Brother Al Van Dahl

The Al Van Dahl Story

(See Page 4)
FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

This month’s Masonic Philatelist is dedicated to the memory of our late Brother, Al Van Dahl, and also pays tribute to the Van Dahl Publishing Company who publishes our magazine. An article which appeared in 1959 has been updated and reprinted along with pictures of our friends in Albany, Oregon.

Again we would like to request articles from our members and readers. If they are relating to Masonic stamp collections, fine, but we realize that many of our brothers specialize in other topics. Items of interest regarding these collections may also appeal to our other members. We will try to keep our theme Masonic but we will print articles such as Joe Kane’s “United States Postage Firsts” when appropriate.

Please send items to:

RAY T. KETCHAM
1827 East 33rd St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
11234

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman Normal Sehlmeier reports the following new members have joined The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.:

GEORGE W. HENerson
Boulevard Lodge #382
Chicago, Illinois

(SFC) DAVID V. MERRITT
Anglo-Bolivian Lodge #7
La Paz, Bolivia

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was held on the second Friday of the month as the first Friday was during the Labor Day weekend. The program of the evening consisted of a showing of recent acquisitions. Some of those displayed included the Australian Captain Cook set, the British Queen Elizabeth high values; a Canadian gold engraving of the EXPO Stamp, and an interesting collection of Jamaican stamps with various postmarks.

Our president, Edwin Mayer, received the congratulations of the club for being the first recipient of the Harry L. Linquist Award.

Manny Reggel visited England during the summer and was delighted to meet Joe Kane who was also there on vacation.

Dr. Irwin Yarrar is going to England and will visit the International Show
(Philopnyia) in London while abroad.
It was also announced that Stanley
Salomon was going to lecture and show
his Solomon Island collection to the
British Empire Study Group of the
Collectors Club on September 14th.

MASONRY IN ROUMANIA

by Wossel M. Lans

In Roumania Masonry could only de
velop at a late moment. During the
Turkish and later the Russian rule there
could be no question of Masonry. The
Roumanian intellectuals, led by well-
known authors, aimed at an independ-
ent Roumania. Many young Rouman-
ians, Bratianu, Baleescu, Alessandri,
Ghica, Kogalniceanu and others studied
abroad, especially in Paris and there
they took note of Western ideas. In 1848
they were back in their native country
and took part in a revolutionary move-
ment that however, was knocked down
by the tyrants. This was why the lead-
ers were forced to flee from the coun-
try. Many of them found asylum in
Paris.

In this town there existed the
"Athenee des Etrangers Lodge", that
from 1820 on initiated many foreigners.
It was in these circles that the news-
paper "La Roumaine Future" (The Fu-
ture Roumania) came into existence in
which Baleescu, Kogalniceanu, Alessan-
dri and others cooperated.

The refugees saw their wishes com-
ing true in 1856 when, after the Cris-
mean War the Russian protectorate over
Roumania was put to an end by the
Treaty of Paris. Of course they con-
tinued their Masonic work in their na-
tive country. Under the jurisdiction of
the "Grand Orient de France" Ion Bra-
tianu founded in Bucharest, the capital
of Wallachia, the "Steaua Dunarei"
(Star of the Danube Lodge) and became
its first W.M. In Jassy, capital of Mo-
davia, and also in Galatz, lodges were
founded under the same name. Imme-
diately the members took part in the
social and cultural life: so for instance
a theatre was founded in Jassy by Ko-
galniceanu, Alessandri and Negruzzi.

Soon the Masons played a prominent
part in political life. The members of
the lodges mentioned above achieved
that in elections, both in Jassy and in
Bucharest, Colonel Alexander Cuza was
elected sovereign, by which Moldavia
and Wallachia were united in one prin-
cipality. Roumania was conquered. Alex-
ander Cuza was prefect of Galatz and W.M.
of the Lodge in that town.

Cuza instructed Kogalniceanu to form
a government. Several other members
of the Paris Lodge "Athenee des Etran-
gers" held posts as ministers during the
Cuza administration: Alessandri, Boli-
tineanu, Ghica and others.

Alexander Cuza, however, aimed at
a totalitarian government after the
model of Napoleon III of France. This
earned him many opponents, especially
in the circle of his Brethren. In 1862
this led to an action against Cuza,
which he answered by closing the "Star
of the Danube Lodge" in Bucharest. But
the members were not prosecuted and
founded another Lodge named "Alex-
ander-Ion Cuza I Lodge". In 1866 Cuza
was forced to abdicate. After his fall
many Masons stepped back from social
life to dedicate themselves to their
literary work, others are seen playing
a part in the political life of Roumania
after 1866.

For our Masons on Stamps collection
the following are important.

Alexander-Ion Cuza (1820-1873) Edu-
cated in Paris. Studied in Pavia and
Bologna (Italy). In 1859 monarch of
Roumania, Freed the farmers of serf-
dom. W.M. of "Star of the Danube
Lodge" in Galatz.

Stamps: Scott 1263 and year 1904.*

Vasile Alessandri (1818-1890) Studied
medicine and law in Paris. In 1848 in
exile in Paris. Was director of the Jassy
theatre, for which he wrote plays after
the reform of the 'Moldovene' in 1859 for
minister. He wrote many poems. Initia-
ted in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrange-
ers" in Paris.

Stamps: Scott 1213, 1778 and year 1908.*

Grigore Alexandrescu (1810-1885)
Roumania poet. Sympathized with the
1848 revolution. Initiated in the Lodge

Stamp: Scott 1311.

Nicolas Balcescu (1819-1852) Histori-
an and politician. Lived in Paris in
1846. After the unsuccessful 1848 revo-
lution again in Paris in exile. Initiated
in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers"
in Paris.

Stamps: 1209, and year 1952, 1958,
1968.*

Ion Ghica (1816-1897) Politician and
author. Governor of Samos (1854-1859).
Minister under Cuza. Prime minister in
1870. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee
des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamp: year 1906.

Mihail Kogalniceanu (1817-1891) His-
torian and politician. Studied in Ber-
lin and Luneville (France). After 1848
in exile Prime minister under Cuza.
Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des
Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamp: year 1967.*

Constantin Negruzzi (1808-1868) Poet
and politician. Secretary of the Treas-
Stamp: Scott 1318.
Stamp: Scott 1314.

---

The Al Van Dahl Story

Volume 8 Number 8 of the "Masonic Philatelist" appearing in April 1952, carried this lead story: "With this issue of the Philatelist another milestone in the affairs of the club has been reached. Through the generous cooperation of Brother Al Van Dahl, publisher of Western Stamp Collector, arrangements have been completed for having our paper printed as you now see it."

"Prior to April 1952, and dating back to March 1944, the MP had been a photolith job, under the able guidance of Brother Sam Brooks, but with the usual handicaps of such work.

"But Brother Al Van Dahl changed all this through his generosity, and when this staunch Mason, keen philatelist and successful publisher died suddenly on March 3rd, 1954, his gracious wife, Mrs. Arlene Van Dahl, and her family carried on this work."

Al Van Dahl was born in Amsterdam, Holland, and grew up in Sweden where his father was a druggist and a Mason.

A graduate of Upsala University, he completed his education at Heidelberg in Germany. As a boy his father bought him a small job press on which he learned printing; subsequently he learned the operation of a Linotype, so that when he came to this country he found work in newspaper offices. Later he published a number of small weekly newspapers, but no great success came his way until he started a stamp column!

Brother Van Dahl was a pioneer in this respect, as far as we knew it was the first time that a country weekly newspaper had been used to present stamp news.

This was over 48 years ago in Mill City, Oregon, and the newspaper was called the Mill City Logue. The column turned out to be surprisingly popular so in a short time he moved to the present locale in Albany, Oregon, and his paper became the Western Stamp Collector.

Advertising patronage in those days was difficult to come by. Times were not so good then, but success came and stayed. The wave of collecting that swept the country during President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration brought him more and more success until Western Stamp Collector became one of the five large publications of stamp collecting.

But the mark of true success can be measured by the regard in which he was held by his employees. "Pop" Van Dahl, as he was known to them, was considered quite wonderful and a generous, loving person. He greeted each employee every morning in a warm friendly way.

An interest in philately was traditional in his family and he had acquired the urge to collect stamps at an early age. His main collecting interest was the stamps of Sweden and Brother Al Van Dahl was elected to the "Hall of Fame" of the American Philatelic Society.

Your editor did not know Brother..."
Al Van Dahl personally, but is in close touch with the lasting contribution that he has made to the Masonic Stamp Club. It is only right and fitting that we should know and recognize all that is being done for us through the generosity of the Al Van Dahl Publication Fund.

The present owners of WSC are Mrs.

Dave Blake, vice-president and general manager of Van Dahl Publications, Inc.

“Si” Simonis making up the Masonic Philatelist.

Leylan Wood at Linotype machine setting copy for Masonic Philatelist.

A layout of the Masonic Philatelist.
Arlene Van Dahl, (OES; Daughters of the Nile; and White Shrine of Jerusalem, Willamette #2), her son-in-law, David G. Blake (AF&AM St. John's Lodge #17), and her daughter, Alberta, all actively engaged in Van Dahl Publications. The present editor of WSC is Kenneth A. Wood.

Although WSC has been remarkably successful in the past, the publication is not content to rest on its laurels, and active consideration is presently being given to ensure continued growth in the future and to adjust to the ever-changing philatelic scene.

Because we want you to meet some of the people who are responsible for the "Masonic Philatelist" we are fortunate in being able to present some of them pictorially.

"Si" Simonis printing the Masonic Philatelist.

Bess Kudrna (left) and Alice Kropp. Bess is in charge of mailing the Masonic Philatelist, while Alice is a proof-reader.

The Mailing and Circulation Department. Left to right: Marilyn Connet, Cheryl Robinson, Mary Clark and Barbara Davis.

Bess Kudrna addressing copies of the Masonic Philatelist.

Bob Dahl operates the Goss press which prints Western Stamp Collector.
Something which gives Mrs. Van Dahl cause for considerable pleasure is the fact that the current employees represent a total of 321 years service.

One of the staff members who has a particular connection with the production of the “Masonic Philatelist” is Gerald “Si” Simonis, who oversees the setting, makeup, and printing of the publication. “Si” has been with Van Dahl Publications for 23 years, is imaginative and has a distinct flair for coming up with new and effective ways of presenting the written word. He is assisted by Dick Hubert.

Leylan Wood is the man responsible for converting the copy into type. He operates one of the firm’s five linotypes.

David Blake supervising the folding, binding and mailing operations among his many duties.

One of the most vital operations in the production of any publication is the proofreading department. This is capably handled by Alice Kropp and Elsie Shortridge, both of whom are longtime employees.

With a membership in the Masonic Stamp Club that covers every state in the U.S., and so many foreign countries; and our ever expanding list of members; with the change of adresses, deletions, additions, and other changes you get some idea of the job being done by the girls in the mailing room. Our several hats are off to you for work well done as attested by the minimum of complaints received.

**UNITED STATES POSTAGE FIRSTS**

By Joseph Nathan Kane

The first postage stamps issued by the Post Office Department were authorized by Act of Congress of March 3, 1847 (9 Stat. L201) and first placed on sale in New York City on July 1, 1847. The issue consisted of two stamps, a 5-cent red-brown stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin, and a 10-cent black stamp bearing the likeness of George Washington. They were printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson of New York City. They were withdrawn from use on June 30, 1851. The issue consisted of 3,712,400 of the 5-cent denomination. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing began the printing of stamps with the 1894 issue of the “triangle” design stamps.

The first postage stamps to picture a woman were the Columbian commemorative stamps of 1893. Queen Isabella was depicted on three varieties which were placed on sale January 2, 1893. The 5-cent stamp (35,248,250 issued) was in chocolate brown and depicted “Columbus soliciting the aid of Isabella”. The one-dollar stamp (55,050 issued) was in rose salmon and showed “Isabella pledging her jewels”, and the four-dollar stamp (28,350 issued) was in carmine with portraits of Columbus and Isabella. Women were also shown as characters in group scenes in this set, but their identity was not given.

The first American woman’s portrait on a United States stamp was that of Martha Washington on an 8-cent dark lilac stamp issued December 6, 1902. The portrait was after the painting by Gilbert Stuart.

The first postage stamps to picture an airplane were the 20-cent parcel post stamps issued on December 16, 1912 and placed on sale January 1, 1913.
The first postage stamps to picture the coat-of-arms of the United States were the 10-cent yellow stamps and the 30-cent blue and carmine stamps of the issue of 1869, on sale from March 1, 1869 to April 9, 1870.

The first precancelled stamps printed on rotary presses at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing were issued April 21, 1923. This initial order embraced 1-cent stamps of the 1923 series. One-cent precancelled stamps in coils were first issued January 7, 1924. Prior to the addition of precancelling devices to rotary presses, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing precancelled 1-cent stamps in sheets for a limited number of post offices with electrolyte plates containing 400 stamps each. The records indicate that Bureau precancelled stamps of this style were first issued to the New Orleans, La., Augusta, Maine, and Springfield, Mass., post offices in January 1917.

The first public exhibition of postage stamps was held from May 10, 1876 to November 10, 1876 in the United States building at the Centennial Exhibition at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa. It was arranged by John Walter Scott. The first important exhibit by collectors opened March 11, 1889 at the Eden Musee, New York City. Thirty-one exhibitors showed 272 sheets of stamps from 161 countries valued in excess of $200,000.

The first sheet of postage stamps to contain more than one variety of stamps was placed on sale May 9, 1936, in a temporary post office at Grand Central Palace, New York City, during the Third International Philatelic Exposition, May 9 thru May 17. The sheet consisted of four purple ungummed imperforated 3-cent stamps, one of the San Diego exposition issue of 1935, one Texas centennial issue of 1936, one Connecticut tercentenary issue of 1935, and one Michigan centenary issue of 1935. Surrounded by a white border on which was lettered "Printed by the Treasury Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing", at the top, "Under Authority of James A. Farley, Postmaster General" at the top, "In Compliment to the Third International Philatelic Exhibition of 1935" at the right, and "New York, N.Y., May 9-17, 1935", at the lower edge. About two-thirds of the total issue of 2,500,089 sheets were sold during the exposition.

The first stamped envelopes issued to commemorate an event were the 3-cent green stamped envelopes printed on a Hartford press set up in the Post Office Department in the Government Building at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pa., between May 10 and November 10, 1876.