FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Philatelist:

As the newly elected president of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, I feel it necessary to acquaint you with our position.

Despite the inflation which is plaguing us, we have maintained our dues for over thirty years at $5.00 a year. As a result we have encountered a serious problem. The cost of the stamp is 13c, the envelope 2c, addressing, stuffing, sealing, etc. all extra. If we have ten issues a year, this cost alone is about $2.40 a year for each member. But this does not include the cost of printing!

Our printer, faced with rising costs and decreasing profits, went out of business. We were obligated to find a new printer and pay an increased price. Other incidental expenses have similarly increased. Our expenses exceed our budget. This is not a healthy condition. We are depleting our reserves.

We regret any inconveniences you have been caused by not getting the Masonic Philatelist on the scheduled publication dates.

We will be pleased to receive any articles about Masonry and philately which you feel may be of interest to the Masonic Philatelist’s readers.

We miss our stalwarts Norman H. Seilmeyer and Stanley A. Salomon whose wisdom and cooperation guided us.

WE WILL OVERCOME and we beg your indulgence. We are now on an upward trend and we will maintain our $5.00 dues as long as we can. Incidentally, if you have not as yet paid your $5.00 dues please do so and help our treasurer.

Fraternally,

JOSEPH NATHAN KANE,
President

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

For A Price List of Available
MASONIC COVERS
PAST AND PRESENT
Write to
MASONIC CACHETS
451 WEST 46th STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036
SYMBOLS OF MASONRY

THE LETTER “G”

The letter “G” in Masonry depends on its place and use in a Lodge for its Masonic meaning. In a Masonic Lodge the “letter G” is not a letter, but a symbol for two conceptions; one is geometry, the other God.

Geometry is man-made, can be understood by any intelligent high school student, is concerned with measurements, angles, lines and problems. It has no mystery for the initiated. In Masonry geometry is a symbol of all mathematical learning; G as a symbol of that subject is of a comprehensible matter.

When G is used as a symbol of God, however, it becomes fraught with a different meaning. The human mind can neither conceive nor understand infinity; that which is unlimited except as an abstraction. G in Masonry, considered as meaning God, stands for an idea of such size and extent as to be inconceivable. Thus used, the letter G means an idea too great for the human mind to comprehend.

The letter “G” can be found overprinted on the stamps of Canada and is listed in Scott’s catalogue as 016 to 047. The letter G is used on Canadian stamps to signify that they were used on government mail. These stamps may be obtained from collectors and dealers in Canada. They may also be purchased mint from the Post Office in Ottawa, the address is Post Office Department, Financial Branch, Philatelic Section, Ottawa 8, Ontario, Canada. They are referred to as Overprinted “G”. While you are able to buy mint copies, you are requested to sign a form that you will not use the stamps for postal purposes. The “G” Overprints are recognized by Scott and other authorities in the Philatelic World.

NEW MEMBERS

JOHN R. ALLEN — Richmond, VA
HAROLD L. WOODMAN — Kentville, N.S., CANADA
EDWARD L. KING — Boston, MA
BARRY F. UTTLEY — East Lothian, SCOTLAND
FRANKLIN B. SMITH — Ambler, PA
CHARLES F. STALMACH — Theodore, AL
WILLARD F. HUSON, JR. — Brewster, NY

43RD ANNIVERSARY

PROGRAM FOR THE 1976-1977 YEAR

1976
Oct.  1 Get Together
Nov.  5 My Favorite Page
Nov. 19-21 ASDA Show, Madison Square Garden
Dec.  3 Past President’s Night — Exhibition

1977
Jan.  7 Guest Lecturer
Feb.  4 Patriotic Night
Mar.  4 Swap Night (place to be determined)
Apr.  8 Annual Competition
May  6 Annual Dinner
June  3 Annual Meeting; Election of Officers, Installation

ANDREW W. MELLON

American industrialist and Secretary of the Treasury from 1921 to 1932 under President Coolidge and Hoover. He later became United States Ambassador to Great Britain on February 5, 1932, and resigned the Secretary of Treasury position. In 1930 he established the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust. When the National Gallery of Art was established in Washington D.C. in 1937 as a branch of the Smithsonian Institute, the trustees of the A. W. Mellon fund gave 15 million dollars for the building. In addition, Mellon’s private art collection, consisting of 126 paintings and 36 pieces of sculpture was given to the nation as the nucleus of the present collection.

Mellon was made a Mason ‘at sight’ on Dec. 29, 1928 by J. William Smith, Grand Master of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh. His brother Richard B. Mellon, received the degrees at the same time. He later affiliated with Fellowship Lodge No. 679 of Pittsburgh. He received the Royal Arch degrees in 1931.

He served as a member of the advisory committee in connection with the construction of the George Washington Masonic Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia. He is pictured on U. S. 1072.

CLOSED ALBUMS

IRWIN D. FRAZIN — Riverside, CA
CARL J. BENNING — Deerfield Beach, FL
STEWART D. SWAN — Conn.
JAY BENCHO — Whitestone, NY
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

British playwright and novelist. Although not a Freemason, he at one time referred to the organization in his usual Shavian wit. Whenever asked about marriage, his stock reply would be: "I might say that it is like Freemasonry; those who are not received into the order can't talk about it, and those who are members are pledged to eternal silence."

THE ANTI-MASONIC "EXCITEMENT"

By Herman Herst, Jr.

These days, membership in a fraternal organization is taken for granted, not only by the member himself, but by the general public, but it was not always like that.

A century and a half ago such a feeling of antagonism for secret organizations developed that Masonry in the United States came as close as it would have without having its light permanently dimmed.

For lack of any other important issues, opponents of Masonry used it in their campaign for the White House. - Masonry's greatest enemy, John Quincy Adams, used both his intelligence and writing ability to let Americans know what a demoralizing force he thought Masonry was.

William Morgan, a resident of Batavia, N.Y. became a Mason in 1826. Never a citizen of good repute, it is today suspected that he joined, merely to learn the secrets of the fraternity, in order that he might share them with the public at large. With resentment against all secret societies building, he had no trouble finding a publisher. Illustrations of Masonry were printed in 1827 by Col. David V. Miller, of Batavia and tens of thousands of copies were sold, many to people who bought simply out of curiosity.

Morgan's violation of his oath was known to his Lodge brothers long before the book appeared. His honor was appealed to in vain; he refused to order the book not to be published.

The veil of mystery comes over Morgan at this point. Masons in Batavia claim they traced him to Western Canada where he went to seek a fortune. What is known is that he never returned to Batavia, and out of this fact, Masonry's enemies had all the evidence they wanted on the vile oaths of the fraternity. While the charges were never dignified with formal accusations, the entire nation, and especially those who despised secret societies, were convinced that the penalties assumed by every Mason when he takes his obligation were visited upon Morgan.

By 1830, fifteen hundred Lodges were abandoned, and 45,000 Masons, out of the 50,000 in this country, left the order, especially when economic reprisals, and worse yet, personal attacks forced them to renounce the fraternity. A few Lodges met secretly. Some destroyed their dispensations, thus making it difficult for them to operate again when the excitement died down in the mid-1830s. Masonic records, memorabilia, working tools, aprons and insignia were destroyed or hidden, thus making it difficult today to reconstruct Masonic activities of the period.

By 1830, Adams had retired from the Presidency, Past 63, of the anti-Masonic forces, and when he was asked to associate himself with a proposed daily newspaper in Boston which had as one of its aims, the complete supression of Masonry, he declined, not for lack of sympathy with the policy, but because he felt that the movement needed younger men to sustain it in subsequent years.

The text of the letter comes down to us, thanks to its having been part of a collection of Presidential letters the property of a well known collector. We are happy to offer it here:

"It is my opinion that the Institution of Free Masonry as far as it has grown depends on its members ought to be suppressed. Such secrecy cannot be necessary for any benevolent or useful purpose of the Society or of it's members; and it always may be, as we know it has been abused for purposes the most atrocious. It is incompatible with the principle of equal rights which is the foundation of Republican government, and however harmless in the ordinary course of events, whenever brought to a great operation, can be maintained only at the expense of the Peace and harmony of human society.

"It is much to be desired that the whole body of Freemasons in the United States should unite in an explicit and formal renunciation of all secrecy in their future proceedings — That they should by every means to the present abolish every part of their Institution which now shrinks from the light of day, and without proclaiming their beneficence and charity from the housetops discard the affectation of covering them with a veil and permit them to be felt by their effects. I am not without hope that they will in time perceive the necessity and be made sensible of the moral obligation by unmasking themselves before their country. — To acquit themselves of the odium of being accessory to the murder of William Morgan. The guilt of perpetrating the crime is doubtfully confined to a few — but the secret laws, by the evidence of which it was committed and by which the criminals have been sheltered from detection have made the secrecy not only an accessory to the fact — The secret that is written in blood should be revealed — the tree that bears such fruit should be cut down. But I do not feel it to be my duty to take any part in the controversy, which has arisen from this letter — it must remain on both its parts of younger men — Nor have I been altogether satisfied with what I have observed of anti-Masonic proceedings. I see no specific object, which the anti-Masons look to as the consummation of their operations and
their electioneering influence, bears both in favour and prejudice more upon individuals, and less upon the vice of the Institution than I think just or equitable."

Adams lived to a ripe old age. His wavering signature on franked covers is well known, especially since shortly after his term as President ended, he was elected to Congress, serving there for 17 years, until he died of a paralytic stroke suffered on the Floor of Congress in 1848. But Masonry as a political issue had long since been forgotten. The nation had other more serious things to argue about for one thing, the issue of slavery, which was beginning to divide the States, and more important than that, the Panic of 1837, the most severe economic depression the nation had suffered since obtaining its independence.

Grand Lodge of NY Appoints
Past President Bernstein
to Grand Lodge Office

On October 13, 1976 in Girard Lodge No. 631 our Past President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was honored. Right Worshipful Brother Louis Bernstein was given his Presentation Ceremonies as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.

We wish Lou all the best for we know how hard he has worked for the club and Masonry. Good Luck on this most important work.

Did you know ...

... That American Masons can be proud of their members who appear on United States currency?

George Washington appeared on many notes and currently on the $1 Federal Reserve notes; then Alexander Hamilton on the $10 note; Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, on the $10 silver certificate, series of 1878 and 1880; Benjamin Franklin on the $50 legal tender notes of 1874, 1875, 1878 and 1880, Andrew Jackson appears on the $5 legal tender notes of 1869 through 1907; Oliver Hazard Perry on the early $100 national bank notes; General Winfield Scott on the early $1,000 national bank notes; Commodore Stephen Decatur on the $20 silver certificate of 1878 and 1880; James A. Garfield on the $5 national bank notes of 1882 and 1902.

Henry Clay is on the $50 tender notes of 1869 — and other Masons on U.S. currency include Edwin Stanton, John Marshall, David Farragut, Robert Fulton, Meriwether Lewis, William McKinley and many others.

MASONRY AND THE DRAMA

By Herman Herst, Jr.

As all members of the Craft know, there is ample drama in Masonry, but not recently did we learn that there was Masonry on the professional stage.

It is more than three fourths of a century since the hit of the London winter season was a play entitled "Are You A Mason?" The play had been a success the previous season in Berlin, where it was originally presented in German.

We have no idea at this late date who did the translation into English, nor do we even know the first names of the German authors of the play. Their last names were Laufs and Kratz.

From a review in the London "Playgoer" though we were glad to note the full cast of characters for the play, as well as a synopsis of it. It was what today would be called a farce. Humor today is not what it was at the turn of the century, and what turned the Shaftesbury Theatre in London into pandemonium then would perhaps not even get on the stage now.

Nevertheless, those who are interested in the manner in which Masonry penetrates ordinary lives, not only philatelically, but dramatically as well, might be interested in learning about "Are You A Mason?", one of the most successful plays of the London 1901-1902 season.

The cast follows, with special note of the presence of Miss Ethel Matthews, who was one of the top actresses of the day:

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE

September 12th, 1901. CHARLES PROHAN

ARE YOU A MASON?

From the German of Laufs and Kratz.

George Fischer (Stockbroker) ... [PAUL ARTHUR
Formerly Actor) ... ]
Anna Bloodgood ... GEORGE CHAPMAN
Frank Perry ... NAMON ALLEN
John Halton ... MARK KINDRICK
Hampton Train ... WILLIAM H. DAY
Ernest Morrison ... CHARLES WELLSHAR
Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood ... MARY JACQUI
Eva (Mrs. Perry) ... ETHEL MATTHEWS
Anna ... Eva's Sisters [ \nMrs. Halton ... \nLottie ... \nMrs. E. N. Weinman
Lottie ... \nAnnie Duryan

The synopsis of the play also follows:
"As all playgoing London is aware, there are no dull moments in this whimsical piece, an adaptation from the German of Laufs and Kratz, which sets
all who witness it a-giggling. The newly-made wife of Frank Perry makes holiday in the country. The husband, left "all on his little lonesome," makes holiday in town, but in the good old form of his joyous bachelor days and notorious bachelor nights. He gets detained, with disreputable companions, at Marlborough Street, but is bailed out. His frequent arrival home with the morning milk is matter for much concern to the Irish maid, Lottie, who has been planted to watch things by a thoughtful ma-in-law — one Mrs. Bloodgood. Her husband, Amos Bloodgood, went astray with a certain Angelina some twenty years ago, but has ever since led his wife to believe that he is a mason (in fact, a grand worshipful master of the craft), a little fraud and a convenient rascal for all his naughty goings on and staying out o' nights.

"Ma-in-law insists that Frank, too, shall become a mason, and on the day of the homecoming of his wife and her parents, Frank, fearing the servant's tongue, and confiding in his friend, George Fisher, hits upon a brilliant idea. Why not put his sins on to the lodge? (which, of course, he had forgotten to join). An encyclopedia tells him that masonic brethren are pledged to "inviolable secrecy."

"The terrible oath he declares he has taken serves very well when questioned by his wife, until old Bloodgood (the other humbug) comes on the scene. The sham "brothers" meet in fear and trembling and, copying each other in the supposed "signs of the craft," they go through extraordinary and idiotic antics, what time the domestic circle seriously takes notes, whispering, "Let us watch the signs."

"At this point shrieks of laughter shake the building in quick succession. Frank, who is in a tight corner, finally confesses to his father-in-law that he is no mason. Naturally the artful old Bloodgood is greatly relieved, but virtuously indignant, and swears he will not give Frank a certain £4,000 previously promised him. George is the friend in need, and to assist Frank, he gets into petticoats, poses as a French milliner, and pretends he is the daughter of the giddy old Bloodgood's Angelina. This sets the fun going in another direction, and George, in his new character, comes in for much kissing and costume measuring, all of which is intensely diverting.

"More laughter accompanies the introduction of Hamilton Travers, a drink-sodden tragedian of the old school, and John Halton, a countryman eager for masonic honors. Bloodgood orders the latter to run over Westminster Bridge and back, and count the steps, as a preliminary "ordeals," and this he does, returning, at the end of the act, a panting and perspiring "wreck."

In the end, Ernest Morrison, a real mason, is interviewed separately by the two sham masons, and understanding their pitiable position, he promises to help them out, and the usual happiness appears on the horizon. Are You A Mason? is a distinct success."

1907 Jamestown Commemorative Series

PART III

By Henry B. Scheuer

THE FIVE CENT VALUE AND VARIOUS COVERS OF SPURIOUS ORIGIN

Five Cent, Blue

Mrs. Amelia A. Hollenberg is a lost name in United States philatelic history. In 1907, she was the Chairman of the Pocahontas Memorial Association, directly responsible for circulating petitions that resulted in the addition on the five-cent value to the Jamestown Series of commemorative stamps. On March 13, Postmaster General Meyer wrote Mrs. Hollenberg:

"Dear Madam:

In answer to your letter of the 9th instant, and petition of The Pocahontas Memorial Association, I take pleasure in informing you that I have decided to order the issue of a five-cent stamp, in connection with the one and two-cent stamps already ordered, in commemoration of the Jamestown Exposition. The new stamp will bear a likeness of the head of Pocahontas.

Very truly yours,

(signed)

Postmaster-General"

Pocahontas, the subject of this beautiful blue stamp, was the daughter of the great Chief Powhatan who saved the life of the Jamestown colonist leader John Smith. The colorful heroic effort continues by dramatically describing how she saved Captain John Smith's life by throwing herself between an Indian's upraised hatchet and Captain Smith.

Pocahontas married John Rolfe, one of the Jamestown colonists, and went with him to England, where she was presented to the King and Queen. Pocahontas, or Rebecca Rolfe as she was renamed, died in England when only twenty-two years old. The 5 cent stamp is from a portrait of Pocahontas dressed in Elizabethan clothes. The portrait, by

Continued on page 8
Wessel M. Lane
27 Primulastraat
The Hague — The Netherlands.

Dear Bro. Smith

Herewith I send you some copy for "The Masonic Philatelist". I hope that you can use it. As I am not sure that this my English is not very bookish and perhaps incorrect, I should like you to reword it if necessary.

"Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown"
by Wessel M. Lane

The Netherlands

You will certainly be aware of the fact that the U.S. Souvenir Sheet "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown" is a beautiful accession to our collection "Masons on Stamps".

Amongst the American Officers on the right side there are 13 Masons: the Brethren: Benjamin Lincoln (15), George Washington (17), Thomas Nelson (18), Marquis de Lafayette (19), Baron Van Steuben (20), James Clinton (23), Mordecai Gist (24), Anthony Wayne (25), Edward Hand (26), John P. G. Muhlenberg (27), Henry Knox (28), Ebenezer Huntington (29) and Walter Stewart (33).

They are mentioned in the Work: "Freemasons depicted in the National History Series of Colonel John Trumbull's Paintings" by R. W. James R. Case, Grand Historian of Connecticut. In this Work you will also find the key-drawing of this article. It was issued in 1959 by "The Masonic Service Association" in Washington, D.C.

Less known is that also different French Officers, on the picture of Trumbull appearing on the left side, are Masons, Therefore it is regrettable that those persons are not shown on the Souvenir Sheet of the United States. Fortunately the Republic of Aitutaki did a very good work by issuing a strip of 3 stamps, on which these French Officers are printed.

I found the masonic details of these Masons in: "Frans-Macons Parisiens du Grand Orient de France" (Fin de XVIIIe siecle) by Alain Le Bihan. This Work was issued in Paris in 1966 by the "Bibliothèque Nationale".

I took the following particulars from this scientific work:


1) The “Société Olympique” originated from the in 1779 in Paris installed Lodge “L’Olympique de la Parfaite Estime”. Several artists were a member of this prosperous Society. The only list of members (1786) which still exists, mentions 438 members. There is little known of the activities of this Society, only that all members had to be a Mason.

Eventually intercalated:


24. Mordecai Gist. 1742-1802. Member passed and raised in 1775 in “Lodge No. 16”, in Baltimore, Md.

26. Edward Hand. 1744-1802. Member of “Military Lodge No. 19”.


28. Henry Knox. 1750-1806. Member of “First Lodge of Boston”.


33. Walter Stewart. 1756-1796. Member of “Pennsylvania Union Lodge”.

1907 Jamestown Commemorative — Series . . .

Continued from page 6

Shindler, hangs in the Mellon Gallery. Less than 8,000,000 five-cent values were released. Of this number, 5,341,000 were distributed in 1907. The United States Official Postal Guide in the November, 1907 number describes the decision to extend sale past the original November 30 deadline:

Jamestown Commemorative Postage Stamps

November 4, 1907

Many people like to use the commemorative issues of postage stamps because of the distinctive designs, and stamp collectors generally desire them for philatelic purposes, but put off their purchases until after the sale of the stamps has been discontinued, and then are disappointed because the postmaster cannot supply them. This disappointment can be avoided by purchasing at once all the Jamestown commemorative stamps that may be desired. While the sale of these stamps is to be discontinued by postmasters after November 30, those remaining in the hands of the public after that date will continue to be good for postage indefinitely.

If their stocks are exhausted, postmasters will make special requisition to the Third Assistant Postmaster - General for commemorative stamps, provided 100, or multiples of 100, of each denomination desired are ordered by patrons.

To Be Continued