



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 27

JANUARY 1971

NO. 5



AT THE A.S.D.A SHOW

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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THREE YEARS —

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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

PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT

November 6th was set aside by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York to honor its past presidents. The past presidents who were able to attend were Stanley Salomon, Norman Sehlmeier, Joseph Munk, Emanuel Reggel and Irwin Yarry.

In accordance with past tradition, each of these members displayed and discussed some of the stamps from his collection.

Brother Stanley Salomon showed a collection of plate blocks and first day covers of United States stamps covering the period from 1909 through 1938.

The Canadian issues commemorating the 25th anniversary of the United Nations were presented by Brother Norman Sehlmeier. The stamps included the 10¢ and 15¢ denominations in singles, blocks, and first day covers.

Manny Reggel displayed album pages showing stamps from Australia. These covered the period of 1928, and continued through 1969.

Stamp facsimiles in color were shown by Dr. Yarry. He explained how a hobby could be developed at no cost that could include facsimiles of the rarest and most valuable stamps in the world.

As usual, these distinguished members presented an interesting and educational program and shared their philatelic knowledge with the members in attendance.

22nd A.S.D.A. STAMP SHOW

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York lounge at the 22nd A.S.D.A. National Postage Stamp Show held in Madison Square Garden on November 20, 21 and 22, was a huge success again. Much credit goes to Brother Yale Shapiro, whose able leadership coordinated when the many brothers were to man the lounge.

Though no new cachets were issued in 1970, those of the past were displayed and aroused the interest of many of the non-Masons who attended, as well as brothers who attended the show.

As in the past, many members from out of town stopped by to renew acquaintances as well as local Masonic brothers. Distinguished stamp journalists, dealers, representatives of the U.N. Postal Administration and other renowned personalities from the stamp world took the time to be greeted at our lounge.

Brother Alexander Hesse entered several beautiful frames of ship cancellations in the show and received a bronze award. The congratulations of

the club is extended to Alex.

The picture on the cover shows some of our members, friends and relatives who assisted the club at the lounge. Many other brothers also helped, but unfortunately were not in attendance when the photo was taken.



MARCUS W. WHITE — 1877 - 1970

During 1970 the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc. lost one of its most celebrated members. Brother Marcus W. White died at the age of 92. He was a long time resident of Worcester, Mass., and a member of Quinsigumond Lodge.

He was born in Williamstown, the son of Harrison and Sarah Jane (Snyder) White. He was graduated from Williamstown High School and Williams College, class of 1899. He was the last living member of his class, and had attended every reunion of the class.

He went to Worcester in 1907 and started as an office boy at the Norton Co., from which organization he retired as purchasing agent in 1946.

Mr. White was of course well known to the philatelic world as the outstanding authority in the field of U.S. Stamped Envelopes. He began to collect stamps in 1885, most of which he acquired by trade with students at Williams College. His first catalog was Mekeels in 1892, and his first good album was also a Mekeels, which Prescott H. Thorp stated he still had in an article about him which appeared in the U.S. Envelope World for April 1966, from which most of the information in the obituary is taken. Some details were also furnished by Edgar D. Lord of Holden, Mass.

Mr. White began to collect envelopes in 1893, starting with the Columbians. He soon became known throughout phi-

lately as the Number One collector of our postal stationery. In time he invested practically his entire surplus income in our stamped envelopes, even continuing through the era in the early 20th century when interest in these items had largely waned. Mr. Thorp stated in his aforementioned article that "with his holdings his knowledge of our stamped envelope kept pace. Of him the late J. Murray Bartels would often say 'Marcus White knows more about our stamped envelopes than any man alive.' High praise indeed from the highest of authorities."

Mr. White exhibited in many shows, and won highest awards for his displays. In Toronto 1951 he won a silver-gilt and two silvers, the only U.S. collector so honored. At Baltimore he won the grand award for his showing of envelope essays, trial colors, and specimens of U.S. and British stationery.

Mr. White also assisted in the two Thorp editions of the envelope catalog, and in getting the specimens and essays illustrated and listed for the first time.

He is survived by his wife, a son, and two daughters.



SAM BROOKS — 1896 - 1970

In November 1970 the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc. was saddened to learn of the untimely death of one of its charter members, a past president and a former editor of the Masonic Philatelist, Brother Sam Brooks.

Brother Brooks was born in New York City on October 23, 1896, and attended Public School No. 62, on the lower East Side. Of modest circumstances, he had to continue his education in the evenings, while earning his livelihood. There was no easy path to finally attaining his goal through Stuyvesant High School and Columbia School of Business in his career as credit and office manager in the dress manufacturing business.

During World War I, he enlisted in

the Air Service Signal Corps and shipped to England in January 1918 and to France in June, where he served as sergeant in the 805th Aero Squadron of the A.E.F., and was finally discharged in June 1919.

Brooks was raised in Emanuel Lodge No. 654 in June 1925, and in June 1929, organized Vigilantia Lodge with 16 other Masons in his field of credit management. This Lodge was duly constituted by the late M. W. Charles H. Johnson as Vigilantia Lodge No. 1108, in June 1930. Sam served as its first Senior Deacon and then as Master in 1932.

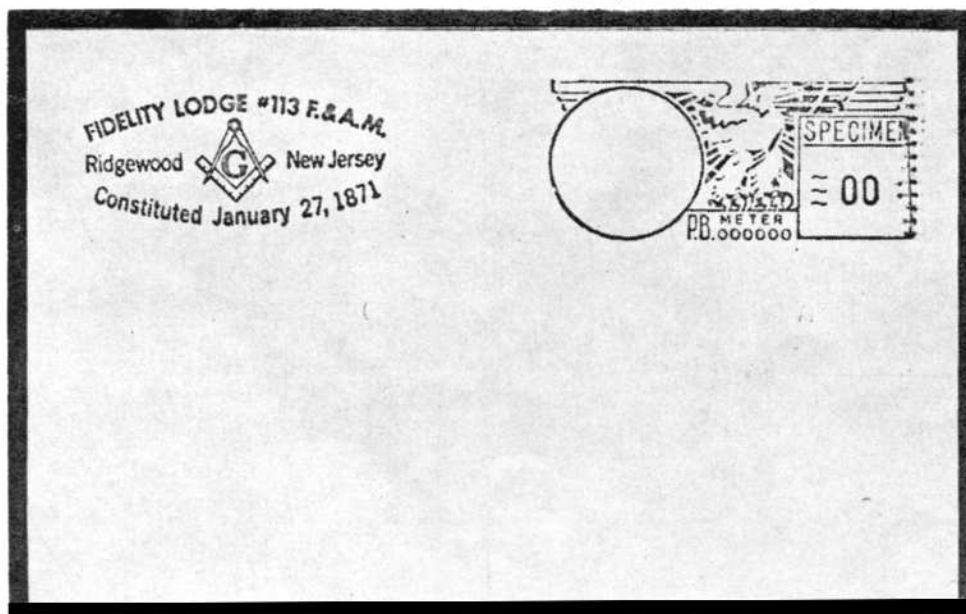
In The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Brother Sam Brooks found his fondest associations. As a charter member, he soon served as secretary and then as president in 1945. In March 1944, with the late Brother Harry M. Konwiser, the dean of philatelic writers, he began a stamp paper which, in a few issues, became the present "Masonic Philatelist."

In his monthly publication, as editor,

publisher and author, Brother Brooks instituted his series of articles of Masonic personalities depicted on stamps, Masonic corner cards and envelopes. This found many adherents and The Masonic Philatelist became the source for this information and collecting Masonic philately. He built up a demonstration collection on this subject and won an award at CIPEX for this collection. Brother Brooks was encouraged to publish a booklet entitled "Masonic Philately" in 1948.

WHERE OUR CALENDARS COME FROM

In 4246 BC, the Egyptians adopted the first calendar based on the solar year. It was a twelve month calendar with each month containing thirty days, totalling 360 days for the year. To make the calendar come out even with the sun, they added five days at the end of the year—six days every fourth year. The five days were not part of any months. They were used as feast days in honor of their gods.



MASONIC METER "FIRST"

The familiar Masonic emblem of the Square and Compass will appear for the first time in a postage meter slogan to commemorate the Centennial of Fidelity Lodge No. 113, F. & A.M. of Ridgewood, N.J. which was established January 27, 1871. Collectors desiring cachet covers franked with the special meter slogan imprint on the anniversary date may obtain three covers by sending \$1.00 and a stamped and addressed envelope to George H. Wettach, Box 312, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410.

STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN

Stephen F. Austin, the man for whom the state capital of Texas was named, was born November 3, 1793 at the lead mines in Wythe County Virginia. The Austins moved to Missouri in 1798. Later Stephen was a student for three years at Colchester, Connecticut and for the next two years at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky. Back again in Missouri he was, among other things, a member of the territorial legislature 1814-1820. When the family fortunes collapsed in Missouri, Stephen went to New Orleans and began the study of law while assisting in the editorial department of a newspaper.

Stephen's father, Moses Austin, removed to Texas in 1820, then a Mexican province, and obtained a grant from the Mexican commandant at Monterey with permission to establish a colony of 300 families. The hardships he encountered while in search of emigrants caused his death in Louisiana June 10, 1821. The colonization however, was carried out successfully by Stephen F. Austin, who in January 1822 conducted a company of emigrants from New Orleans to a site he selected bordering on the Gulf of Mexico where the city of Austin now stands. Austin directed his colony with extraordinary powers given him by the Mexican government. He was executive, lawmaker, judge and military commandant and had absolute authority to admit or exclude immigrants.

By 1833 almost a thousand families had arrived. The American settlers had become powerful and restless under Mexican rule. In 1833 Austin tried to persuade the Mexican government to permit separation of Texas from Coahuila and its admission to the Mexican Republic as a full-fledged state. A misunderstanding led to his imprisonment for several months. On his release in 1835 by the amnesty law, he joined in the movement for the liberation of Texas and was chosen commander in chief of the Texan army. Texas proclaimed independence from Mexico November 13, 1835. After the loss of the Alamo, March 8, 1836, the Mexicans were defeated at San Jacinto, April 21, and the Republic of Texas was established with General Sam Houston as its first president and Stephen F. Austin first secretary of state. He had served only two months when he died December 27, 1836 at the age of 43. A statue of Austin was placed in the south small rotunda of the National Capitol, Washington, D.C.

On June 23, 1815 at the age of 21, Stephen F. Austin was initiated in



Louisiana Lodge No. 109, the first lodge west of the Mississippi and now extinct, at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri (then Louisiana Territory).

In 1828 Bro. Austin brought from Mexico a blank form of a petition for the establishment of a Masonic Lodge. He called a meeting at San Felipe de Austin of known Master Masons in the area February 11, 1828, for the purpose of preparing a petition to the Gran Loge Nacional Mexicana for a charter to establish a lodge at that place to be called "Lodge of Union". The minutes of that meeting, now preserved in the Texas Grand Lodge library, show that Stephen Fuller Austin was duly elected to be Worshipful Master; Ira Ingram and Maj. Hosea League Senior and Junior Wardens. The petition was prepared and sent in, but was lost, and the lodge which might have been, never was.

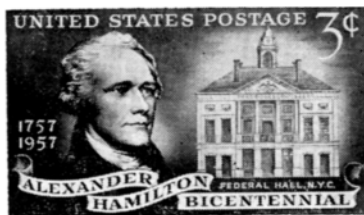
Both Austin and Houston appear on the Texas Centennial stamp of 1936, Scott No. 776.

—Marshall S. Loke

KETCHAM'S KORNER

Many famous Masons were born in the month of January. Among the most prominent was Alexander Hamilton. Brother Hamilton was born on January 11th in Charlestown, on the island of Nevis in the British West Indies. Scholars recently found evidence showing the year of his birth may have been 1755 rather than 1757, the generally accepted year.

When Hamilton was 16 he came to the American mainland to finish his ed-



ucation. He studied in a grammar school in Elizabethtown (now Elizabeth), N.J., and then entered Kings College (now Columbia University) in New York City.

Hamilton sympathized with the Colonies in their struggle against England. Before the Revolutionary War began he published anonymously two remarkable pamphlets supporting the revolutionary cause. After the war began he enlisted with the Colonial Forces and fought bravely in the Long Island and New Jersey campaigns of 1776 and 1777. In March 1777 he was appointed secretary to General George Washington and was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

After the war Hamilton was admitted to the bar after only three months of hard study. In 1782 and 1783 he represented New York state in Congress.

He knew well the weakness of the new government under the Articles of Confederation. He was a delegate to the Annapolis convention, which met in September 1786 to discuss changes in the articles. Hamilton drew up a proposal at Annapolis calling for a convention of the states to increase the central government's power. This resulted in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in which Hamilton was a vigorous spokesman for a strong national government. His papers supporting it, published in *The Federalist*, and his speeches in the New York Convention, were strong influences in getting the Constitution adopted.



Alexander Hamilton served as Secretary of the Treasury from 1789 until January 1795. He gave needed strength to our country by firmly establishing the credit of the nation. His policy was to pay at full face value all public debts incurred during the Revolutionary War, including those by Congress and by the individual states. Taxes or duties on goods imported into the nation provided money to pay the debts and to run the government.

Hamilton also proposed a mint and a bank supported by the government. He expected them to aid the country's operation as well as American business. Thomas Jefferson believed this proposal to be unconstitutional and pointed out that the Constitution did not give Congress the power to charter a bank. Hamilton defended the constitutionality of the bank by using the "Doctrine of

Implied Powers." The Supreme Court of the United States adopted Hamilton's policy. This dispute between Hamilton and Jefferson led to the two party system in our country, as out of it grew the Democratic-Republican, and Federalist parties.

Another famous tax inaugurated by Hamilton was on whisky made in the United States. Many farmers disliked the whiskey tax and this led to the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. Hamilton accompanied the federal troops which put down the rebellion.

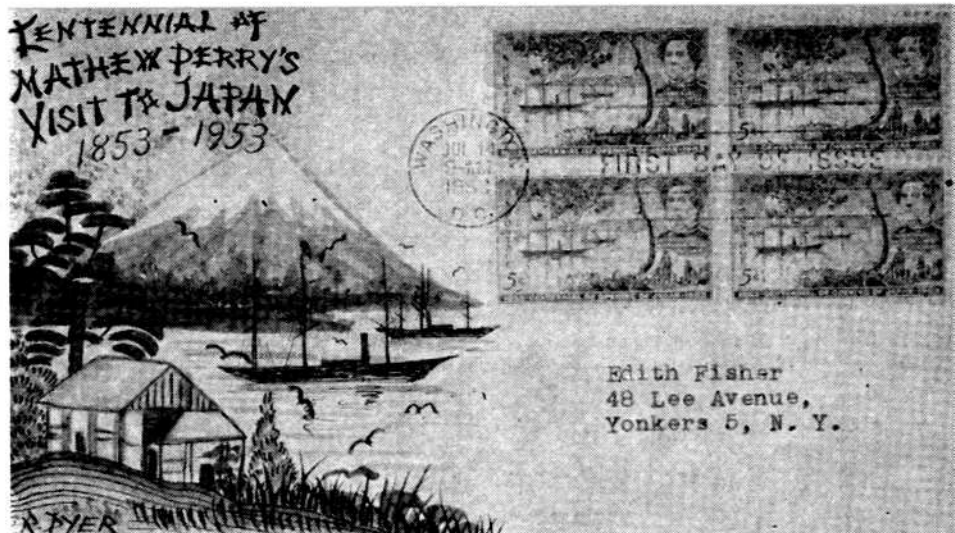
Hamilton's influence in American government did not end with his retirement as Secretary of the Treasury. He helped President Washington write his farewell address, and he headed a wing of the Federalist party that opposed some of President John Adams' policies.

Historic information indicates that Hamilton was made a Mason in a military lodge during the Revolutionary War. His name is recorded as among the visitors of American Union Lodge at Morristown, N.J. on December 27, 1779, and is identified because he was the only one of that name then holding a commission in the army.

In 1804 Hamilton became involved in a political dispute with Aaron Burr, then Vice President, an old rival in New York politics and in law practice. Burr challenged him to a duel. The two men fought on July 11th 1804. Hamilton was wounded and died on the following day.



The Alexander Hamilton page in the Masonic stamp album could include the following stamps: Scott numbers 143, 154, 165, 176, 1053 and 1086. To these the official stamps of 1873 Scott numbers O9, O23, O33, O44, O66, O81, O92, O112 and O120 can be added. Supplementing these stamps, the page can also include St. Kitts-Nevis, Scott 135, which commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hamilton. Related stamps on the page could also include Scott 1029, as Hamilton attended Columbia; 1003, which could signify that he fought in the Battle of Long Island; 1022, as he was a member of the bar, and 798, which is the Constitutional Sesquicentennial issue.



This stamp was issued to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Perry's negotiations with Japan, which opened her doors to foreign trade after more than 200 years of isolation.

MATTHEW CALBRAITH PERRY

By Walter R. Harbeson

(Reprinted from the Oct. 1960 Masonic Philatelist)

Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, known as "the father of the steam navy," was born on April 10, 1794, at Newport, Rhode Island.

He entered the Navy as a midshipman in 1809, and served on the schooner *Revenge* under his brother Oliver H. Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie. From 1810 to 1813 he served on the flagship "President," training under John Rogers. His diary gives an account of the chase of the "Belvidera" when Rogers fired the first shot afloat in the War of 1812.

He spent the years 1833-43 on shore duty, for much of the time at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, of which he was commandant for part of this period. In 1837 he commanded the *Fulton*, one of the first naval steamships, having made valuable contributions to the development of the U.S. steam navy, and was promoted to the rank of captain, then the highest in that branch of the service. In 1843 he served on the African coast in suppression of the slave trade.

In 1846 he commanded a squadron that captured *Frontera*, *Tabasco*, *Leguna* and *Tuxpan*. In the following year he cooperated with General Scott in the siege of Vera Cruz during the Mexican War.

In 1852 he was sent to Japan to negotiate a treaty that would open up that country to commerce. Turning the treaty over to the representative of the Emperor on July 4, 1853, he sailed for China and returned to Japan to have the treaty signed on March 31, 1854.

Perry was a member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City, in 1819. He died on March 4, 1858.

Stamp No. 1021 commemorates the centenary of his negotiations with Japan which opened the doors of that nation to foreign trade. His picture appears on this stamp. Also shown thereon are the steam frigates "Susquehanna" and "Mississippi" and the sloops of war "Saratoga" and "Plymouth" in Yedo Bay, Japan. A First Day Cover cancellation is illustrated on the front cover of this issue.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE FIRSTS

By Joseph Nathan Kane

The first International Dog Sled Mail left Lewiston, Maine, on December 20, 1928, with Alden William Pulsifer, postmaster of Minot, Maine, in charge and arrived January 14, 1929 at Montreal, Canada. A regular eight-foot mushing sled weighing 200 pounds was pulled by six Blackhead Eskimo dogs.

They averaged nine miles an hour (seven to eight on bare ground) and covered from 40 to 60 miles a day. The mail pouch contained 385 letters which

were placed in government stamped canceled envelopes.

The trip was not an official one. The sled returned to Lewiston on February 2, 1929, having passed through 118 cities, and having covered 600 miles, of which 90 percent was bare of snow.

The first Postal Savings Bank was authorized by President William Howard Taft on June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. L. 814) when he signed the "Act to establish postal savings depositories for depositing savings at interest." Introduced by Senator Thomas Henry Carter of Montana on January 26, 1910, an Act which created a board of trustees consisting of the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, severally acting ex-officio, for the control, supervision and administration of the postal savings system.

Postal Savings Service was established initially at 48 second-class post offices on January 3, 1911. The service was gradually extended to other post offices.

Attention was drawn to postal savings by Postmaster General John Angel James Creswell in 1871, but no action was taken despite the fact that 80 such bills were introduced into Congress between 1873 and 1910. Deposits in 11 months reached a total of \$11,000,000, which was distributed among 2,710 national and state banks.

* * *

The first highway post office service was approved July 11, 1940. The first route was established February 10, 1941 between Washington, D.C. and Harrisonburg, Va. Mail was transported in large bus-type vehicles equipped with facilities for sorting, handling and dispatch of mail.

The first dirigible transfer of mail to a train was effected on June 15, 1928 by an Air Corps blimp piloted by Lieutenant Karl S. Axater and Lieutenant Edward H. White, who flew directly over an Illinois Central train near Scott Field, Belleville, Ill., and dipped low enough to permit the railway mail clerk to reach the sack of mail which was suspended by means of rope. The blimp was a "C" type dirigible, 210 feet long, with a crew of six.

The first international air mail was inaugurated March 3, 1919, between Seattle, Washington and Victoria, British Columbia (74 miles) by Edward Hubbard of the Hubbard Air Service, who piloted a Boeing Type C open cockpit biplane with pontoons. William Edward Boeing was a passenger on the flight. Regular service under contract

began October 14, 1920, and continued under successive contracts until June 30, 1937.

The first letter carriers uniforms were authorized by Act of Congress of July 27, 1868 (15 Stat. L. 197) which authorized the Postmaster General "to prescribe a uniform dress to be worn by letter carriers." On October 31, 1868 Postmaster General Alexander Williams Randall approved a standard uniform.

The first mail box (drive up) to enable automobilists to post letters without moving from the seat of their cars was installed in July 1927 at Houston, Texas. The box had metal handles eight to ten inches long and was tilted four inches. The boxes were known as "Courtesy Collection Boxes."

The first mail box was invented in 1810 by Thomas Brown, who was governor of Florida from 1849 to 1853. His mail boxes consisted of a series of numbered pigeonholes with glass fronts which enabled people to see whether there was any mail for them in their respective boxes.

The first mail delivery by steamboats was authorized by Act of Congress of February 27, 1813 (2 Stat. L. 805). The Postmaster General was granted the power to transport mail "in any steamboats or boats, the pay not to be at a greater rate, taking into consideration distance, expedition, and frequency than is paid for carrying the mail by stages on the post road, or roads, adjacent to the course of such steamboats."

The first missile mail (official) was dispatched from the submarine USS Barbero (SSC 317) about 100 miles at sea off the Atlantic coast to the Mayport Naval Auxiliary Station near Jacksonville, Fla. on June 8, 1959. Bearing four-cent postage rather than seven cents air mail stamps, 3,000 letters were shot in a Regulus I winged missile at about 600 miles an hour. The missile landed 22 minutes after being launched. The letters, signed by Postmaster General Arthur Ellsworth Summerfield, were addressed to President Dwight David Eisenhower and other government officials and important personalities. The project was under the supervision of Captain Arnold Schade.

The first newspaper wrappers were issued in October 1861 under Act of February 27, 1861 (12 Stat. L. 167) in manila and buff, bearing a 1-cent blue stamp with the head of Franklin. In 1863, a two cent wrapper was added, bearing a black stamp with the head of Jackson.