



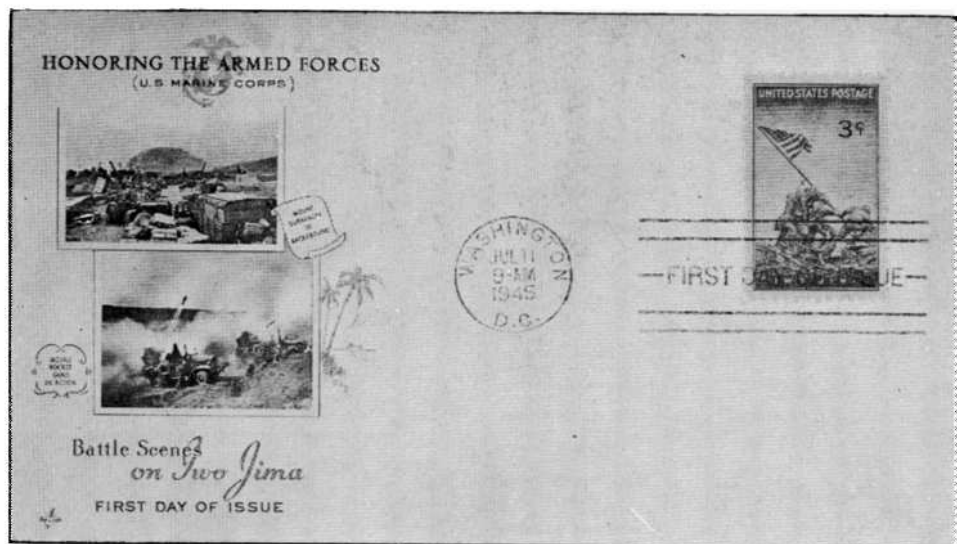
# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 32

APRIL 1976

NO. 8

## THE FLAG RAISING ON "IWO JIMA"



A letter to Brother George H. Wettach from the commander of the USS Missoula P.A. 211 from Brother Alexander C. Kopper.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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EDITOR Robert A. Smith

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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  
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## UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL

In celebration of the United States Bicentennial, the Canada Post Office and the United States Postal Service will simultaneously issue stamps of a common design featuring Benjamin Franklin, a Postmaster General of British North America and a founding father of the United States.

(Date of issue is scheduled for June 1, 1976).

Benjamin Franklin contributed to the Canadian postal system by opening post offices in Montreal, Trois-Rivieres and Quebec City. The system used the existing road between Montreal and Quebec City. The road was already equipped with post houses at nine-mile intervals. Franklin also established a courier service between Montreal and New York City. The service ran via Lake Champlain and the Hudson River and operated twice monthly in summer and once monthly in winter, linking Canada to the mail packet sailing between New York and England. Indeed, until 1788 all letters from central Canada to Halifax traveled through New York.

The two new stamps, which bear a common design and engraving, differ only in color typography and method of printing. The Canadian stamp is printed by steel and gravure, the Amer-

For A Price List  
of Available

## MASONIC COVERS PAST AND PRESENT

Write to

MASONIC CACHETS  
451 WEST 46th STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

ican stamp by steel and lithography. This is the first joint issue between Canada and the United States since the St. Lawrence Seaway stamps of 1959.

Franklin was born in 1706. His father, fearing the lad might run off to sea, apprenticed him, at age twelve, to a printer. At seventeen, flouting his apprenticeship, young Benjamin decamped to Philadelphia where he eventually set up his own shop. A hard driving businessman, Franklin achieved financial security and in 1748 retired to pursue other activities. Besides being a businessman, Franklin was an athlete of note, a talented writer and a renowned scientist.

Canada perhaps first entered Franklin's thoughts as a military threat. He urged the English colonists to arm against the French and gambled £20,000 of his own money in the struggle to crush the Northern menace. Britain soon did conquer Canada, which Franklin then toured in the capacity of Postmaster General for British North America, opening post offices and establishing the Montreal-New York courier service. For the next few years, Franklin rarely mentioned Canada although he satirized ignorance of North America by telling British newspapers that hungry whales pursued cod from the Atlantic to Niagara Falls. He added that "the grand leap of the whale in the chase up the Falls of Niagara is esteemed by all who have seen it as one of the finest spectacles in nature."

When the American War of Independence broke out, Franklin sided with the revolutionaries. They had captured Montreal and were besieging Quebec. Early in 1776, Congress sent Franklin north to proclaim the gospel of liberty. Franklin, however, had been in Montreal but a few days when the British navy arrived in Quebec. The Americans retreated and Franklin departed. Congress then despatched him to Paris. He arrived safely and used his great popularity and prestige to whip up French support for the revolution. Franklin participated in the peace negotiations, at one point hinting that Britain should donate Canada to the United States. After the war he returned to Philadelphia, where he died in 1790.

Bernard Reilander of Ottawa designed the United States Bicentennial stamp. It features a portrait of Franklin in brown placed against a blue and ochre background map. The portrait was derived from a marble portrait head by an anonymous Italian sculptor based on a terra cotta bust of Franklin

modeled in 1777 by the French sculptor Jean-Jacques Caffieri. The background is an adaption of an early engraved map of British North America published in 1776 by R. Sayer and J. Bennett in London, England. The places on the map are all important to early postal history in North America and include the three Canadian post offices established by Franklin. The United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing, working from the original design, created the master engraving of the Franklin portrait and of the place names.

#### Specifications:

Stamp: United States Bicentennial. Denomination: 10¢. Date of issue: June 1, 1976. Design: Bernard Reilander. Printer: British American Bank Note Company. Quantity: 16,000,000. Dimensions: 40 mm x 24 mm (horizontal). Perforation: 13. Gum type: PVA. Paper type: Gravure — coated-one-side. Printing process: Steel engraving (one color) plus gravure (3 colors). Pane layout: 50 stamps. Plate inscription: In the side margins facing in at the four corners British American Bank Note Ottawa No. 1. Design: Bernard Reilander: Dessin. Tagging: All general tagged.

### THAT IS MASONRY

After the Battle of Opequan (O-peh-un) (Sept. 19, 1864) Battle of Windsor, I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed that the doctor shook hands cordially with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them.

Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment. I didn't know what it meant. On the way back to our camp, I asked him, "Did you know these men or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before."

"But how did you know them, and why did you give them money?" I asked.

"They are Masons, and we Masons have ways of finding that out."

"But," I persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well," said the doctor, "If they are ever able to pay it back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble, and I am only doing my duty."

I said to myself, "If that is Masonry, I will take some of it myself."

(Gen. Horatio C. King—at banquet, N.Y.C., Feb. 22, 1906. In Iowa Masonic Library, #1, Jan. 1929.)

## ON THE COVER

### THE FLAG RAISING ON IWO JIMA

The following letter from Alexander C. Kopper to George H. Wettach, Fair Lawn, N.J., describes the events leading to the now famous flag raising events on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

Aug. 1, 1975

Dear Sir and Brother,

Thank you for your letter of July 14. It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance as a Brother and as a philatelist. Myself, I have collected stamps and covers for years, now in retirement, slowed down somewhat. No doubt Rt. Wor. Bro. Max told you a good deal about me, so we'll skip all that.

Yes, I had command of the USS Missoula P.A. 211 (Attack Transport) during WW II. We carried a battalion of the 5th Marines to Iwo Jima. The Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Chandler W. Johnson, had his stateroom on the same deck with me, we dined together—a pleasant likeable fellow.

At dinner, the day before "D" Day, our last meal together, he was telling me about the armory in Chicago and the numerous battle flags of the U.S. Marines. From our schedule of operations, I knew that our Marine detachment was ordered to storm and conquer Mt. Suribachi on the southern tip of the island.

Casually, I mentioned, "Why not add yet another flag to the armory, the Stars and Stripes that flew over Mt. Suribachi?"

"Good idea. I'll fly one if only I had a flag," was his reply.

Early the next morning on "D" Day, (Feb. 19, 1945), I instructed the communications officer, Lt. Bro. John P. Saylor, to give the Colonel one of our ships flags. This was done.

The flag raising is mentioned in the book "Iwo Jima" by Richard F. Newcomb, 1965.

Page 103. Quote: "... Lt. Col. Chandler W. Johnson ... by the sheer force of his personality the men were lifted off the beach and started inland for Suribachi. Right behind Johnson ran Battalion Adjutant, 2nd Lt. G. Greeley Wells, a map case bobbing at his belt. In the case for a very good reason, was the American flag. At rehearsals each officer stood and recited his duties, and Wells would always end with the phrase: 'And I carry the flag.'

"Johnson would growl, 'Why?,' and Wells would reply, 'Because it says so!'

"It became something of a joke in the

battalion. Just before the battalion transferred from the Missoula to the LST (landing craft), Wells had gotten this flag from the transport's officer, and had it with him now." unquote.

Page 164. Quote: "When Schrier got his battalion command post, the Colonel told him to seize the crest and hold it, and put this up on the hill, Johnson said, handing him, Schrier, the flag. ... A couple of men found a piece of pipe about 20 feet long. They lashed the flag to one end and thrust the other in the soft ground, near the north rim of the crater. Six men raised it: Schrier, Platoon Sergeant Ernest J. Thomas, Sergeant Henry O. Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Private First Class James R. Michels, and the Crow Indian, Private Charlo. The flag rose above the mountain, clearly visible from land and sea. This was the flag that thrilled the troops. The one that thrilled the world was still to come, nearly two hours later."

An article by Joe Rosenthal, "The Picture That Will Live Forever," Colliers Feb. 18, 1955. (Condensed from History of the Iwo Jima Operations, prepared by the Historic Branch of the U.S. Marines Corps.) reads in part: "... The patrol had raised the flag at the summit and he had photographed the flag raising. This flag had been carried off the USS Missoula, an attack transport, in the map case of the battalion adjutant. It was raised at 10:20 a.m. "D" 44 (Feb. 23rd), on a length of iron pipe, part of the wreckage of a radar station at the summit, but it measured only 54x28 inches and that is why, although we did not know it at the time, it was replaced shortly with a larger flag."

It was the Missoula's flag that was raised first, later replaced by a larger 4½x8-foot flag from the LST 779, which was beached near the base of Mt. Suribachi.

Colonel Johnson sent the ship a visual message that morning: "Your flag is flying atop of Mt. Suribachi."

On receiving the message it went over the P.A. system. All hands on deck turned towards Mt. Suribachi to see the flag and let out a jubilant howl.

Lt. Col. Chandler W. Johnson, CO 2nd Battalion, was killed on the 11th day after landing on Iwo Jima. (Page 300 appendix, "Iwo Jima.")

That about covers the flag story you

# PHILATELIC BULLETIN WESTERN SAMOA POST OFFICE

## U.S. BICENTENNIAL ISSUE

for release: —

20 JANUARY 1976

requested, in more detail and with quotes, since you intended to have a commemorative cover created on the anniversary of the flag raising, just in case someone questions you further.

Mind you, the official flag raising, however, was on March 14th after hostilities ended. "The ceremony began promptly at 9:30 a.m." (Ref. page 271, "Two Jima"), after we, on the Missoula, had long departed from the area.

I would like to mention that Brother John P. Saylor, my communications officer, was a member of Sunnehanna Lodge No. 742 F. & A.M., Johnston, Pa. John was elected to Congress in 1946 or 1947, was raised to the Illustrious 33rd Degree a year or so before his passing. He laid down his working tools of life two years ago, while active in Congress. The burial was televised. Out of 450 officers and ratings of my command, 11 of us were on the "square".

I'll be happy to autograph Iwo Jima first-day covers for you any time. Hope you and Mrs. Wettach had a pleasant, relaxing vacation.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

Most sincerely and fraternally,

—Alexander C. Kopper

Enclosed please find a set of covers dated Sept. 2, 1945, Tokyo Bay area. Not many of these are to be found.

P.S. All U.S. naval vessels in the Tokyo Bay area with U.S. postal facilities were authorized by the Naval Command to have a special cancellation made of their own design, for that day only, to commemorate the surrender.

Note the slanting of the "N", hurriedly made rubber stamp by one of the enlisted men. A.C.K.

### JAMES MONROE

The fifth President of the United States 1817-1824.

On November 9, 1775 he received his entered apprentice degree in the Williamsburg Lodg No. 6, Williamsburg, Virginia. He left the College of William and Mary to enter the Continental Army and received the rank of major.

He was actively engaged for many of the battles, and was wounded in the Battle of Trenton, New Jersey.

It is regarded by many that he received his Second and Third degrees in one of the military lodges that worked in the field during the war.

Monroe's Vice President, Daniel D. Tompkins, who served during both terms as Vice President, served as Grand Master of New York 1820-21.



BULLETIN No. 52

Issued by: —

PHILATELIC BUREAU  
GPO, APIA, WESTERN SAMOA  
DECEMBER, 1975

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Designer: John Cooter

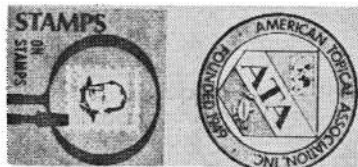
Printer: Walsall Lithographic Ltd.

Designs:

7 sene — The Boston Massacre

8 sene — Declaration of Independence  
20 sene — Ship that Sank in Victory  
22 sene — Wm. Pitt in House of Commons  
50 sene — The Battle of Princeton  
plus  
a souvenir sheet uniting the five stamps.

**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER ON ONE LETTER!**



This letter was sent to Brother Richard M. Needham of Lancaster, Ohio. Brother Needham is a member of the MSCNY and has produced his own Masonic cachets for many years under the name of Mahdeen Covers. His interest in promoting philately, especially Masonic philately, is good. It is nice to know one of our own Brothers was the guiding light behind these ATA seals. Congratulations, Richard.

April 19, 1976

Dear Richard —

When your order-letter for ATA seals came to my attention some weeks ago, the artwork was already well along. The topics were all determined and some time ago it had been decided not to include Masonry, Lions, or Rotary since we could not use all of them. With the exception of two designs (which merited inclusion because of their combined following) all designs represented TOP 20 survey topics of the past four years. Bird enthusiasts will have to be content with two indirect tributes to their favorite topic.

Yours was the only letter I know of to express interest in the subject selection for seals. It arrived in time to alter the final artwork (a minor alteration, I admit but better than none). I'd planned to substitute Penny Black for the Bulgarian stamp on the original (Bulgaria #1570) but after some considerable discussion back and forth concerning various possible foreign Masons (Napoleon, Leopold of Belgium, etc.) Churchill seemed the best for several reasons. The design is a composite of Canada and Australian issues.

Enclosed is a color proof of the design — it was completed only today and is still to be perforated. The completed sheets should be delivered to Milwaukee in a week or so. Your six sheets would be shipped to you soon after.

I hope that you will not be displeased with our little alteration in favor of

your topical interest. Would you believe — all that work and my two major interests do not appear **anywhere** on the sheets! Oh, I was tempted, but managed to restrain myself. Ha.

Kind and sincere suggestions are never ignored — changes they cause may be small and not readily apparent BUT never underestimate the POWER!

Best wishes for Happy Collecting,

An ATA friend who prefers to work anonymously.

**JAMES FRANCIS BYRNES**

James Francis Byrnes, born May 2, 1879 in South Carolina, was admitted to the bar in 1903. At first he edited a newspaper, then served as a court reporter. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 2nd South Carolina District, serving through the 62nd to 68th Congresses, 1911-25. He was a U.S. Senator from 1931 until 1941 when President F. D. Roosevelt appointed him a Justice of the Supreme Court. The following year he resigned to become Director of Economic Stabilization and after that he was Director of War Mobilization 1943-45.

In 1945 Byrnes was appointed Secretary of State by President Harry S. Truman and in that capacity he accompanied the President to Potsdam, Germany, where the American, British and Russian delegations met to decide what to do about Germany at the end of World War II. A stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Potsdam Agreement was issued by the German Democratic Republic in 1970 (Scott No. 1228). Bro. Harry S. Truman is shown at the round conference table nearest to the inscription "25 DDR", while Bro. Byrnes is sitting at Truman's immediate right.

According to "10,000 Famous Freemasons", James F. Byrnes was raised in Aiken Lodge No. 156, A.F.M., Aiken, S. C. on January 12, 1911 and affiliated with Spartan Lodge No. 70, Spartanburg, S. C., July 5, 1926. He received the Royal Arch November 21, 1921 in Kadoshlayah Chapter No. 41, R.A.M., Aiken, and affiliated with Chicora Chapter No. 23, Spartanburg, in 1934. He was received in Aiken Council No. 23, R.&S.M., November 26, 1920 and affiliated with Blakce Council No. 19, October 22, 1945. Knighted in Columbia Commandery No. 2, October 20, 1916 and affiliated with Aiken Commandery No. 14 in 1923 and Spartanburg Commandery No. 3 in 1934.

Byrnes was Governor of South Carolina 1951-1955. He died April 9, 1972 at Columbia, S. C.

—Marshall S. Loke



## **A SIDELIGHT TO PHILATELY The Greatest Thrill of My Life**

**By Bernard Tepper**

(Reprinted with permission from "The Independence", March-April, 1975 issue, published by Truman Philatelic and Historical Association and its author, Bro. Bernard Tepper.)

It was early in 1954. Harry S. Truman was out of the Presidency over a year and was staying at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where I was working at that time.

During his visit, I received a call to see the hotel manager. He knew Mr. Truman and told me he was probably having a heated discussion since Mr. Tru-

man called him and asked for a Bible. The manager was correct. Mr. Truman was to prove he was right by quoting from the Bible.

The manager selected me to deliver the Bible, knowing I was a Mason and suggested that perhaps somehow I could obtain his autograph. He also suggested that the signature be on my Masonic dues card.

I liked the idea but remembered that I had Douglas MacArthur's autograph on the back of the card. I decided to take a chance.

Mr. William Hillman answered my knock on the door. I recognized him immediately as a few weeks prior, I had



**Photograph taken by Brother Bernard Tepper at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, of President Truman.**

purchased a book he wrote about Mr. Truman titled, "Mr. President."

This was my big chance. I asked Mr. Hillman if Mr. Truman would sign the card, but made emphasis for him not to turn it over. I could see Mr. Truman in the large room with eight or ten men, all sitting in a large circle.

Mr. Hillman approached the President and after a few words, I was motioned to enter.

This I had not expected. As I approached, all I could feel were eight or ten pairs of piercing eyes. I was scared.

The first thing Mr. Truman said was, "Why can't I look on the other side of the card?" I sheepishly answered, "You may not like what's written there, Sir."

With that, he turned the card over and upon seeing MacArthur's autograph, laughed and showed it to everyone. Scared as I was, I started to laugh. Mr. Truman remarked, "Young man, we are brothers after all. I'll sign under his name." After signing, he wrote the initials, "P. G. M. Mo." He asked if I knew what it meant. I was kneeling next to Mr. Truman and proudly answered, "Yes sir, 'Past District Deputy of Missouri.'" He then slapped me on the back and laughingly said I really demoted him and that it meant, "Past Grand Master of Missouri."

We shook hands and I left. On my way back to work several thoughts went through my head and suddenly I realized that this was "The Greatest Thrill of my Life."

Little did I know then, what was to come.

A few months passed. Mr. and Mrs. Truman again visited New York and stayed at the Waldorf. I now had in my possession a Masonic traveling paper, larger in size than a diploma and more permanent than the dues card. I decided to ask Mr. Truman to autograph this. The hotel manager called Mr. Truman, who suggested that I see him immediately, as he had a few minutes to spare.

Mr. Truman personally answered my door knock. I refreshed his memory with the previous "P.G.M. Mo." incident which he recalled.

He signed the sheet and we spoke on Masonry in New York for a few minutes.

He was most wonderful. He must have sensed my nervousness and within a few moments had me completely relaxed.

Suddenly, Mrs. Truman entered. We both stood up and Mr. Truman intro-

duced me to his wife, who then extended her hand to greet me.

Mr. Truman then apologized, stating that they had to leave for an appointment.

After I left, I then realized that actually, this was really "The Greatest Thrill of my Life."

After all, many people get to meet an Ex-President of the United States, but how many also get to meet the wife of an Ex-President, as I did.

Two wonderful people!

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### NATHANAEL GREENE

A brilliant general during the American Revolution, he was regarded as a military leader second to Washington. Greene speedily won the friendship and confidence of Washington, under whom he served with distinction at Trenton, Princeton, and Brandywine. At Washington's request he accepted at Valley Forge, in March 1778 the difficult position of quartermaster general, retaining, however, the right to command troops in the field. Because of meddling of Congress with the affairs of his department, Greene resigned his position in 1780, but was shortly afterwards appointed by Washington as commander of the Army of the South.

Masonic scholars are still searching for his connection with the fraternity. It is claimed by some that he was a member of a Rhode Island Lodge, and by others a member of a military lodge. Throughout the Revolution he wore a Masonic medal that was presented to him by Lafayette, and this medal is now in the possession of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. A Masonic apron, said to have been worn by him, was presented to Lakewood Lodge No. 601, Lakewood, Ohio in 1937 by William Greene, a descendant and member of that Lodge.

On March 21, 1825 the Grand Lodge of Georgia united with Lafayette in laying the cornerstone of a monument to Greene in Savannah.

Greene is pictured on United States 785.

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### OUT OF SERVICE

The USS Vanguard will be taken out of service in the very near future.

It is respectfully requested that no further covers be forwarded to this vessel, unless it is learned the ship has been re-activated.

Your cooperation in this matter will be deeply appreciated.

—H. Anderson, Jr., master