



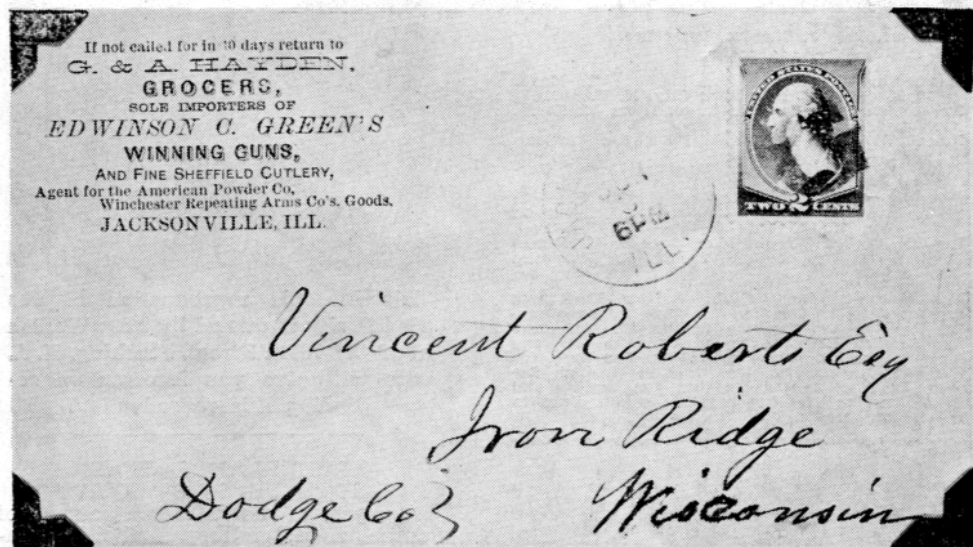
The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 25

JUNE 1969

NO. 10

MASONIC CANCELLATIONS On the 2 Cent Red Brown



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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

By the sign of the Gavel

The Sign of the Gavel

This is my last communication as president of your Club. I am overcome with mixed emotions; glad that I had the opportunity to serve you, and sad that the time has passed so quickly.

I would like to thank my fellow members for all the help that I re-

★ MEETINGS ★

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

ceived from them, and I would like to wish all of you good health and happiness. Have a good vacation and a happy and healthy summer season.

Joseph Munk



This Masonic reproduction of the 23rd Psalm is owned by Max Wellish at 29-50 137th Street, Flushing, N.Y., who will give you information regarding this reproduction.

NETHERLANDS QUEEN "PROTECTRESS OF CRAFT"

A report in the "Masonic Journal of South Africa," telling of the installation of officers of Libertas Lodge No. 74, Krugersdorp, Transvaal, said that one of the "toasts" proposed was "to Queen Juliana of Holland, Protectress of the Craft." The queen is pictured on numerous Netherlands stamps issued since her investiture on September 6, 1948.

MASONIC HISTORY

MASONIC CANCELLATIONS ON THE 2 CENT RED BROWN

Edward L. Willard

Raised State College Lodge No. 700, December 1926. State College, Pa. under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Elected Master December 1940. Member Harvard Chapter Acacia National Fraternity.

The study of cancellations on any stamp for any period reflects the interests of the generation then current. For some years we collected cancellations on all 19th Century U.S. stamps and since 1851 there have been cancellations whose masonic origin is obvious in the years prior to the turn of the century. Cancelling devices were most frequently supplied by individual postmasters rather than the government.

Generally, Masonic Cancellations started with the issue of 1851. We know of no such cancellation on the issue of 1847 though such may exist. Masonics first found wide usage on the issue of 1861 and its succeeding grilled stamps. The most usual forms were the square and compass of the Blue Lodge. The Open Bible of Rutland, Vermont is well-known and there are a few others, but all seen are directed towards Blue Lodge Masonry.

We are not so familiar with the period of the three cent greens and they do contain many interesting Masonic cancels, but York Rite Freemasonry which seemed to boom following the years of the Civil War, finds itself best covered in period between 1883-1887 which was the time of the two cent red brown in which we specialize. On the two cent green and the series of 1890 fancy cancellations are much less frequent and except for the period of the late '20s non-existent after the turn of the century in volume sufficient to form a collection.

LETTER G



The true Masonic G is the first letter of the deity

Not all cancellations with the letter G represent the first letter of God



Not Masonic
Georgetown Sta., D.C.

Probably Masonic

Masonic cancellations must be viewed in the light of the Masonic times. The great landmarks do not seem to change.

Coming now to the period of 1883-1887 the most common Masonic is, as usual, the square and compass. **Every Mason, operative or speculative, is aware of these tools.** Some square and compass cancellations are easy to identify. The real problem is to separate the very non-Masonic situation of a clerk who desired

MASONIC SYMBOLS SQUARE & COMPASS



Warsaw, Ky.



Doubtful



Unfinished or Broken

Doubtful



Note: Right point could
be a compass point

simply to identify his killer by dual knife cuts and crossing similar knife cuts. We draw a distinction in two ways. There must be either a definite head or hinge to the compass or on the other hand the legs of the compass must show definite intention of tapering to a point. The square can seldom be used to determine Masonic character.

Again in the Blue Lodge cancels there appears the trowel. This working tool



Jewish script for the word Jehovah
Putnam, Conn.



Sun and Moon

Masters Trowel

KEYSTONES ROYAL ARCH MASONIC SYMBOLS



Keystone of an arch

Keystone with letters

was strangely seldom used and appears only as a hand cutting on a cork.

In the period 1883-1887 we are not aware of a G in a square and compass such as was used in earlier times, but the single letter G with Masonic implications present. First, we hasten to say that all letter G's are not Masonic. The letter G appears in the list of post office stations in New York City and was located at 1661 Broadway and also in Philadelphia it denoted the station at Germantown. Cut corks sometimes contain a G as the first letter of the town name or the initial of a particular clerk. Only by true postal history research can a G be said to be

MASONIC SYMBOLS TRIANGLES



Triangle and Sun



truly Masonic. Such research is too long for these notes.

Some of the great lights of Blue Lodge Masonry are illustrated in a plain sun and moon. There are frequent moon and star cancellations reported to be Masonic, particularly three different types from Northampton, Massachusetts, but we have failed to identify these as having reference to work under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts after having attended lodges in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The word Jehovah in Hebrew is well known to be of Masonic origin and from Putnam, Connecticut, and is set out in full as illustration 315 on page 63 of Herst Sampson on "Fancy Cancellations". Not being a student of the Hebrew language, our tracing is faulty. Besides the G there is only one other Masonic reference to the diety and this does not occur to our knowledge in the '80s. It is a Hebrew Yod used at Oregon, Pennsylvania in the '60s and would appear to be more associated with the work of the Council. It is Drawing No. 1695 in Herst-Sampson and perhaps is more appropriate to a member of the Council of Royal and Select Masters.

With the '80s York Rite Masonry seems to have been reflected in greater volume in cancelling devices. For example, the beautiful piece of work which was neither plumb, level nor square, but completed the Royal Arch. Examine another

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



Cross of the Order of Malta



True Cross of the Savior Order of the Temple

cancellation bearing the initials H.T.S.S.T.K.S. What Royal Arch Mason would fail to recognize the first letters of that sentence "He that would smoke Spanish tobacco knows something."

Next there frequently appears a killer in the form of an equilateral triangle. No Royal Arch Mason can forget this symbol which was lost for 470 years and at one time inscribed in the three great languages of the day—Syriac, Chaldean and Egyptian. No inscriptions occur on postal cancellations. The sum within the triangle now has meaning also.

Commanderies of Knights of the Order of the Temple were flourishing. Three cancels are shown having commandery background. The first is the Cross of the Order of Malta. There are many Maltese Cross cancellations, but we believe this one to be purely Masonic because of the indentation of the sides.

The last two devices are the Cross of the Savior and are directly traced to the Order of the Temple.

It is at once apparent that work in different Grand Bodies varies slightly but the basic landmarks do not. We believe the cancellations here shown are truly representative of Freemasonry and its superior bodies.

ISRAEL CANCELLATION HONORS GRAND LODGE

Israel on October 20, 1953, honored the "day of erection and consecration" of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel with a special cancellation bearing the Square and Compasses. An official cover was issued for the occasion.

There is a great deal of confusion concerning the status of Freemasonry in Israel. The new Grand Lodge is recognized by some American jurisdictions, but not generally so. In 1932, the National Grand Lodge of Palestine was formed by lodges which had been chartered by the Grand Lodge of Egypt. The National Grand Lodge in 1949 changed its name to the Grand Lodge of Israel, and was recognized by some American jurisdictions.

In 1951, the lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland and working in Israel petitioned to return their charters so that they could initiate steps to establish the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel. Approval was given. It was that Grand Lodge which observed its "ceremony of erection and consecration" last October.

The similarity in names, and the doubtful genealogy of the earlier Grand Lodge, are responsible for the confusion. — From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

Jean Henri Dunant, Swiss Mason who founded the International Red Cross, is pictured on an Algerian 15f plus 5f stamp, one of two put out to aid the Red Cross.—Mirt.

MASONIC SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND VALLEY FORGE STAMP

The Masonic significance behind the 2¢ Valley Forge stamp of 1928 (No. 645) was no accident. The stamp shows George Washington, a Mason, kneeling in prayer and bears the motto: "In God We Trust." The design was chosen by Bro. Robert S. Regar, then with the post office department and who served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in 1935.

Within a few days after the issuance of the stamp, the post office department was bombarded with complaints from organizations with communistic or atheistic leanings. Not until recently was the motto repeated in that form on a stamp although it is used on U.S. coins. So far this year, "In God We Trust" has appeared on two new stamps, a bi-colored 8¢ issue, the foreign mail rate, and a 3¢ regular issue, the domestic rate. Thus, this nation's expression of a belief in Deity will be carried widely.—Mirt.

ELECTRO-MAGNETISM DISCOVERER A MASON

In 1951, Denmark issued a 50 ore stamp (No. 329) bearing the portrait of Hans Christian Oersted (1777-1851). Oersted, a Mason, is recognized as the founder of the science of electro-magnetism. He announced his findings in 1820, opening the door to new miracles in the field of electricity. Both in his writing and in his talks, he treated science in a popular vein and thus contributed to education. The stamp marked the 100th anniversary of his death.