



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 26

JANUARY 1970

NO. 5



A fraternal post card printed in the early nineteen hundreds is pictured on this month's cover. This is one of a collection belonging to Dr. Irwin M. Yarry. When this was in use it could be used domestically for one cent or sent to a foreign country for two cents postage.

A Happy and Prosperous 1970 to All

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

JANUARY 1970
VOL. 26 NO. 5

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ROY T. KETCHAM

Editor

Jules Cass Emanuel Reggel Irwin M. Yarry
Associate Editors

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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.

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month
(Except July and August)

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

OUR DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was held on December 5th. Brothers Norman Clark, Grant Crowell and Jerry Plimpton, traveled from their homes in Massachusetts to attend.

The program of the evening was "Unusual Philatelic Material."

Norman Sehlmeier displayed a cover consisting of the twelve different 1967 Canadian Provincial Floral stamps. Supplementing this cover he displayed 12 plaques. Each one represented a Canadian province and included the appropriate stamp, a colorful picture, and a medal about 3 inches in diameter. One side of the metal, pictured the flower and the other side showed the map of the Province. He also exhibited stamps from Haiti honoring our late Brother, Sir Winston Churchill. The final part of his exhibit were two sheets of stamps from Guinea. One sheet pictured American Astronauts and the other Russian cosmonauts.

The next showing was Masonic covers, displayed by Jerry Plimpton. These included items from lodges throughout the world. Canada, England and Spain were some that were among them. An interesting item was a cover from the 1901 Pan American exhibit which was held in Buffalo.

In 1958 the Belgium government issued stamps honoring the different divisions of the U.N. Food and agriculture, protection of refuge, U.P.U. were but a few. These were sold at the United Nations. Pavilion at the Brussels World Fair and the proceeds were to finance this building. Sheets of each stamp was displayed by Louis Bernstein. These sheets were unique, as included in the margin was the signature of the secretary of the division. The most famous was the one with Dag Hammarskjold name.

Our visiting member, Grant Crowell, brought a collection of Masonic covers. These included postmarks with the square and compasses as well as other Masonic symbols.

South Africa being the specialty of Jules Cass, it was only natural that he displayed stamps from this nation. South Africa was the pioneer of air mail. A cover flown on the first air mail flight in 1911, was shown. Other early air mail cachets included covers flown in airplane races. The first South African air mail issues were printed in 1925. At this time the government sent the air mail, using army planes and pilots.



Our lounge at the A.S.D.A. Show. From left to right, seated, Edwin Mayer, Bob Smith. Standing: Norman Sehlmeier, Joe Levinsohn, John Britt, Mannie Reggel, Yale Shapiro, Milton Tunic and Stanley Solomon. Other members also participating but were not in attendance when the photo was taken.

Stanley Solomon exhibited a collection of civil war revenue stamps. These were printed to help finance the war. They were divided into three groups, perforated, partially perforated, and imperforated. The original ones were perforated. The perforation machines broke down and the result was the partial perforated stamps. Finally the machines were completely unusable and the stamps were issued without any perforations. The stamps were colorful but shades varied. Brother Solomon explained that this was because the inks were not colorfast a hundred years ago.

Manny Reggel showed a collection of labels. These while worth nothing, were a lot of fun collecting. Most of them were given away at stamp shows included were items from the 1947 international show, London stamp shows and ASDA shows in New York. The latest was printed by the Bureau of Engraving at the 1969 ASDA show. Manny also exhibited one, which a friend of his cut out, pasted on an envelope and mailed. Surprisingly it was postmarked and delivered by the post office.

The final exhibit was presented by Dr. Irwin M. Yarry. He displayed semi-postals issued by Jamaica in 1923,

24 and 25. The purpose was to raise money for the welfare fund. The monies were used to aid the poor black children in particular. Unfortunately these stamps were not popular and very few of them were used. Included were specimen sets and the audience was informed that there is only 62 of them in existence.

Again under the supervision of our President Edwin Mayer, the club had an interesting and educational meeting.

A.S.D.A. SHOW

Our President Edwin Mayer thanks all our members who participated at our lounge at the A.S.D.A. show in Madison Square Garden in November. The team work of all helped to make this event a success. It was a pleasure renewing acquaintances with members who can not get out to our meetings, and meeting Masons and stamp collectors from many places in our country. Our aim was to interest collectors in topical collections of stamps with a Masonic theme and the response was very gratifying.

Displayed at our lounge were various Masonic cachets of unique interest were plaques of the Moon Landing and the Astronauts. Copies of the Masonic philatelist were distributed to Brothers.

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Again I would like to thank our Members for sending in items to be included in the Masonic Philatelist. I would also like to welcome our new members and readers and hope they enjoy our publication. Our membership committee chairman, Norman Sehlmeier is to be congratulated on the fine job he has done. Credit and congratulations are also extended to E. Milnor Peck who handles the cachets and Yale Shapiro who organized our lounge at the ASDA show. The work of both these members assisted Norman in obtaining the new members. An invitation is extended to these new members as well as our other members to send us articles. They should be sent to Roy T. Ketcham, 1827 East 33rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11234.

JACOB S. GLASER DIES

Our Past President Jacob S. Glaser passed away on December 16th as a result of a series of heart attacks. Uncle Jake, as he was known, was active in the Masonic Stamp Club. He served as president from 1946 to 1948.

He also was a past president of the Collectors Club of New York and a director of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs.

Brother Glaser was a building contractor who has been semi-retired for the past several years. He has been very active in philanthropic work.

Uncle Jake was an ardent stamp collector, and had several country collections, notably Colombia, S.A. He also had an outstanding collection of air mails of the world, and had a very active part in the formation and promotion of the American First Day Cover Club.

He was a valued worker in the Council Center for Senior Citizens in Brooklyn, New York, his home town, where he organized an art class for senior citizens, holding regular weekly classes, which he conducted and averaged 40-50 attendance at each session. He was highly talented in art, and had a genius for passing on to others his techniques which enabled them to produce highly acceptable paintings often even on a first try. His students had to be 65 years old to qualify, and the city granted a permit for annual shows by them to be displayed on the streets of the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, and which drew much attention and high tributes.

He was a great lover of flowers, and grew beautiful and rare specimens in his own yard, and was responsible



Jacob Simon Glaser

for encouraging, through Kiwanis, the growing of front-yard gardens in Brooklyn, for which an important award was granted yearly.

He was survived by his wife, Theresa, and his children: Edward M., Helen R. Ross, Estelle Escobar, William A., Ezra, and Dorothea Lipton; also, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and brothers Robert, Benjamin, Irving, Rudy, and Abner.

Services were held at the Boulevard Chapel, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, at 11 a.m., Dec. 18.

ASTRONAUT MEMBERS OF THE CRAFT

One of the first two human beings to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969 was a master mason and a shriner. Astronaut Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., who piloted the Eagle moon module and made a successful walk on the moon, was raised in Montclair Lodge No. 144, Montclair, New Jersey, completed York Rite degrees and is a noble of Arabia Temple, Houston, Texas.

Gordon L. Cooper, Jr., one of the original seven astronauts, who established a new space endurance record and became the first man to make a second orbital flight, was raised in Carbondale Lodge No. 82, Carbondale, Colorado, and is a noble also of Arabia Temple in Houston, Texas. He has a dual membership in Clearlake Lodge

No. 1270, Clearlake, Texas and is also the recipient of the Honorary Legion of the Order of De Molay.

Virgil E. Grissom, also one of the original seven astronauts, who commanded a three orbit mission on March 23, 1965, lost his life in the simulated countdown at Cape Kennedy on Jan. 27, 1967. He was a member of Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Mitchell, Indiana and a noble of Arabia Temple in Houston, Texas.

Donn F. Eisle who was selected as an astronaut in October 1963 is a member of Luther B. Turner Lodge No. 732, Columbus, Ohio.

Walter M. Shirra, Jr., who was command pilot on the history-making flight of Gemini 6 which made a rendezvous with the already orbiting Gemini 7 spacecraft, is a member of Canaveral Lodge No. 389, Cocoa, Fla.

Thomas P. Stafford who was the commander of the Apollo 10 flight which laid the groundwork for the Apollo 11 moon walk mission, and also participated in the Gemini 6 mission in its rendezvous with the orbiting Gemini 7 crew, is a member of Western Star Lodge No. 128, Weatherford, Okla.

Edgar D. Mitchell and Paul J. Weitz, 2 of the 19 astronauts selected by NASA in April 1966, are masons, they are engaged in training for future manned space flights. Mitchell is a member of Artesia Lodge No. 28, Artesia, Texas; Weitz is a member of Laurence Lodge No. 708, Erie, Penn.

Edwin Mayer

GASPARD MONGE 1746-1818

This French mathematician and physicist made several important discoveries in the science of physics and engineering. He was called in 1783 to the Chair of Hydrodynamics in the Paris Lyceum. During the Revolution he took charge of the factories supplying arms and gunpowder. He founded the Ecole Polytechnique where he was Professor of Mathematics. He formed a close friendship with Napoleon whom he accompanied to Egypt, assuming direction of the Egyptian Institute. On return to France he received the title "Count of Pelusium."

Gaspard Monge is listed in the records of the Grand Orient of France as Orator of the Lodge "L'Union Parfaite," (presumably a military lodge of the "Corps royal du Genie a Meziere"). Stamp: France (1953) No. B279.

—Marshall S. Loke

ARGENTINA HONORS ITS GREAT MEN

By Wessel M. Lans

In 1969 Argentina did honor five scientists on stamps. In the book "La Masoneria Argentina" by Bro. Alcibiades Lappas we find the following details about some of them.



Eduardo Ladislao Holmberg Y Correa Morales (1852-1937)

Eduardo Holmberg started his career as an M.D., however, made his name specially in the field of natural science. At the age of 23 he already held a professorial chair. He took part in several expeditions to the territory of the Chaco. In 1883 he was appointed Director of a Zoo. As a publicist he got great fame too. Together with a group of other Masons he founded "La Academia Argentina."

In 1884 Eduardo Holmberg was initiated in the Lodge "Docente" in Buenos Aires. In 1906 he was one of the founders of the Lodge "Lumen" No. 200 in Moreno. Later he became a member of the Lodge "Constancia" No. 7. In the Grand-Lodge of Argentina he filled the post of Grand Secretary, Grand Orator and Deputy Grand Master. He was an active member of the Supreme Council and 33° A.A.S.R.



Christobal M. Hicken (1873-1933)

Christobal Hicken took his degree as

a doctor in Natural Sciences at the National University in Buenos Aires. He was Professor in the College National and the College Militair and taught at the Faculty of Exact—and Natural Sciences. During his many expeditions throughout the whole of Argentina he gathered a large natural-scientific collection, which he legated to the Nation. Furthermore he possessed a beautiful library of more than 14,000 volumes. Christobal Hicken was initiated by his friend, E. L. Holmberg in the Lodge "Lumen" No. 200, of which Lodge he has been the W.M. He was a member of the Board of the Masonic Library.



Pedro Arata (1849-1922)

Pedro Arata took his degree of an M.D. and Pharmaceutical Doctor. As Professor he obtained international fame. In Buenos Aires he founded the Municipal Laboratory. Furthermore he was President of the National Council of Education. Pedro Arata was initiated in the Lodge "Docente" in Buenos Aires.



Guillermo Rawson (1821-1890)

This Argentine Mason was a M.D. and the first in Argentina to get the predicate "cum laude" in the Medical Faculty. In the political field he has been active and made himself a name. In 1862 he was nominated Senator and during the Presidency of Bro. Bartolome Mitre he occupied the post of Secretary of State for Home Affairs. In this function he did his best to assure Argentina the rest at the Labourfront and to accomplish a good form of

government. Bro. Guillermo Rawson was a brilliant orator and a many-sided journalist, who worked with conviction and energy for the prosperity of his Country.

At the time that the eminent Swiss Henri Dunant called in the co-operation of all Masons all over the world to aid him, Guillermo Rawson assisted—notwithstanding his weak health—to the foundation of the Argentine Red Cross.

Guillermo Rawson was initiated in July 1856 in the Lodge "Union del Plata" No. 1. He was a member of a Masonic Committee for the relief of victims of epidemics and organized the "Corps Masonic" for the relief of wounded persons in the war with neighbour countries.

Source: "La Masoneria Argentina" by Alcibiades Lappas.

Stamp: Argentina year 1968.

Wessel M. Lans,
The Hague - Holland.

MASONIC CANCELLATIONS

At the time of the Civil War, Masonry became an important feature of the social and political life in the U.S. This is evidenced by the tremendous number of new lodges formed 100 years ago. It is also well depicted in the many Masonic Cancellations found in the ten year period following the close of hostilities.

There were about 40,000 post offices under the postmaster generals control in this period. Instructions were that the postage stamps must be canceled so that they could not be "reused." This was due to the fact that some of the inks used in that day could be "washed off" and although the common stamp was only 3¢, many saw their way into service a second and third time. This brought into use an "obliterating canceler."

For the many who are unaware of the nature of a canceller, the following is a description of one type that became common due to the official order on cancellations.

It consisted of a holder, termed "hammer" that had a general shape similar to a hammer-type gavel. The head was cylindrical, 3½ by 1½ inches and the handle was 9 inches long. It was made of hardwood. Each end was hollowed out with a tapering opening of one-inch diameter. In one end was fitted a "slug" usually of metal with the town and state name and in some was an opening in the midde to put the date. In the other end was fitted any obliterating device desired. This is where the Masonic or other fancy cancelers

CLASSES



I



II



III



IV



V



VI



VII

were placed. The sale of these hammers and cancelers became quite a business. The salesman had a considerable supply of these hammers and crude representative of the single-headed ones found in the post offices today, which they carried from town to town making direct sales. However, most of these hammers contained metal cancelers and did not include fraternal insignia. The artistic and enthusiastic fraternal man substituted a hand-carved head containing some emblem of importance to him. A few made metal heads, others hardwood, (from broom handles) but the most prevalent were carved from cork.

I have seen many other cancelers, mostly single-headed ones, but all with the hollowed out head, tapering for easy fitting. Some were even square or oblong in shape.

The use of Masonic cancelers was not new in the late 60's, as several towns, namely, Chicopee, Ludlow and Mittenague, all of Massachusetts, Holderness, N.H., Newport, Tenn., and Norwich, Conn., all used the square and compasses before 1860.

It is not certain which of these towns was the first to use a Masonic canceler, but Mittenague has been generally accredited as being first, since they went to the trouble of having a metallic canceler made, while the others were simply carved cork. This canceller was used at frequent intervals over a period of more than

five years as covers are of record from 1857 to 1863. The postmaster in this period (1854-85) was Luke Bliss, who was definitely established as a Mason.

It is possible that the earliest fraternal canceler was an "odd fellows" cancellation from Canton, Miss., which was used early in 1857, but it too was made from cork or broom handle.

Following 1865 towns all over the country and Canada began the use of fancy cancelers and especially those of Masonic import.

For the sake of systemization we classify Masonic cancellations in seven groups or classes, according to types and apparent intent of the designer of the canceler. These are:

Class I: Negative square and compasses with the letter "G" in the center. Commonly made from cork.

Class II: Positive square and compasses with the letter "G" in the center. Many made from metal and hardwood.

Class III: Negative square and compasses, similar to Class I, but without the letter "G."

Class IV: Positive square and compasses, similar to Class II, but without the letter "G."

Class V: Identified degree symbols.

Class VI: Identified higher degree symbols.

Class VII: Marginal symbols.

Dr. Stewart Duffield Swan

KETCHAM'S KORNER

Dear Mr. Ketcham:

It has been brought to my attention that in the November 1969 issue of The Masonic Philatelist, page three, there is a comment in reference to "Duke" Ellington being a Mason.

No man has the right to call himself a Mason unless he has been duly initiated in a regular and lawfully constituted lodge of Free and Accepted Masons which works by authority of a charter granted by a regular and lawfully constituted Masonic Grand Lodge.

The only regular and lawful Masonic Grand Lodge in the District of Columbia is The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia which is duly recognized by the Mother Grand Lodge of England.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia has NEVER granted any authority to this so-called masonic lodge named Social Lodge No. 1. The regular and lawful Lodge No. 1 in the District of Columbia is Federal Lodge, No. 1.

Under these circumstances, therefore, the Social Lodge, No. 1 cannot escape the classification of being illegitimate and clandestine. Consequently, all members of this lodge have no right to call themselves masons, of course this must include "Duke" Ellington.

This letter is written strictly for the record and certainly no intent or desire for any personal publicity.

Edward R. Cusick,
Masonic Historian.

Dear Brother Cusick:

You are correct in so far as your information goes. Social Lodge #1 is a Prince Hall Lodge. However, it is my opinion that the grand lodges and members stop living in the past. Masonry in general is suffering, partly because of its antiquated traditions, after the abolition of slavery in the West Indies, by the British Parliament, the Grand Lodge of England, on September 1, 1847 changed the word free-born into Freeman, but the ancient landmark never has been removed in America. The subject of Negro Lodges has been a source of agitation in the United States. Not because of color but because of the illegality of their charter. Prince Hall and 13 other negroes were made Masons in military lodges in the British Army on March 6, 1775. When the armies were with-

drawn these men applied to the Grand Lodge of England for a charter, which was granted on Sept. 20, 1784. The lodge was named "African Lodge 429." The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts would not recognize it because of its allegiance to England. After the death of Hall and his colleagues the lodge fell into abeyance. The colored lodges of today were started in June 1827 and when formed they declared themselves "Independent of Any Lodge" for this reason we consider them Clandestine.

I have met men who belonged to the Prince Hall Lodges and they have all been the type of person that would bring honor to the Masonic order. These lodges try to screen their applicants the same as we do, and exclude undesirables. Colored members have been admitted into lodges in Brooklyn. Alpha Lodge in New Jersey is recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Again it is my belief that sessions should be held and an understanding and mutual recognition be established.

I realize that your letter was just facts, but it gave me an opportunity to express my views on the subject.

Roy T. Ketcham

Dear Brother Ketcham:

In the October issue of The Masonic Philatelist, in connection with the Baseball Stamp issued recently, you list quite a long list of names who had some connection with Baseball. Among the names on page 7 there appears the name of James E. Zinn—Ark. 403.

I would appreciate having his address if you can furnish it, since our names are same, I might wish to correspond with him. I assume he is a member of the New York Masonic Stamp Club.

Thanks kindly for your reply in advance.

Roland H. Zinn

Dear Brother Zinn:

Brother Erickson, who compiled the list only, has the names and lodges as printed. I would suggest that you write to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas for the name and address of the Secretary of Lodge 403. You can obtain the address of James E. Zinn from the Secretary of the local lodge.

The brothers listed were major league ball players and not members of our club.

Thank you for your interest in our magazine.

Roy T. Ketcham