



The Masonic Philatelist

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NO. 5



The first and most recent inaugural ceremonies
of the President of the United States

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was
organized in 1934 for the purpose of encour-
aging research and study in Masonic Philate-
ly, 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.

CLOSED ALBUMS

Fred Jelsema
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May Their Souls Find
Eternal Peace And Rest

By the Sign Of the Gavel

As we approach the end of our 1977-78 season, at a meeting of the Board of Governors, it was decided not to raise the annual dues in spite of the increase in postal rates and current expenses. Beginning with the September 1978 issue of The Masonic Philatelist our publication will become a quarterly.

Payment notices for dues will be mailed shortly. A prompt remittance will help cutting expenses.

Certificates of 25 years membership are in the process of being mailed to eligible members.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy summer and my grateful appreciation for the help of my brother officers during my two years as president.

Fraternally,

Joseph Nathan Kane

On the Cover . . .

The first and the most recent Inaugural ceremonies of the President of the United States as interpreted by two skilled artists. At top is the inauguration of George Washington on April 30, 1789 as depicted by the internationally-known artist, Andrew B. Karoly. The mural (to be more accurate, the center panel of a three part mural) shows John Paul Jones; Baron Von Steuben; Generals Van Cortlandt and Knox; Vice President John Adams; Robert Livingston, New York State Chancellor (administering the oath); Secretary of the Senate Otis; George Washington; Isaac Varnum, Mayor of New York; George Clinton, first Governor of New York State; Alexander Hamilton; Caleb Stone, registrar taking notes of the proceedings; Benjamin Lincoln; and John Jay. Wall Street is in the background.

We are indebted to the Manhattan Savings Bank, on whose Broadway Branch's wall the complete mural can be seen, for permission to reproduce this section.

The lower illustration was taken from the brochure issued in connection with the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter and was created by Robert Elstrom. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger is pictured administering the oath to President Carter as his predecessor, Gerald R. Ford, Vice President Walter R. Mondale and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter watch intently.

Present in both is the St. John's Lodge No. 1 Altar Bible.

The Washington Bible

One hundred and eighty-eight years after being whisked from the "Old Coffee House" on Wall Street to help a fledgling nation administer the oath of office to its first President, George Washington, the Altar Bible of St. John's Lodge No. 1, A.Y.M., F.&A.M., again played a role in the Inauguration of the President of the United States . . . its 39th, Jimmy Carter.

The Bible is an Authorized King James Version printed in London in 1767. It is complete with Apocrypha and elaborately supplemented with the historical, astronomical, and legal data of that period. It contains 103 steel engravings by John Stuart including two fold-out maps.

It was presented to St. John's Lodge on November 28, 1770 by W. Bro. Johnathan Hampton the night he was made Master and has been used ever since, not only in the lodge, but on numerous special occasions.

Not very long after the historic 1789 inauguration, the Lodge members inserted a commemorative page into the Bible. Written in fine engraver's style of the period and capped by an engraving of Washington is:

On This Sacred Volume
On the 30th day of April A.M. 1789
In the City of New York
Administered to
George Washington
THE FIRST PRESIDENT
of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE Oath
To support the Constitution
OF THE United States
This Important Ceremony was
PERFORMED by the Most Worshipful
Grand Master of Free and Accepted
Masons of the State of New York
The Honorable
Robert R. Livingston
Chancellor of the State

Then follows this quatrain:

Fame stretch'd her wings and with her
trumpet blew,
Great Washington is near "what praise is
due?
What title shall he have? (") She paus'd —
and said:
(") Not one — his name alone strikes every
title dead.(")

When Washington was sworn, he rested his right hand upon Genesis 49-50, the two pages of which have since been mounted with transparent silk for preservation.

The unusual story of how this particular Bible came to be used is related in *The History of the Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration of George Washington* by Clarence W. Bowen:

"Shortly before the President's arrival at Federal Hall in New York City on Inauguration Day, 1789, members of the First Congress discovered that no Bible was on hand for the ceremony. Jacob Morton, who was a Marshal of the parade and at that time Master of St. John's Lodge, on seeing the dilemma, remarked that he could get the Altar Bible from his lodge which met a short distance down Wall Street at the "Old Coffee House." A brief time later, the Bible was provided. While the Secretary of the Senate, Samuel A. Otis held the book on a scarlet cushion, New York State Chancellor Robert R. Livingston administered the oath. When the oath was completed, Washington added the phrase, "I swear, so help me God!" and, bending forward, kissed the open book. Jacob Morton stepped forward and carefully folded down the corner of the opened page, thus preserving a record of the apparently random selection."

On December 31, 1799, the St. John's Bible was made a part of the Funeral Procession for George Washington in New York City. The introduction of Croton Water into New York City on October 14, 1840 again brought this historic Bible to public display. The St. John's Bible was a participant in the dedication of the Washington Monument on February 21, 1885.

Two other Presidents, Warren G. Harding on March 4, 1921 and Dwight D. Eisenhower on January 20, 1953, had the oath of office administered with their hands resting on the St. John's Bible.

M. W. Charles W. Froessel, Past Grand Master and a Trustee of the Bible, offered the St. John's Bible to President-elect Carter for the inauguration and he replied, through an aide, that he would be "delighted to use the Bible." Technically he used a Bible given by his mother for the oath of office, but drew upon the "Washington" Bible to quote the Prophet Micah in his Inauguration Address.

The Bible, published by King George III's own printer, cannot leave the Lodge unless accompanied by four Master Masons. So Past Grand Master Froessel and fellow Trustees, William Greene, Kenneth Faerber and Henry Nissle got tickets to the Inauguration and accompanied the Bible, secure in its velvet-lined box to Washington.

The Signers in Rhyme

By Rev. J. H. Dubbs

It will not be denied that the men who, on the Fourth of July, 1776, pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" in behalf of our national liberty, deserve the most profound reverence from every American citizen. The writer, having frequently experienced the advantage of verse as an aid to the memory, has attempted the task of metrically arranging the names of the Signers, according to the colonies from which they were delegated, in the hope that his rhymes will assist the youthful learner in remembering the names of these Fathers of American Independence.

The MASSACHUSETTS delegation,
That signed our glorious Declaration,
Were Hancock, Gerry, Robert Paine,
The great John Adams, and again
Another Adams, Samuel by name.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, called the "Gran-
ite State,"
Sent Whipple, Bartlett, Thornton, great
Alike in counsel and debate.

RHODE ISLAND'S delegates, we see,
Were Stephen Hopkins and Ellery.

CONNECTICUT, excelled by none,
Sent Roger Sherman, her noblest son,
With Wolcott, Williams and Huntington.

NEW YORK as delegates employed
Lewis Morris and William Floyd,
With Francis Lewis, and Livingston
Who died before the war was done.

NEW JERSEY to the Congress sent
Her honored College President,
John Witherspoon; with Stockton,
Clark,
Hart, Hopkinson — all men of mark.

Though PENNSYLVANIA need not
blush
For Morris, Morton, Wilson, Rush,
And though most men might seem as
dross
To Clymer, Taylor, Smith, and Ross;
To Franklin each his tribute brings,
Who neither lightnings feared, nor
kings.

The men from DELAWARE — indeed,
As true as steel, in utmost need —
Were Rodney, with McKean, and Read.

"My Maryland" is proud to own
Her Carroll, Paca, Chase and Stone.

On old VIRGINIA'S roll, we see
The gifted Richard Henry Lee;
And, just as earnest to be free,
His brother, Francis Lightfoot Lee;
And Wythe and Nelson, patriots true,
With Harrison and Braxton, too;
But, of them all, there was not one
As great as Thomas Jefferson.

NORTH CAROLINA's chosen men,
We know, were Hooper, Hewes, and
Penn.

And SOUTH CAROLINA'S vote was
won
By Rutledge, Hayward, Middleton,
And Lynch, whose race was soonest
run.

From GEORGIA came Gwinnett, and
Hall,
And Walton, too, the last of all —
Who signed our precious Declaration —
The pride and glory of the Nation.

— Oct. 1872, Mason's Coin and Stamp
Collector's Magazine

Washington's Initiation

The following concerning the initiation of the Father of his Country in Masonry is from the records of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4 F. and A.M., of Fredericksburg, Va., and will no doubt be interesting to our readers.

"5762. November 6. Received from Mr. George Washington, for his entrance £2 3d."

"5762. 3d March, George Washington passed Fellow Craft. Eleven visiting brothers from other Lodges were in attendance.

"5753. 4th August, which day the Lodge being assembled — present: R. W. Daniel Campbell; J. Neilson, S. W.; Ro. Halkerson, J. W.; George Washington, James Stracan, Alexander Woodson, Sec. pro tem.; Thomas Robertson, Wm. McWilliams, Treasurer. Transactions of the evening are:

George Washington, raised Master Mason; Thomas James, entered an apprentice."

The Bible of this old and venerable Lodge, on which George Washington was covenanted, was, during the invasion of the State during War of 1812, nearly destroyed. The hall was visited by men in the garb of soldiers, the properties of the Lodges scattered, and the Bible torn nearly to pieces. Scrap by scrap the same was recovered, taken to Richmond and there received the careful attention of a

Masonic bookbinder, who restored it somewhat to its original shape; and thus has a Masonic relic, valuable to the American people, whether Masons or otherwise, been placed in an exhibitable shape to such as make a visit to Fredericksburg Lodge, their Masonic Mecca.

— Nov. 1872, *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine*

Succession of English Sovereigns

The following lines, memorised by philatelists, would serve to keep in mind, chronologically, the different sovereigns, from William the Conqueror to the present Queen of England:

William the Conqueror long did reign;
William his son by an arrow was slain.
Henry the First was a scholar bright;
Stephen usurped his cousin's right.
Second Henry Plantagenet's name did bear;

Richard the First was the son and heir.
The Magna Charta was gained by John,
Which Henry the Third put a seal upon.
Edward the First was a warrior shone;
Edward the Second was hurled from his throne.

Edward the Third was his subjects' pride;

Richard the Second at Pomfret died.
Henry the Fourth "Lancasterian line;"
Henry the Fifth died at Agincourt shrine.

Henry the Sixth had a warlike wife,
And with Edward the Fourth had a civil strife.

Edward the Fifth, a promising flower,
By Richard the Third was killed in the tower.

Henry the Seventh avenged his cause;
Henry the Eighth despised the laws,
Edward the Sixth a short time did reign;

Mary was married to Philip of Spain.
In Elizabeth's reign old England flourished;

James the First in Scotland was nourished.

Charles the First by his subjects was slain;

An interregnum followed his reign.
Then Oliver Cromwell, with stout command —

Styled "Lord Protector" throughout the land;

His son the sovereign power laid down,
And Charles the Second took the crown.
James the Second a Catholic proved,
And by William and Mary was removed,

The reign of Queen Anne was greatly admired;

George the First was son of Sophia.
The Second George was in Germany born;

George the Third did reign very long.
Then George the Fourth ascended the throne,

Refused his wife, and reigned alone.
Next William his brother, the fourth of the name —

The "Sailor King" — all tongues proclaim.

Then his maiden niece, so young and fair,

To be Queen of the realm's lofty heir.
Victoria now does wear the crown —
Long may she live to England's renown!

See Barbuda — S.G. 42-78.

— Oct. 1872, *Mason's Coin Collector's Magazine*

MESSAGE

Two anniversaries take place in the month of June every year which should be of great interest to the members of the Masonic fraternity: the anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12, and the anniversary of the birth of a national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, on June 19.

History attests to the fact that the Philippine Revolution of 1896, which brought about the proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898 in Kawit, Cavite by **General Emilio Aguinaldo**, was Masonically inspired and was Masonically led. The writings of Filipino Masons like **Marcelo H. del Pilar**, **Graciano Lopez Jaena**, **Mariano Ponce**, and **Jose Rizal**, to mention only a few, contributed greatly to arousing in the heart and in the mind of the Filipino people, during their time, a feeling of pride in our race, a consciousness of Filipino nationhood, a sense of dignity as a people, and the spirit of revulsion against all forms of oppression. The Revolution was led by Masons like **Andres Bonifacio**, **Emilio Aguinaldo**, **Antonio Luna**, **Emilio Jacinto** and **Apolinario Mabini**, also to mention only a few. It was the Mason in them that made them fight for the cause of freedom and dignity of our people. After the armed struggle, Masons like **Rafael Palma**, **Trinidad Pardo de Tavera**, **Manuel Quezon**, **Teodoro Kalaw**, **Manuel Roxas**, **Jose P. Laurel**, **Quintin Paredes**, **Francisco Delgado**, **Conrado Benitez**, **Jose Abad Santos** and **Camilo Osias**, to mention only some, dedicated themselves, and contributed their talents, to the task of nation building and to carrying on the fight in defense of the rights of the Filipinos against foreign domination.

*All the above in **bold face type** appear on stamps. Further research appreciated.

— Publications Comm.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER

On Friday evening June 2nd, 1978, the Masonic Stamp Club of New York held its annual dinner in honor of Bro. Joseph Munk, a past-president and secretary. A delicious dinner was served to the group of about forty present to honor Bro. Munk.

In attendance as guest speaker, M. W. Wendell K. Walker, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York gave a brief history of his close association with the club from its very founding days in the depression years of the 30's — when his predecessor M. W. Charles H. Johnson helped in establishing the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Following his address a contribution of \$2500.00 was donated to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum for a permanent exhibit for the Masonic Stamp Club at the Grand Lodge Library.

Welcome New Members

James W. Aust
S. Stanley Armstrong
Luther J. Bell
Charles L. Brogan
James M. Campbell
Gerald H. Churley
Judge Donald B. Constine
Clarence M. Deckwerth
Stephen I. Dietz
Philip I. Evertz
W. Edward Golt
Edward C. Hamel
Teddy L. Handley
Charles R. Hartman
Kenneth Harvey
Marco Hernandez
Champ A. S. Hickman
Rev. Silas J. Hirte
A. Wallace Howard
William G. Ioannidis
Virgil F. Johannes
Gustave Knoeckel

Panayiotis G. H. Lagoussis
Wolfgang Laube
John J. Locastro
Stephen A. Licht
Warren Litsky
Donald R. McKenzie
Arthur E. Mayer
William G. Meyer
C. Doug Miley
Bernard L. Moek
Clyde H. Parsons
Richard A. Peak
Donald L. Pellington
Herbert Charles Pipenhagen
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Willis D. Richardson
John D. Roberts
Arthur H. Reuscher
Eric Schnall
Milton Smith
Harry B. Steele
Louis L. Williams
Herman R. Winkler

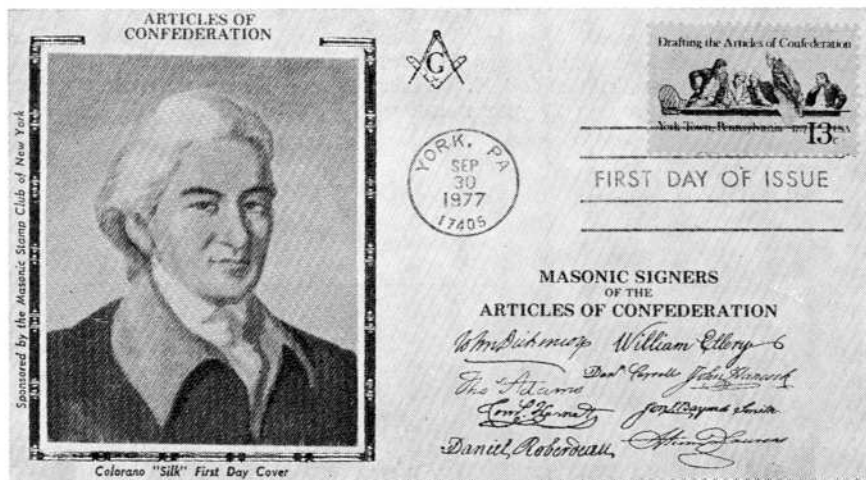
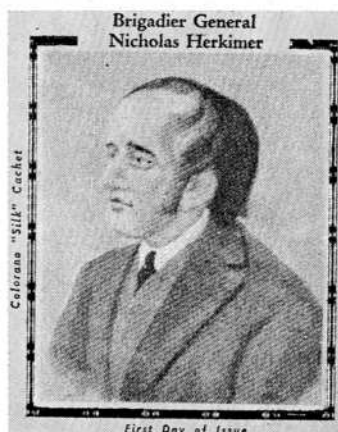


Standing (left to right) Brothers Edwin Mayer, Robert A. Smith, Robert L. Shallcross, Frank Zeltmann, Diego Quintero, Emanuel Reggel.
Seated Joseph Munk, Wendell K. Walker, Joseph N. Kane, Irwin M. Yarry.
Those on the right displaying 25 year membership certificates.



Joseph N. Kane, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Munk and Irwin M. Yarry

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