

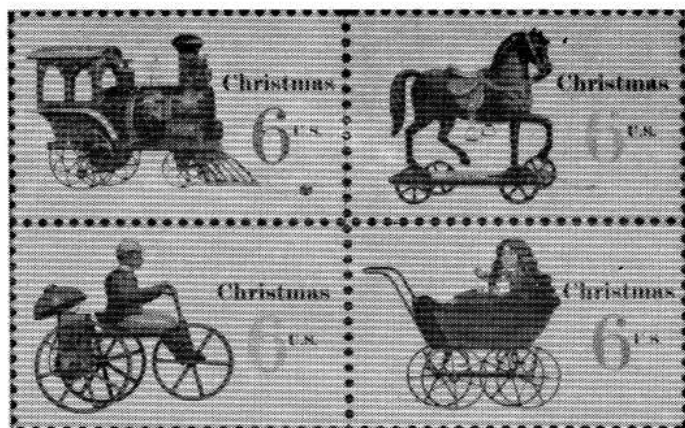


# The Masonic Philatelist

Vol. 27

DECEMBER, 1970

No. 4



*Season's Greetings*

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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Published By

The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl

PUBLICATION FUND

of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.  
22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016

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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., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

## REPORT FROM LONDON

Dr. Irwin Yarry reported on his trip to London, and to PHILYMPIA 1970, at a recent meeting of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Each of the days of the show was devoted to a special event, such as U.N. Day, Airmail Day, etc. He reported that the frames displayed were the best and most valuable ever assembled for any show. He met several members of the Masonic Stamp Club as well as members of The Collectors Club while attending the show.

One of the most interesting affairs he attended while in London was a display of the King George V collection which was displayed by The Royal Philatelic Society prior to the show. There were 32 frames shown, and the following is a general description:

Frames Nos. 1, 2, 3. CANADA—1851 3d, 6d, 12d; 12d used on cover (lifted) and a series of 6d on covers; 1852-57 3d blocks on thin wove and thick hard wove papers, 6d on medium, thick hard and thick soft wove papers; 1855 10d; 1857 7½d.

Frame Nos. 4, 5, 6. NEWFOUNDLAND—1857 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d bisected used with 3d on cover sheet, 1/-; 1860 6d, 1/-; 1861 1d red-brown.

Frame No. 8. BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND—1865 5c, 10c pair; 1869 p.12½ set in blocks.

Frames Nos. 9, 10. NEW BRUNSWICK—1851 3d blocks of nine and four; 3d bisected used with 6d on envelope; 6d, 1/-; 1/- used on cover sheets, 1/- bisected used on cover sheet; 1860 5c Connell.

Frame Nos. 11, 12. NOVA SCOTIA—1851 - 57 1d strip of three; 6d yellow-green strip of four used; 6d deep green, also a pair used; 1/-; 1/- pair used; 3d, 6d and 1/- used together on piece; 1d bisected used with 1d and 6d on envelope; 3d bisected, 3d, 6d and 1/- used together on piece.

Frame No. 13. ANTIGUA—1862 6d p.11-12½ and p.11-12½ x 14-16; 1863 6d yellow green.

Frame Nos. 14, 15. BAHAMAS—1861 4d and 6d in blocks; 1862 p.11½, 12x11 1d, 4d used, 6d used; 1863 4d on 6d block, also with surcharge diagonal and inverted.

Frame Nos. 16, 17. BARBADOS—E. H. Corbould's Britannia water color sketch; 1861-70 1/- imperf between pair; 1863 1/- error of color; 1873 Artist's drawing and 5/- pair; 1875-78 p.14 x12½ 4d; 1878 1d on half 5/- two unsevered pairs.

Frame No. 18. BERMUDA—1848 the three Perot Postmaster's stamps; 1865-73 1d imperf, 1/- imperf between strip of three; 1874 3d on 1d block, 3d on 1/- pair; 1875 1d on 1/- surcharge inverted used with 6d on piece.

Frame No. 19. DOMINICA—Artist's drawing for the first issue; 1866 1d on 6d used.

Frame Nos. 20, 21. GRENADA—1861 1d bluish green, 6d p.11-12½; 1875 1/- SHILLING error; 1883 large POSTAGE on half 1d unsevered pair; small POSTAGE on half 1d strip of three unsevered pairs.

Frame No. 22. JAMAICA—Artist's drawing for first 6d and 1/-; 1919 1/- inverted frame.

Frame No. 23. NEVIS—1861 sheets of 1d, 4d and 6d on greyish paper; 1866 1/- yellow green sheet; 1/- on laid paper used; 1876 4d imperf between pair; 1/- imperf between strip of three with right hand stamp the "cross on hill" variety.

Frame No. 24. ST. CHRISTOPHER—1882 190 2½d brown and 4d blue in blocks; 1888 small 1d on 2½d; large 1d on 2½d; surcharge inverted.

Frame No. 25. ST. LUCIA—Artist's drawing for the first issue; 1860 1d, 4d, and 6d in imperf between pairs; 1863 6d on 4d.

Frame Nos. 26, 27. ST. VINCENT—1862 6d imperf between pair; 1863-66 4d imperf between pair used; 1d p.11-12½ x 14-16 pair; 1881 1d on

half 6d block of 12, one with fraction bar omitted; 4d on 1/- strip of three.

Frame Nos. 28, 29, TRINIDAD—1847 Lady McLeod uncanceled on folded letter; 1852 1d on yellowish paper, 1d on bluish paper; also used block of former and used strip of three of latter; 1856 6d pair used on piece; 1876 p.14x12½ 6d; 1891 9d surcharges.

Frame No. 30, TOBAGO—1879 £1; 1880 1d on half 6d block of six used on piece.

Frame No. 31, TURKS ISLAND—1866 Artist's drawings for 6d; 1867 2d and 4d essays; 1873 1d imperf between pair in strip of five, 1/-.

Frame No. 32, VIRGIN ISLANDS—1867-68 1/- figure of Virgin omitted (No. 9 on the sheet); 1888 4d on 1/- block, also surcharge double used.

The following are some facts pertaining to the King George V collection:

King George V began his collecting on general lines, taking the stamps, envelopes and post cards of all countries. After some years he began to find this was too big a field to cover and decided to confine his collection to the issues of the British Empire. In fact, over the years the Royal Philatelic Collection became primarily concerned with unused stamps. Even so the issues up to the end of the reign of King George V occupy over 300 volumes. The inclusion of a full range of used stamps, postal stationery and stamps on cover would have increased the bulk of the collection to unmanageable proportions.

However, there are certain exceptions: bisected stamps on cover were taken and so were used rarities should unused not be obtainable. Also some examples of used stamps and stamps on cover came with other purchases or were acceptable where they had some special significance.

In general, every opportunity was taken to acquire perfect unused examples of the stamps; but an old friend "passant pour neuf" was generally retained. The King liked to compare the real thing with the next best which had for a long time been the substitute.

In the same way, the King generally retained other stamps which he had obtained in his early collecting days.

King George V had a particular liking for stamps in blocks of four and was one of the pioneers in collecting in this most attractive form. He was one of the first to appreciate the merit of including "Specimen" stamps in a collection. He recognized their importance since they were usually a measure of the shade and appearance of the stamps as first issued. In particular the collection is very complete as regards stamps obliterated with "CANCELLED" between bars. These are often brilliant stamps as will be seen, for example, from the Newfoundland 1/- orange vermillion on display today. The only snag is that it makes its unused companion look a little pale by comparison!

King George V had a particular partiality for the stamps of the British West Indies and the collection is very strong in these. One reason for this was that he paid two visits to the islands in the years before he succeeded to the throne and was able to obtain on these occasions many stamps to add to his collection. He was known to be a collector when he set sail from Chatham in command of The Thrush in 1890. On arriving in Trinidad he was presented on February 23, 1891 with several sets of the current series surcharged 9d. Examples of these are included in the display.

Certain sections of British North America are not quite so strong. This was due mainly to the activities of collectors on the other side of the Atlantic. A number of finds were made in America and this contributed also to the accumulation of material over there.

The King frequently deplored the fact that he got relatively little offered to him, in particular, Canadian stamps. In this respect he had hoped to strengthen the collection from the Duveen material, but the Duveen collection of Canadian stamps were sold intact to A. F. Lichtenstein and remained in the United States.

### CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island is located in the Indian Ocean, 230 miles south of Java. It is 64 square miles and has an estimated population of 3,350 persons. The island is a territory of Australia, and has been since it was taken over from Singapore in 1958.

The first stamps of the country were a set of ten, valued from 2 cents to one dollar. They depicted Queen Elizabeth. Across the bottom was the word Australia, and directly above it was printed "Christmas Island" and the denomination.

In 1963 a series of 10 stamps were issued showing pictures of things that pertained to the island. The 2 cent was a map of the island. A "moonflower" was pictured on the 4 cent. The 5 cent shows a robber crab. An island scene is shown on the 6 cent. Phosphate being a natural resource of the country, it is only natural that the 8 cent and 10 cent would be connected with this industry. The 12 cent pictures "Flying Fish Cove." A loading ship is shown on the 20 cent stamp. Birds of the island are pictured on the 50 cent and dollar stamp.

# KETCHAM'S KORNER

## "1970 U.S. Stamps in Review"

Another year draws to a close and it seems that our United States has issued more new stamps than ever (25 and a promise of another). The new issues were limited to one set of four stamps the first six months and the remaining 21 stamps were crowded into the five months of July to November.

On May 6 a set of four stamps were released commemorating the centennial year of the American Museum of Natural History. These stamps were quite gaudy and resembled stickers more than postage stamps. The pictured items pertain to exhibits in the museum. It is my opinion that these pictures should have related to natural history of the United States. The "American Bald Eagle" and "The Age of Reptiles" were appropriate but the "African Elephant Herd" and the Haida ceremonial canoe were not, even though some Haida Indians did live in Alaska, the majority inhabited British Columbia. I feel that pictures of beavers, deer, buffalo, our giant redwood trees, or something pertaining to an American Indian tribe would have been more fitting.

wildlife series that was printed at intervals during the past several years.



A 6 cent Eisenhower replaced the Roosevelt Prominent American stamp on August 6, and became the workhorse of our post office.

August 7 a revised issue of the American Flag stamp was placed on sale.

The first stamp in "American Poet" series was issued August 22. It honored Edgar Lee Masters, who is famous for his "Spoon River Anthology", a book of short poems which created a sensation when it appeared in 1915.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution became law in August, 1920. Therefore it was most fitting that a stamp



On July 9 a stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the Statehood of Maine was released. It depicted a lighthouse which was appropriate. The timing of issue was a little late however, as Maine became our 23rd state on March 15, 1820.

On July 20 a 6 cent stamp picturing a buffalo was issued. This is part of the

commemorating Woman Suffrage was issued August 26.

September 12 was the date of the release of a stamp commemorating the settling of Charleston, South Carolina in 1670. The design consists of a mélange of line drawings related to the development of the state: the spire of St. Phillips Church, the statehouse, the



state flag, Jessamine, cotton, tobacco, and other items.

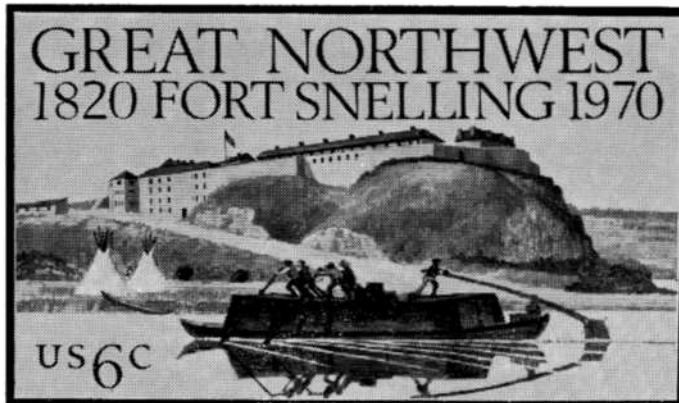
The Stone Mountain memorial stamp was issued September 19. It pictures the gigantic sculpture at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Robert E. Lee Stonewall Jackson, and Jefferson Davis are shown on the stamp. The figures are so large that 30 people were able to sit on Lee's shoulder when the head was unveiled.

A stamp honoring Fort Snelling was placed on sale October 17. The fort was established in 1819 and formed the first

permanent settlement in Minneapolis. The fort stands south of the city near the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.

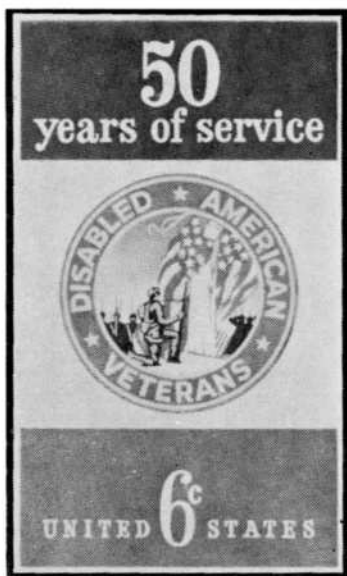
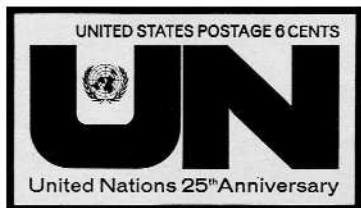
With all the talk and publicity about pollution it was only natural that the government printed a set of stamps relative to this topic. They were entitled "Save Our Soil", "Save Our Cities", "Save Our Water", and "Save Our Air".

The annual Christmas stamps were issued on November 5. This year the



government issued five stamps. This was done because of the controversy in recent years when religious stamps were sold. To try and please all, there was one religious stamp and four picturing toys.

On November 20 a six cent stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the United Nations was issued.



### CHRISTMAS STAMPS

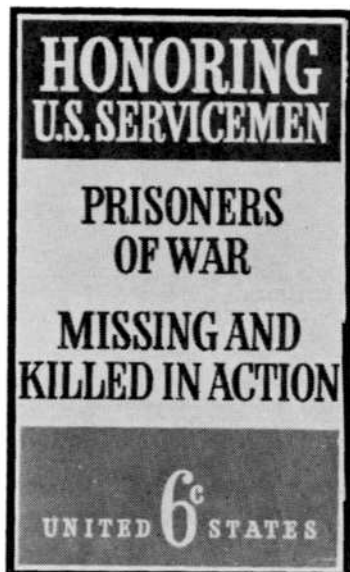
During the past few years topical collecting has become the thing. One of these topics that has attracted attention is the collecting of "Christmas Stamps."

While most collectors think of this fad originating in 1951 when Cuba issued the first of an annual series of Christmas stamps, Canada did issue two stamps on December 7, 1898. They are listed in the Scott catalog as numbers 85 and 86. The stamps picture a map of the world, which is not a Christmas design as we know it today. However, on the lower portion of the stamps is the wording "Xmas 1898". One stamp was

As this year marked the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, a "Mayflower" stamp was released on November 21.

Rounding out the year two stamps honoring our Armed Forces were placed on sale. One was the D.A.V. commemorative and the other the Servicemen's commemorative. Both were released on November 24.

While many of these stamps can have their meanings stretched and twisted to be claimed as Masonic stamps, it is my feeling that they actually are not. The only true stamp that could be included in a Masonic collection has been promised but no date of issuance was announced by the Post Office Department. That stamp will be the long overdue General Douglas MacArthur commemorative.



black lavender and carmine, and the other black, blue and carmine.

Australia started their series of Christmas stamps in 1957. Two years later the Vatican started this annual practice. In 1960 New Zealand and the Norfolk Islands joined in issuing this topic. Peru issued a stamp on December 20, 1961, but they did not make this an annual issue. Their next issues were 1965 and 1968. The United States' first Christmas issue was 1962, followed by Canada in 1963.

After that, many nations joined the Christmas parade: Papua, Cook Islands, Cayman Islands, Great Britain, Bots-



wana, Malta, Guyana, Malawi, and Togo, to name a few. In 1969 there was a total of 85 Christmas stamps issued throughout the world.

A large majority of the issues are taking from famous nativity paintings; others include scenes such as the 1963 U.S. issue showing the Christmas tree in front of the White House. Other stamps show praying hands (Canada, 1966), The Holy Bible (Australia, 1960), Santa Claus (Peru, 1965), and even toys (U.S., 1970).

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWER NAMED AFTER MASON**

The Christmas season is here again and we see beauty and cheer provided by the beautiful poinsettia, traditional flower of the American yuletide. Few, however, are aware that the flower is named after a prominent Mason, Joel R. Poinsett.

Poinsett was born in 1779 in Charleston, S.C. and studied in England and Scotland, taking up law and military science. After many years of travel in Europe, he returned to the United States. He was appointed to a South American mission to promote a good neighbor policy. Later he was made minister to Mexico. While there in 1825 he established three lodges under charter from the Grand Lodge of New York. These lodges subsequently established the Grand Lodge of Mexico. He also fathered Royal Arch Masonry in Mexico.

He was a member of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Charleston. He served as Deputy Grand Master in South Carolina in 1821, and was elected Grand Master, but owing to his appointment as Secretary of War, could not accept that office. He also was Deputy Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. Upon the revival of Greenville (S.C.) Lodge No. 3 in 1849, he became its Master despite his age. He died in 1851.

During the gloomy period in the early 1830's, when anti-Masonry was hovering like a fearful incubus over the craft and when to defend the institution and publicly support its principles was to hazard character and popularity, Poinsett nobly stood forth as its champion.

In the official proceedings of the "Anti-Masonry Republican Convention of Massachusetts" held in Boston in 1833, Poinsett was bitterly attacked for having said that persons who had organized themselves into an opposition to Freemasonry were "anti-moral, anti-charitable, anti-Christian and anti-Republican."

Interested in amateur horticulture, he cultivated and developed the colorful poinsettia. In 1951 Cuba issued 1c and 2c stamps (Nos. 469-470) picturing the flower. The United States pictured the flower on its Christmas issue of 1964 (Scott 1256).

(John A. Mirt, "Masonry on Postage Stamps")

### **UNITED STATES POSTAGE FIRSTS**

By Joseph Nathan Kane

The first coin operated mailbox was the "Mail-o-Mat" combining a postage meter with a United States letter box. Manufactured by Pitney-Bowes, Inc., Stamford, Conn., the first machine was installed at the General Post Office, New York City, on May 17, 1939. It was covered by Patent No. 2,290,920, granted July 28, 1942, to Linden A. Thatcher of Stamford, Conn. Coins were dropped into slots, the desired stamp denomination is dialed, and the letter is inserted in a letter slot. The machine does the rest automatically—prints meter stamp with postmark and date of mailing and holds the letter for scheduled collection. It provides postage from 1 cent to 33 cents, including airmail, special delivery, etc. It obviates the need of ordinary adhesive stamps, operates day or night as a "self service post office", and speeds mail because metered mail needs no post office "facing" canceling or postmarking.

The first postage meter was officially set at Stamford, Conn., November 16, 1920. Although the idea of metered mail originated in 1900 when the American Postage Meter Company of Chicago, Ill. was organized for that purpose, it was not until September 1, 1920 that the Post Office Department approved of it. The acting assistant postmaster general informed the Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Company of Stamford, Conn. that its machine would be acceptable to the department. About two million dollars was spent on research and development of the machine.

The first self service post office was an unmanned unit installed in the Wheaton Plaza Regional Shopping Center at Wheaton, Md. on October 17, 1964. Located on a concrete island in the parking area, it dispensed stamps, envelopes and postcards at the same price as at stamp windows. It had a machine to make change for coins and bills, a scale for weighing letters and parcels up to 50 pounds, and a zone map for calculating parcel postage.

The first United States stamped envelopes were issued in June 1853 under Act of August 31, 1852 (10 Stat. L. 141) and were manufactured by George F.

Nesbitt and Company of New York City under a contract dated October 25, 1852. They showed the profile of George Washington in an oval, the value above and "cents" below. They were printed on white and buff paper. The first series included a 3-cent red, a 6-cent red and green, and a 10-cent green.

The first dead letter office of the Post Office Department was organized in 1825 in Washington, D.C.

The first postal route was between New York City and Boston, Mass. on December 10, 1672. Governor Francis Lovelace of New York announced that monthly service would be inaugurated January 1, 1673. The first trip was made January 22, 1673.

The first zone numbers (two-digit postal zoning system) was put into operation by the Post Office Department on May 1, 1943 at Pittsburgh, Pa. and was implemented in 125 of its large volume offices. The five zoning system, commonly referred to as the Zip Code, was inaugurated in July 1963.

The first jet propelled airplane to transport mail was a P-80 Shooting Star which on June 22, 1946 carried a letter addressed to President Harry S. Truman. It was piloted by Captain Robert Atkinson Baird III of Clarksdale, Miss. who left the Schenectady County Airport, Schenectady, N.Y. and arrived at the National Airport, Washington, D.C. (370 miles) in 49 minutes. Another jet propelled P-80 piloted by Major Kenneth Oscar Chilstrom of Elmhurst, Ill., left for Dayton, Ohio with a letter for Orville Wright, and after a stopover at Wright Field, arrived in two hours and two minutes.

The first collection and delivery of mail in automobiles owned by the government were made October 19, 1914, in Washington, D.C.

The first postal directory was a list of post offices in the United States with the names of the postmasters. It also contained the principal regulations of the Post Office Department. It was compiled by Daniel Tompkins Leech of the Post Office Department, and printed by George S. Gideon, Washington, D.C. in 1855. It contained 146 pages of directory, 48 pages of regulations and six pages of miscellaneous material.

The first cancellation of a foreign country on a U.S. stamped envelope cover was on May 25, 1967 when the United States pavilion at Expo '67, Montreal, Canada, cancelled the 5-cent stamp commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Canada's Achievement of Federation. It was designed by Ivan Chermayeff of New York City and was a symbolic depiction of the scenic grandeurs of Canada. The date of issue and cancellation coincided with President Lyndon Baines Johnson's visit to Ottawa and Montreal, Canada.

The first automobile mail wagon built especially for mail collection service was constructed by the Winton Motor Vehicle Company of Cleveland, Ohio in 1899. A test was made in Cleveland over a 22-mile route when mail was collected from 120 boxes. Although the test was made in a severe snowstorm under adverse conditions, the trip took two hours and 27 minutes, whereas the horse and wagon trip required six hours. The test was authorized by Mr. Dewston, Cleveland's postmaster.