



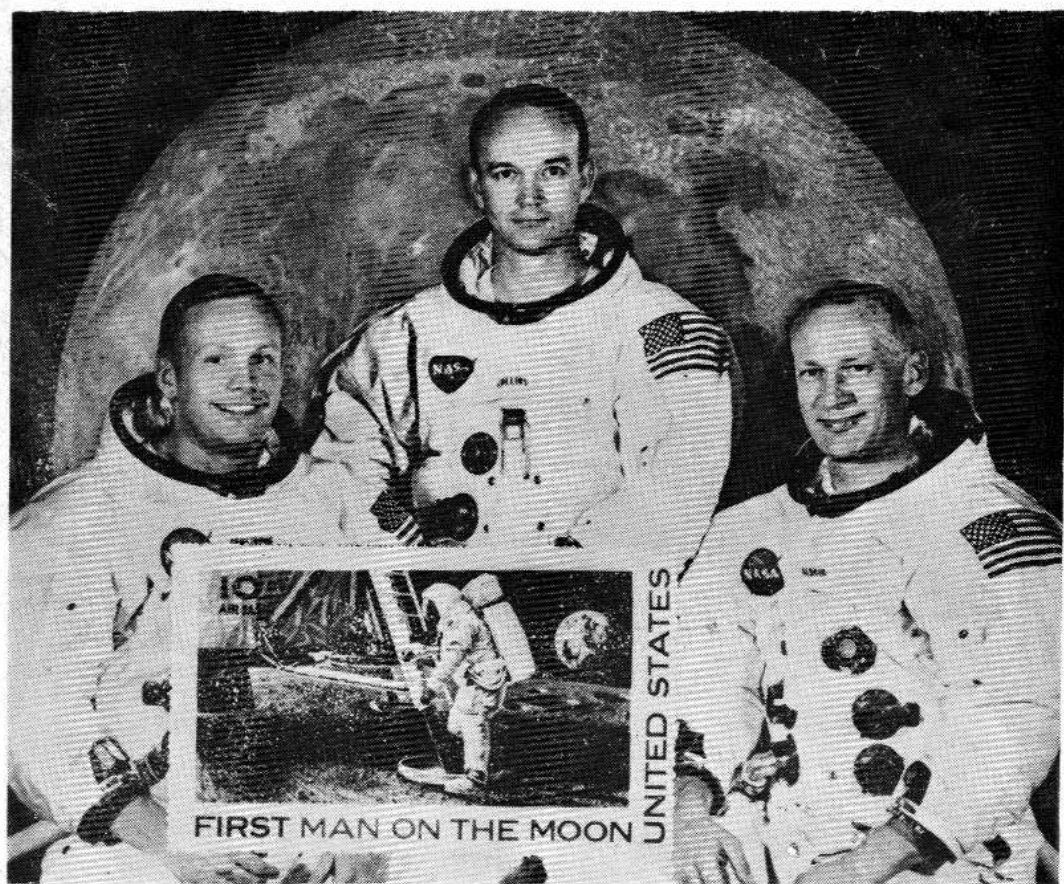
# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 26

SEPTEMBER 1969

NO. 1

## FIRST DAY OF THE NEW AGE JULY 20, 1969



Collins (center) remained in orbit, while Armstrong (left) and Aldrin landed on the Moon.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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ROY T. KETCHAM

Editor

Jules Cass Emanuel Regell Irwin M. Yarry  
Associate Editors

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC.  
OFFICERS 1969-1970

President .....	Edwin Mayer
1st Vice-President .....	Louis Bernstein
2nd Vice-President .....	Milton C. Tunick
Secretary .....	Robert A. Smith
Treasurer .....	Joseph Munk

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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J. N. Kane, J. H. Levinsohn, W. Arnold Sinder

TWO YEARS —

R. T. Ketcham, P. Rosenbaum, Yale J. Shapiro

THREE YEARS —

E. M. Reggel, I. M. Yarry, E. Milnor Peck

★ ★ ★ ★

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.

In our June issue we mistakenly identified the Masonic reproduction owned by Max Wellish as the 23rd Psalm, as most of our members immediately realized this is the Lord's Prayer.

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month  
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING  
22 East 35th St., N.Y., NY 10017

## By the sound of the Gavel

I am indeed proud to have been elected president of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc. When I was approached by the nominating committee, I indicated that I could only accept the presidency with the understanding that the members would pitch in and assist me. It is most gratifying to find that this help has materialized. We now have an active treasurer (who took my place), a secretary, a corresponding secretary, a membership committee, and a committee to publish the *Masonic Philatelist*.

During my absence, while I was on a cruise, from June 30th to August 3rd, the Boys got out the dues bills and a substantial number of members have paid their dues for the year ending June 30th, 1970.

A large percentage of our members are "Senior Citizens," of which I am one, being almost 75 years of age. We find that our roster is being depleted by deaths and old age disabilities, along with a lesser number of new younger members. Perhaps our members reading this can get some new young blood to make our roster grow instead of declining in numbers. I believe that the future of philately lies with the younger generation and not with us, old time collectors. This is to belittle the oldsters, but simply to look forward to a growing Masonic Stamp Club. I shall do my part but I must ask for and even insist upon your help.

—Edwin Mayer

The front cover is a reproduction of a NASA Photo, together with the photograph of the first U.S. Space Stamp commemorating the moon landing. (See article on page 4)

## DUES DUE

Joseph Munk, our treasurer, reports that quite a few members are delinquent in paying dues. Some owe two and three years. The five dollars a year is a very reasonable fee. As you all realize it takes money to run the club.

Our by laws read:

"At the first meeting of the Board of Directors in September the treasurer shall submit a list of names of all members who are delinquent in payment of dues for one year. Delinquent members shall be dropped from the rolls at this meeting."

Don't be on the list. Send your dues in today.

## ED MAYER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MASONIC STAMP CLUB, 1969-70

Edwin Mayer was unanimously elected to the office of President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc., for the term expiring in June 1970. Ed Mayer has been a faithful, hard worker for our organization for many years. He served as treasurer, a member of the board of directors and membership chairman of the Club to name a few of the club duties he has successfully performed. Under his expert guidance and with the assistants of the other officers and members we know we will have one of the best years the Club has ever had.

Re-elected as 1st vice president was Louis Bernstein. Lou is continuing in the office as he will be master of Girard Lodge #631 in 1970. It was felt that being president of the Club and master of his Lodge was too much to ask of any one person.

Milton Tunick was again elected to serve as 2nd vice president, with Milt's knowledge of stamps, and our Club, and his ability to do an exceptional job we are further assured of a successful year.

One of our younger members, Robert A. Smith, was elected to be secretary. Bob is full of enthusiasm and has organization experience having served as master of his own Lodge.

Our retiring president, Joseph Munk, has been elected treasurer. We are expecting an outstanding job from Joe as he is also an extraordinary hard worker.

Members elected to the board of directors for 3 years were E. M. Reggel, I. M. Yarry, and E. M. Peck. R. T. Ketcham and P. Rosenbaum were elected for a two-year term replacing E. Mayer and P. Lee.

The nomination committee consisting of Stanley Solomon, Norman Sehlmeier, Manny Reggel and Irwin Yarry did an exceptional job of filling the various offices with the best men possible and we, no doubt, can look forward to a very successful year. The thanks of the members goes to this committee and to the elected officers for accepting their positions.

Brazil issued a 2.70cr stamp in connection with the International Congress on Homeopathic Medicine in Rio de Janeiro. The stamp shows Samuel C. F. Hahnemann (1755-1843), German physician who founded the homeopathic system of medicine. Hahnemann was a Mason.—Mirt.

## R. KETCHAM APPOINTED EDITOR OF MASONIC PHILATELIST FOR ENSUING YEAR

Newly elected president Edwin Mayer of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc., named Roy T. Ketcham as Editor of the Masonic Philatelist for the coming year. Brother Ketchum is a past master of Anthon Lodge #769. He served as master in 1963 and again in 1967. He is currently serving as treasurer of his Lodge. He is also blood bank chairman for Anthon Lodge and has held this position since 1958. For the year ending June 1969 he served as co-chairman of the 2nd Kings Masonic District Blood Bank.

Roy originally started collecting stamps as a boy but discontinued for many years. In 1961 when his two sons Donald and Walter started collecting he resumed the hobby. He collects world wide stamps and does not specialize in any particular philatelic field. He has a deep interest in stamps, however, devoting many hours to reading about the subject as well as keeping his album up to date. This should help him greatly in editing the Masonic Philatelist.

Roy lives in the Marine Park Section of Brooklyn with his wife, Margie, his 2 sons, and his daughters Carol and Linda. The whole family takes an interest in the hobby except Linda who is too young.

The members of our club wish Brother Ketchum, luck for a successful year as editor of our publication.

—Manny Reggel

## ARTICLES WANTED

Did you ever have the urge to write articles about stamps? If you did, we are now giving you the opportunity. Send them to Roy T. Ketchum, 1827 East 33rd St., Brooklyn, N.Y. NY 11234. They do not have to be about stamps with a Masonic theme. You can write about your collection, specialty, a favorite stamp, or any philatelic idea you have.

If you have any ideas for articles your suggestions will also be welcome. This is your publication and we want it to please you.

As your new editor I would also like to have a letter to the editor column. Send the letters to me and I will include the most interesting in future issues.

—Roy T. Ketchum

Gen Jonathan M. Wainwright was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, September 8, 1953, with Masonic rites.—Mirt.



# FIRST STEPS TO THE STARS

The Moon Men legends have gone. First steps to the stars.

"I'm going to step off the lem now. That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." (Neil A. Armstrong, July 20, 1969 10:56 PM E.D.S.T.)

The voice of Freemasonry in New York was added to that of Presidents, Kings and potentates along with the "man on the street" as Dr. Charles F. Gosnell, Grand Master of Masons in the state spoke on their behalf in a congratulatory telegram sent to Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., one of the two astronauts to set foot on the moon.

Calling attention to Aldrin's membership in the Masonic fraternity, Dr. Gosnell wrote: "The more than a Quarter million Masons in New York State join me in hailing and saluting you and your two colleagues on your unparalleled historic achievement, which we pray will advance the cause of brotherhood among mankind. As our fraternal Brother we are especially proud of you and earnestly hope that after you are completely rested and opportunity offers you will visit us in New York where a sincere heart-warming and affectionate welcome awaits you."

Astronaut Aldrin became a Mason in 1956 in Montclair Lodge No. 144, New Jersey. A 32° Mason, he is also a Knight Templar in Houston and a member of the Shrine. His father, Edwin, Sr., is also a Mason.

A 10¢ air mail stamp commemorating the first man on the moon was scheduled to be released by the United States Post Office in August.

The Apollo 11 astronauts carried an engraved master stamp die, which was to be used to print this stamp. This die was included aboard the lunar capsule. Therefore this will truly be a space stamp.

The largest postage stamp ever issued by the US will commemorate the greatest feat ever achieved by mankind—the landing of a man on the moon.

It will be 50% larger than the conventional commemorative stamps, measuring 1.80 by 1.05 inch and will be printed in sheets of 128 rather than 200 stamps and will be issued in panes of 32 rather than 50.

The space ship also contained a letter to be hand canceled on the moon by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Bud" Aldrin. The letter



## Copy of Cancellation of Moon Letter

bore a special postmark which read "Moon Landing U.S.A., July 20, 1969." This letter then underwent a 21-day decontamination period at the Houston Spaceflight Center. After this it was returned to the Post Office Department to be displayed in the philatelic exhibition room. In the future it will be included in an exhibit when will be shown in various parts of the United States and abroad.

The envelope traveled more than a half million miles, making it the longest distance a piece of mail has traveled. The moon mail was carried in less time than was required by the old Pony Express to deliver a piece of mail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, Calif., back in 1860. The Pony Express letter cost \$5 a half ounce. The "moon letter" bore a 10¢ air mail stamp. —Manny Reggel



Herman Herst, Jr.

## 35th ANNUAL DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS

On Friday evening, June 6, the 35th annual dinner of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc., was held at the Masonic Club in the New York Masonic Temple. A delicious meal featuring roast prime ribs of beef was enjoyed by all who attended.

Following the dinner our guest speaker of the evening, Sylvester Colby addressed us. He told us many interesting, serious as well as amusing, stories about our guest of honor, brother and member, Herman "Pat" Herst, Jr.

The following brief biography of Pat appeared in the dinner program and is reprinted for the information of the members who could not attend.

To Portland, Oregon we must travel to record the early life of our honored guest, Bro. Herman "Pat" Herst, Jr. There he received his schooling and literary training as a reporter for the Morning Oregonian, while attending Reed College for his Bachelor of Arts Degree and later earned his Masters Degree at the University of Oregon.

Moving to New York he worked on Wall Street during the Great Depression and earning an extra livelihood as a part-time stamp dealer. In 1937, he opened a stamp shop on Nassau Street and with the help of his wife, Ingeborg, whom he had just married that year, settled down to raise a family. Patricia, now 29, and Kenneth, 26. The death of his wife in 1954 was a deep loss to the Herst family and to their many friends in the stamp world.

Herman Herst, Jr., remarried in 1956 to Mrs. Ida Siegel with two children, twins, Gail and Gary, now 29. Having previously moved to Shrub Oak in 1946, he had now established himself as a full time auctioneer. Through the years, his famous house publication, "Herst's Outbursts" has become a source of philatelic lore, humor and wisdom, plus the many unusual offerings of stamp merchandise.

His contributions to philately earned for him the coveted "Luff Award," and the "New Haven Award." His book, "Nassau Street, Fun and Profit in Stamp Collecting," and his latest "Stories to Collect Stamps By," has given Brother Herst international fame, even in the non-philatelic world. As co-author of Sampsons "Fancy Cancells on 19th Century Stamps," "Postal Stationery of British North America," and

"A.M.G. Stamps of Germany," plus his stamp columns in many magazines and newspapers, his vast number of philatelic contributions to every stamp publication has made him a most sought after personality to address clubs, conventions and public events.

As a community leader, a Kiwanian, Founder and Trustee of Temple Beth-El of Northern Westchester, member of Yorktown Park Board, Brother Herst is being honored this year by the United Jewish Appeal.

His Masonic background, a third generation Mason, Bro. Herst was raised in Mount Nebah Lodge, No. 257, in 1945. He received his 32nd Degree in Scottish Rite as a Shriner—Mecca Temple. His grandfather was raised in Holland Lodge, N.Y. in 1854. Bro. Herst has furnished many articles for the Empire State Mason and as the honored member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, has contributed articles to the Masonic Philatelist and has spoken many times on his collections of Balloon Posts of France, 1870, which is outstanding, Prisoner-of-war covers of World War 1 and 2, all of which keeps up his philatelic interests. His love for stamps is shown in his signboard at Shrub Oak, with the picture of the "Olive Blossom" 1906 stamp of Barbados.

Thanks to Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, the dinner chairman and his co-chairmen, Emanuel M. Reggel and Norman H. Sehlmeier for a delicious dinner, wonderful program and a successful evening. (see page 6 and 7 for pictures).

### TWO NORWEGIAN KINGS WERE MASONS

Two Norwegian kings, Oscar I and Oscar II, were Masons. They are pictured on earlier stamps of the country.

King Oscar I took little part in the Masonic activities of Norway. His son, Oscar II (1872-1905) was an interested Freemason, and was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in Norway from its establishment in 1891 until the union between the two Scandinavian kingdoms was broken in 1905. He was initiated in the Lodge "Noriska Forsta" (First Northern), Stockholm.

The present king, Haakon VII, took the first two degrees in Freemasonry but never went on to the third. The reason has not been announced, but it is believed to have been political.





Pictures on these pages were taken at our 35th annual dinner. Apolizes to our members whose pictures do not appear, but circumstance beyond our and the photographers control, caused this omission.



## KETCHAM'S KORNER

Today it has become impossible to collect all the new issues released by the many nations around the world; the number of stamps issued each year, as well as the cost of them has become ridiculous. As a result the collector has to specialize in a country, or a group of countries, or a topic. The topical collections can also get out of hand if the subject is Olympics, paintings, animals, or space. Many of these countries who issue over 100 stamps a year jump on the band wagon and print large costly sets. It doesn't matter that they did not even participate in the Olympics, or if the animal is not native to their area. They issue them strictly for money making, and most of these stamps never end up on a letter. What they don't sell mint, they cancel to order and dispose of them at a reduced price. Countries can make money selling stamps without doing it in this get rich fast method. The Vatican and San Marino are two examples of stamp issuing nations who have obtained a large amount of revenue but kept the number of new issues at a reasonable amount.

What can we use as a guide? As a service to our Brothers and readers we are printing a list of countries that the American Philatelic Society has released. These nations show some sort of philatelic deficiencies in their stamp issuing practices.

Albania, Ajman and Manana, Bhutan, Burundi, Cook Islands, Czechoslovakia, Dubai, East Germany, Ecuador, Fajera, Ghana, Guinea Rep., Hungary, Jordan, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Ras Al Khaima, Romania, Russia, Sharjah and Khor Fakkan, Sierra Leone, Togo, Umm Al Qiwain, Yeman Arab Republic, Yeman Mutawakelite Kingdom.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Russia are cited for their mass canceled to order policy. As stated this list is only a guide. It is impossible for any of us to know what stamp is going to go up in value. If we did we could have all spent \$4.55 in 1930 and bought the Graf Zeppelin set which today catalogues for \$600 (nearly 132 times the original price). We don't know when we will buy a sheet of stamps, and find an error on it, which could make it go up in value. The fore-mentioned countries could also have an error slip through which would cause a valuable stamp, on a whole, however, if you steer away from these nations

you will reap a higher price if you ever go to sell your stamps.

However, until some international postal committee is appointed to control the number of new issues, amount of each printing, and the subject a lot of so-called postage stamps will be nothing but pretty gummed paper, in the interest of our hobby all I can say is "Let the buyer beware - tread with caution."

—R. T. Ketcham



An example of stamps to guard against would be this 3 dimensional space set issued by Bhutan, a nation that is not even recognized. This set is nothing more than a novelty or conversational piece.

### MASONIC SYMBOLISMS ON ABYSSINIAN STAMPS

Several Abyssinian (Ethiopian) stamps provide Masonic symbolism. The Throne of King Solomon is shown on a 1931 series (No. 210-216) and on three stamps of 1909 (No. 87-89). The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is shown as the central figure on numerous issues prior to 1909, but it is particularly prominent on a 10c issue of 1947 (No. 273). The Lion of Judah statue is shown on a 30c issue of 1950 (No. 305).

Argentina issued a 20c regular stamp to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the death of Gen. Jose de San Martin.—Mirt.