress one point which possibly applies to all stamps, both ancient and modern. IMMERSING ANY USED STAMP IN WATER OR ANY OTHER LIQUID WILL REMOVE SOMETHING OF THE PRISTINE FRESHNESS OF COLOUR.

Therefore in all these operations one has to decide whether the patient is best left alone, is dirty and will improve with a wash or whether anything is better than its present appearance. If you have not had experience, then accumulate some common stamps and experiment with something of little value printed in colours similar to the patient and by the same method.

Another basic truth should be born in mind by all those who have stamps

from which they wish to remove paper. If you peel a stamp off paper then you will thin the stamp; peel the paper off the stamp and you will only thin the paper. Please experiment first so that

you will know what you can do with the patient.

Within my own home I find that at various times and for many different cases I used the following:

Equipment

Two photographic developing trays—in these are kept the freshly mixed chemical mixtures needed for the day's operations.

(a) a mixture of two drops of liquid Fairy Soap to half a pint of water (four drops will tend to visibly bleach a delicate colour and most modern papers). This mixture removes dirt.

(b) a mixture of one dessert spoon of peroxide of hydrogen to half a pint of water (a stronger mixture will visibly bleach many colours and papers and in any case one should watch the patient and remove it immediately before the slightest unnatural appearance takes place). This process will often restore the original colour of stamps printed by recess method where the colour has been climatically affected (the so-called but ill-named "oxidised" discolouration can be removed).

(c) a very weak mixture of permanganate of potash will sometimes remove the small brown spots caused by foxing (really a fungoid growth).

A distinctive dish of cold water in which a patient may be rinsed after having been subjected to one of the chemical treatments described.

A philatelic humidior or "sweat-box" which will allow paper (and old mounts) to be dampened without wetting the surface of the stamp. When removing mounts

from unused stamps this process can affect the appearance of the original gum.

A variety of camel-hair brushes for gently washing or massaging the stamps and aiding the removal of foreign matter.

Two sharp pen-knives and a surgeon's or chiropodist's scalpel. Highly dangerous instruments, which need a steady hand and good sight, but are a wonderful aid for some of the more delicate operations when removing the fifth old stamp mount from the sixth. The varying degrees of sharpness of these instruments are a refinement appreciated by experience.

A bridge magnifying glass which can be placed over a patient giving an enlarged view while leaving the hands free for an operation.

Clean white blotting paper on which the patients may dry out.

Pure benzene and a benzene tray ((i.e. a watermark detector).

A soft rubber and a typist's correction shield. One can then experiment on a small portion of some stamps and remove surface dust effectively. Also very useful for removing dirt from covers.

A small press and a 7-lb. iron.

A large store of patience.

Now let me deal with the disease that affects all branches of our hobby, and alas, our own personal health.

Humidity

Damp affects the colour of many stamps and makes many unused stamps stick to each other or to the album page or to something else. Almost equally it affects the used stamp which if on letter will become detached, if on an album page cause foxing in a greater or lesser degree, fostering minute fungoid growths which stain both stamps and album pages with little brown spots. I have opened a deed box and found stamps in bundles on which a fungoid growth over half a centimetre high was flourishing. The fusty cupboard or bookshelf anywhere under-

neath a water supply (even if on floors above) or a bath or wash-basin which may overflow, are all situations to be avoided if damp in some form or other is not to affect your treasures.

In the vaults of many banks whose premises have not been modernised and are lacking thermostatically controlled heating, six months during the winter time is sufficient to knock three-quarters of the value off the average stamp collection.

Having taken all reasonable precaution to avoid damp, if your collection is affected by this menace there are sev-

eral treatments that can be effective if the moisture has only been present for a short period.

Basically there are two processes, dry and wet.

A fan-driven warm-air heater directed onto the open bound album, or individual pages removed from a loose-leaf album, will soon make album pages crisp. If the stamps are stuck to the album page, then, having warmed the back of the page, take the top of the page in the right hand, hold the bottom of the page in the left hand, and pass the page over the sharp edge of a desk or table. As the paper passes over the edge, the right hand should draw the page downwards. If you are in luck, the stamps will spring off the page with no damage or loss other than the album page.

If stamps are stuck down tightly on the album page do not try and save the

page. The stamps may be removed from the album page by several methods and one must really know something about the method of printing and the degree of colour-fastness of the stamps before choosing one method in preference to others.

The wet methods are:

- i. steam on the back of the album page till by experimentation the stamps are loosened, removed and dried.
- ii. moisture at the back of the page —(sometimes in the sweat-box).
- iii. Benzene on the stamps.

The wet process can easily affect fugitive colours and ruin gum, but it is speedily effective and generally satisfactory if one takes the trouble to watch the patients all the time.

Heat

can be even more destructive than humidity. Quite apart from fire which totally destroys, a hot climate sooner or later will always affect stamps mounted in a collection unless great precautions are taken. For this reason, stamps from collections formed in places like the islands in the West Indies and Malaysia are invariably "browned" or "tropicalized" and there is little one can do other than wash the stamps. Stamps which have been kept in countries where the climate is hot and dry are less likely to suffer except that the natural moisture in the paper of the stamps tends to dry out and the paper become brittle; if the stamp is unused then the loss of moisture causes the paper shrinkage to crack the gum and creases appear on the surface of the stamp. If such stamps are to be preserved from disintegration then there are only two actions that will halt the process. The stamps must either have the gum removed, an action which is anathema to the real philatelist, or they must be placed in the humidior or sweat-box for an hour or more so that the paper may absorb the moisture it has lost and then slowly expand; meanwhile the gum softens and when the appearance is normal, the stamp should be allowed to dry and then be placed in a press under medium pressure for an hour or so. This treatment takes patience, but over a period varying from

an hour to several days, according to the degree of dehydration of the patient, an enormous improvement will be noted and, in some cases, complete rehabilitation achieved, although it may be necessary to repeat the treatment more than once.

Continued in Next Issue

Surgeon JOHN HARRIS, R.N.
1754-1838

Born at Magherafelt in Londonderry, Ireland; died at Shanes Park near St. Mary's, NSW, and buried in the old St. John's cemetery at Parramatta.

Admitted as a member of Lodge No. 227, the "Lodge of Social and Military Virtues," attached to the 46th Foot (Irish Constitution); this lodge became Australian Social Lodge No. 260, I.C. and then Antiquity Lodge No. 1, UGL of NSW. In the "Sydney Gazette" account of November 9, 1816, detailing the ceremony of the Masonic cornerstone laying for Bro. Captain John Piper's residence, Dr. John Harris, Surgeon of the N.S.W. Corps was mentioned as having taken part in the ceremony.

Harris can be associated with the Banking Sesqui-Centenary issue of 1966, being an original director of the first bank, the Bank of New South Wales.