



# The Masonic Philatelist

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## Masonic Cancellations



DR. S. DUFFIELD SWAN

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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VOL. 35

NO. 3

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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.

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N. Y.

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## Masonic Cancellers

By DR. S. DUFFIELD SWAN

At the time of the Civil War, Masonry became an important feature of the social and political life in the U.S. This is evidenced by the tremendous number of new lodges formed 100 years ago. It is also well depicted in the many Masonic Cancellations found in the ten year period following the close of hostilities.

There were about 40,000 post offices under the postmaster generals control in this period. Instructions were that the postage stamps must be canceled so that they could not be "reused." This was due to the fact that some of the inks used in that day could be "washed off" and although the common stamp was only 3¢, many saw their way into service a second and third time. This brought into use an "obliterating canceler."

For the many who are unaware of the nature of a canceler, the following is a description of one type that became common due to the official order on cancellations.

It consisted of a holder, termed "hammer" that had a general shape similar to a hammer-type gavel. The head was cylindrical, 3½ by 1½ inches and the handle was 9 inches long. It was made of hardwood. Each end was hollowed out with a tapering opening of one-inch diameter. In one end was fitted a "slug" usually of metal with the town and state name and in some was an opening in the middle to put the date. In the other end was fitted any obliterating device desired. This is where the Masonic or other fancy cancelers were placed. The sale of these hammers and cancelers became quite a business. The salesman had a considerable supply of these hammers and crude representative of the single-headed ones found in the post offices today, which they carried from town to town making direct sales. However, most of these hammers contained metal cancelers and did not include fraternal insignia. The artistic and enthusiastic fraternal man substituted a hand-carved head containing some emblem of importance to him. A few made metal heads, others hardwood, (from broom handles) but the most prevalent were carved from cork.

I have seen many other cancelers, mostly single-headed ones, but all with the hollowed out head, tapering for easy fitting. Some were even square or oblong in shape.

(Continued on page 13)

**MASONIC CANCELLATIONS  
ON EARLY U. S. STAMPS  
By Dr. S. Duffield Swan**

In an endeavor to systemize my collection I have made fifteen classifications or types. Of these, the first ten are pretty definitely Masonic. The first three types, Square and Compasses with the letter "G" are quite convincing. The fourth and fifth also

Square and Compasses, do not have the letter G, but in many cases the intent was definitely Masonic. Types VI to XV include lesser Masonic Symbols. The illustration given are from definite cancellations. Sub-division is made of many of the types due to change of outline as in IA and IB. The keystone of Sharon, Pa. used in IB is merely an indicator of form change. IB would also include pen-



SHENANDOAH, VA.



CHELSEA, VT.



CORNISH, ME.



BOSTON, MASS.



NORFOLK, VA.



NORTH CONWAY, N.H.



QUINCY, MASS.



WATERTOWN, MASS.



BURLINGTON, VT.



DELAWARE, O.



LOWELL, MASS.



JERSEY CITY, N.J.

RUTLAND, VT.  
Various Designs.

NORRISTOWN, PA.



NEW YORK, N.Y.



NORTH CONWAY, N.H.



MT. HOLLY, N.J.



CENTERVILLE, MICH.

MANHASSETT, N.Y.  
and  
Miscellaneous.

tagons, oblongs, ovals, triangles, etc. but each illustration would have the letter G inside the compasses. Similarly B sub-divisions are general and are used only to refer to a change in outline form of the Main types.

Over a period of years record has been kept of the prices of various Masonic cancellations that have appeared in auctions. The analysis of this record gives an estimate of the rarity of the cancellation. The grading is as follows:

1. Very rare,—no more than two covers known.
2. Rare,—less than five covers recorded.
3. Moderately rare,—less than ten covers observed.
4. Moderately common,—ten to twenty-five covers known.
5. Common,—many known.

This grading is a relative evaluation of one man, and is applied to average to very good covers, and as such is subject to change as more information is obtained. The actual auction prices also depend on the stamps, the clarity of the cancel and the markings, (such as corner cards, address, etc.) A particular cover will step up in rarity due to cover markings.

Over the past ten years an endeavor has been made to determine the personal authorship of the various cancellations. Recently a renewed effort, which included cancellations not in the author's collection, has given results which are included in the tabulation of towns found later in this article. The cooperation of local postmasters and Masonic lodges is gratefully acknowledged—many of these men having had to search forgotten and musty records to obtain the necessary information. In the case of cities like New York, Boston, Baltimore, etc. it was impossible to trace the cancellation artist, even when the area of the source was known. Many of the small post offices have been discontinued or have become lost as substations in larger cities. Records over the years have been destroyed and exact data is not obtainable in some cases even from Washington. Local historians in many cases and older philatelists have been of great assistance in ferreting out details that otherwise would have never been found.

Of the 105 offices originally selected for contacts, 72 have yielded definite names, dates, etc. and about 15 others are still searching available records.

The other 18 could give no information.

By 1868 the vogue of Masonic cancellers had spread from New England and reached such towns as Bangor, Wis., Marengo, Ia., Douglas, Kan., Austin, Tex., and Mobile, Ala. Copies of these cancellations on cover have brought excellent prices in auction.

Beginning in 1868 we start to see the use of minor Masonic symbols, but of course, the square and compasses continued to be the principal ones found. Those of special interest are the Lowell, Mass., Spade; Pittston, Pa., Trowell; and the Centerville, Mich., square, triangle and G. These are quite rare as in 25 years only one of each on cover has come to our attention.

Minor symbols continued to appear in increasing numbers after 1868. King Solomon's Seal, trowels, Master Squares, Enblazoned "G," Allseeing eyes, Euclids 47th problem, Cane with two dots, Sun and Moon, Moon and Star, and a number of others that have been accepted by some collectors as Masonic.

This brings up the subject of just which are Masonic cancellations. Of course, the Square and Compasses with the letter G or blazing sun are easily recognizable as truly Masonic. However, it is frequently difficult to decide on some negative cork cancels which resemble a Square and Compasses. I have made it a rule that the corner of the square must be entirely within the cork and if possible the ends of the Square and Compasses also should be entirely within the cork. The angle of the square should be 90°, however, in some known cases it has been found to be either a little more or less than this figure, so the final judgment is individual and dependent on interpretation of intent.

Some Square and Compasses may be derived from other organizations such as the "Junior Order of American Mechanics"; one of the early Temperance Societies; or certain Benevolent societies that claimed relationship to the Masonic principles. Such emblems are without the letter "G" or have some other figure to replace it.

In the period 1928 to 1930 several fancy cancellations appeared from various small cities, such as Sharon, Pa. and Ed, Ky. It has been established that in no case was the Post Office responsible for these cancellers. Ambitious philatelists sent the prepared canceller together with envelopes bearing satisfactory postage to these offices. The cancellers were then destroyed or returned to the sender, and no record made of the transaction. It is barely possible that similar conditions existed in the earlier days in a few post offices.

(To Be Continued)

by WALTER J. KIRBY

When Confederation occurred on July 1, 1867, control of Freemasonry in each Canadian Province was considered desirable and prevailed, each province organizing its own Grand Lodge.

It is said that the first marks of the ancient Craftsmen was found in Nova Scotia. A survey team in 1827 found on the shore of Goat

Island in the Annapolis Basin, partly covered by sand, a slab of stone 2x2½ feet.

Carved on it are the familiar Masonic emblem, the square and compasses, and the date 1606. Who the Craftsmen were and how the stone got there is anyone's guess.

Canada's stamps have pictured British kings and princes, as well as Canada's premiers and other famous Canadians who were Masons.

Sir Sandford Fleming (1827-1915)



is the last Mason to appear on a Canadian stamp, issued Sept. 16, 1977.

Sir Sandford was initiated as a Mason on May 9, 1854 in St. Andrews Lodge No. 16, Toronto, Ontario, and was passed Nov. 14 of that year.

He was the chief civil engineer involved with the system of inter-colonial railways, as well as the railway connecting Eastern Canada with the Pacific Ocean, built from 1871-73.

He was also chief promoter of the telegraph cable across the Pacific from Vancouver Island to Australia and New Zealand and he later planned the world-encircling telegraph line that would bring England in direct communication with its colonies and dominions without passing over foreign soil.

Sir Sandford introduced Standard Time and his suggestion that the world be divided into 24 time zones was adopted.



SIR JOHN J. C. ABBOTT

3rd Prime Minister of Canada 1891-92

John Joseph Caldwell Abbott, a native of St. Andrews, Province of Quebec, was born March 12, 1821. He earned the D.C.L. (Doctor of Civil Law) degree at McGill College (now University), Montreal. He also taught there and was dean of the faculty of law for ten years.

He was admitted to the bar in 1847, the year of graduation. During his lifetime he served in the Canadian Assembly, the Dominion Parliament, the Senate and Executive Council of Lower Canada. He was appointed a member of the Queen's Privy Council in 1887, succeeded Sir John A. Macdonald as Prime Minister in 1891, but resigned on account of ill health November 25, 1892, and was knighted in 1892. He died at Montreal, October 30, 1893.

Abbott was a member of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374 on the English Register, in Montreal, Quebec. The record shows that he was initiated January 26, 1847, passed March 9, and raised April 13, 1847. He retired from the Lodge, May 9, 1848 but re-joined January 8, 1856 and retired April 12, 1859.

Abbott appears on Canadian 3¢ stamp No. 318 in the 1952 Prime Minister series.—Marshall S. Loke.



John Alexander MacDonald  
Canada No. 146-48

Sir John MacDonald took his Masonic degrees in St. John's Lodge No. 3 in Kingston, Ontario, in 1844 and remained a member of that Lodge until his death 47 years later. As a Mason, he was appointed in 1886 to represent the Grand Lodge of England near the Grand Lodge of Canada. Sir John was a Royal Arch Mason under the Grand Chapter of Canada. In 1871 he was elected an honorary life member of LaFayette Royal Arch Chapter No. 5 of Washington



## CLOSED ALBUMS

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR.

LOUIS F. BIEHL

ALLAN M. EVANS

K. W. TERRY

### LOUIS F. BIEHL

Louis F. Biehl, 84, husband of Gladys A. (Tyson) Biehl of 532 Astor St., was pronounced dead-on-arrival at Montgomery Hospital shortly after midnight on Tuesday.

Born in Jeffersonville, Dec. 19, 1894, the son of the late Frank and Adele (Haws) Biehl, Mr. Biehl had been a tool and die maker with Superior Tube Co. until his retirement in 1962.

He was a member of the Asbury United Methodist Church, life member of Charity Lodge, No. 190, F. and A.M., the Royal Arch Chapter, No. 190, F.A.M., a member of the Norristown Forest No. 31, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, he was the organizer and secretary-treasurer for 16 years of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon's National Bowling Tournament, a life member of the Muscular Dystrophy Objective of TC and L. a life member of the Washington Camp, No. 502, POS of A., life member of the General Grant Jr. Council, No. 82, the O.U.A.M., where he had been financial secretary for over 50 years, a life member of the Norris Hose Co., No. 1, the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, the Zippie Collectors Stamp Club of Trenton, N.J., and the American Topical Association of Chicago.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, JR.  
GRAMATAN, Bronxville, N. Y.

**F**RANKLIN R. Bruns Jr., supervisor and curator of the Smithsonian Institution's division of postal history, died on 24 March following a long illness. He was 66 years of age.

Mr. Bruns was widely known in philatelic circles as a contributor, writer and editor for more than twenty publications. At three different times he was a member of the Citizen's Advisory Stamp Committee.

Born in New York City, he moved to Washington in 1951 to become curator of the Smithsonian's philatelic collection. He also was director of the former Post Office Department division of philately.

In 1932 he was named stamp editor of The New York Sun, and over the next forty years he developed a syndicated stamp and coin column. In the 1940's he was president of the American Philatelic Congress, which he helped found.

He leaves two daughters, Pricilla Lee Sando, of Greenbelt, MD, and Katherine A. Kerdock, Takoma Park, MD; two sons, F. R. Bruns III of Olney, MD, and James H. Bruns of Berwyn Heights MD, and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on 28 March with interment at New York City's Woodlawn Cemetery.

April 7, 1979 ☆ STAMPS

# Canadian Masonic Cancellations

By Dr. S. Duffield Swan

Canadian Masonic Cancellations have long intrigued the interest of cancellation collectors but, due to their scarcity very few of us have had a chance to add them to our collections, and when we did it was at a very high price.

This particular study started with Jarrett's catalogue, where four sources of Canadian Masonics were listed. These were Toronto, Beachville, Simcoe and Woodstock. Through the courtesy of Bro. Milton Greenbaum of Saginaw, Michigan, we have the photos of three covers from his collection. One of these covers indicates a different post office than those mentioned before, Brockville, and it is quite distinctive.

In the course of this research, I obtained a postal card from Embro, Ont., with the illustrated cancellation (6) showing, and I also discovered the existence of a cover from Blythe, Ont., but have not as yet obtained a tracing for the record.

With reference to the postmasters at the various towns, we have accumulated the following information. The Hon. G. Alexander was postmaster and William Hargrave was deputy postmaster at Woodstock at the time of the cover usage there, but to date we cannot be sure that either was a member of the Fraternity. Similarly, while H. Mulkins was postmaster at Simcoe, we cannot be sure that he was a Mason either.

Record shows that Charles Mason was postmaster at Beachville. According to his grandson, R. S. Mason of Port Dover, he was not a member of the Fraternity but used the insignia to identify and advertise his surname. A further point of interest is that he apparently became an itinerant member of the postal staff. Jarrett and the Post Office Department list him as Beachville postmaster from 1867 to 1884, but his family record says he was a resident of Brantford in 1875. Brockville, Beachville, Embro and a couple of other cancellations observed on off-cover stamps are so similar that we think they could have been the work of this man.

It is possible that as Beachville was a collecting center for many small towns, Mason in checking the mail may have found some stamps uncanceled

and so did his own obliteration, even though the envelope bore the town cancellation. We have found the same cancellation on some U.S. stamps of the period, possibly a receiving cancellation, as even some of the Canadian usages may well have been.

The Newfoundland cancellation apparently was made with a signet of some kind. The fancy script initials S.D.H. (or K.) can be identified as well as the square and compasses. This was my first Canadian cancellation, and tracing (3) was from my second, both obtained many years ago.

The Canadian Post Office Department at Ottawa has very obligingly cooperated with us, furnishing information regarding the postmasters of the various towns during the specified period of cancellation usage.

The data which we have assembled in the last year is as follows: All towns are in Ontario Province.

Of these cancels which are illustrated here, the Waterloo and Kingston tracings are most interesting. The Waterloo Knights Templar Cross, with the crown and cross in negative, also has the I-H-S-V initials, as is usual with the English Knights Templar, depicting of the "In Hoc Signo Vinces" motto.

Kingston was a very active Masonic area in the early 1870's. The Royal Arch Chapter there bears the number 2. The first Scottish Rite Valley in Upper Canada also was located there. The import of the cancellations seems to indicate a desire to represent the insignia of these two bodies.

The Blyth cancel (#4) is one of the three reported to exist, but I have not received the tracings of the other ones for comparison and this one is not too distinct. This cancel was reported in the April and May 1962 articles, but no tracing was then available. This is also true of the Toronto cancel shown in the chart, which we present now as #10, together with information on the Postmaster's Masonic connection. There is only one of these cancels of record, and it is in the collection of our new member, Bro. J. Ronald McMurrich of Gananoque, Ontario Canada. The Postmaster of Waterloo, Christian Kumpf (a clerk) was initiated a member of Blenheim Lodge #108, Princeton, and later became a charter member of Grand River Lodge #151 in Kitchener.

# Canadian Masonic Cancellations

By. Dr. S. Duffield Swan



1



2



3



5



6



7



8



9



11



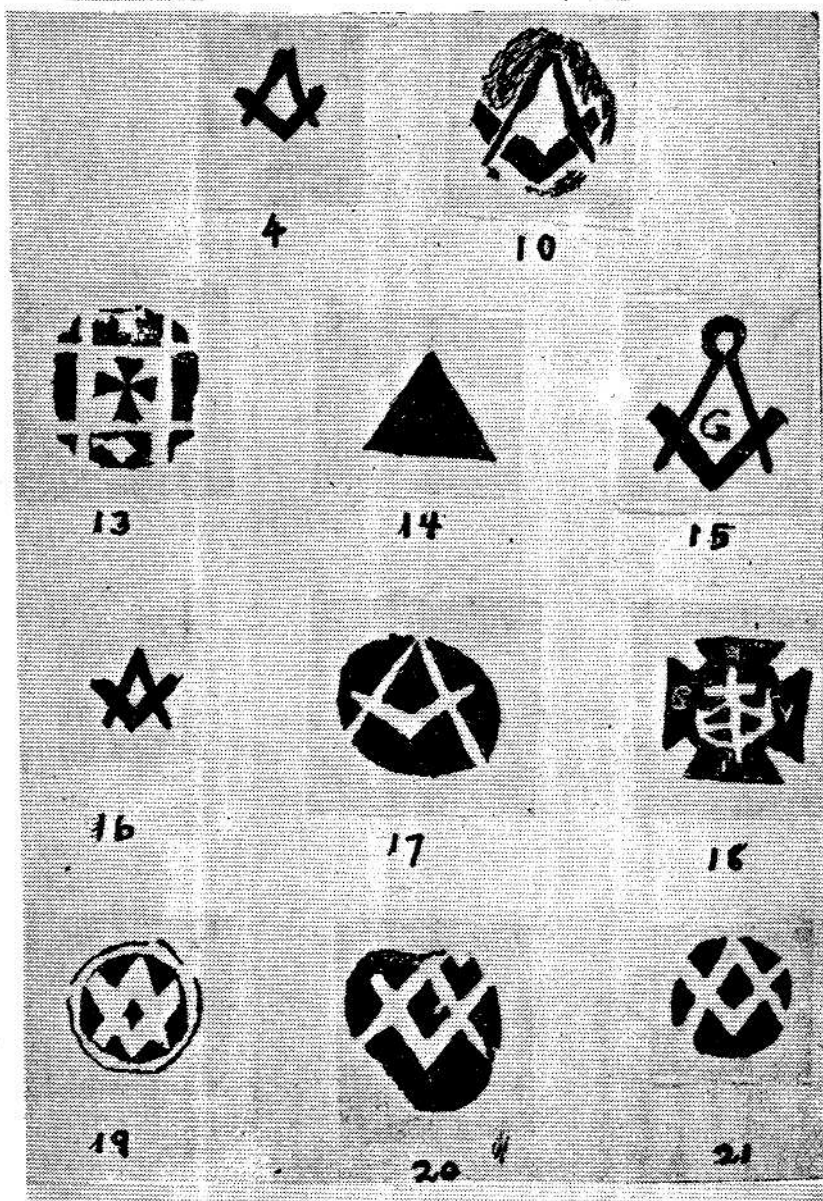
12

Tracing Town	Stamp	Date	Postmaster	Service
1,2 Beachville	#35	1875	Charles Mason	9/1/67 to 3/26/84
3 Blythe	#35	1876	D. B. McKinnon	4/1/74 to 1909
5 Brockville	1¢	1875	John Crawford	2/1/58 to 11/6/82
6 Embro	Postal Card	2/10/81	Donald Matheson	6/1/58 to 6/23/84
7,8,9 Simcoe	3¢	12/16/75	Henry Mulkins	7/4/56 to 3/4/08
11 Woodstock	3¢	8/14/72	Hon. Geo. Alexander	11/1/69 to 7/15/73
		(Deputy)	Wm. Hargrave	
12 Newfoundland	#28			



Our article in the April 1962 "Masonic Philatelist" about Canadian Masonic cancellations has certainly aroused much interest, and brought a wealth of information from many collectors from

all over the world. We are now submitting herein eleven additional cancellations of some Masonic import, including nine which are identified as to towns.



Descriptions of the cancellations illustrated are as follows:

Cancel No.	Town	Postmaster	Affiliation	Cancel No.	Town	Postmaster	Affiliation
4	Blyth, Ontario	Donald B. McKinnon	M	18	Waterloo, Ontario	Christian Kumpf	M
10	Toronton, Ontario	Thomas C. Patterson	M	19	Yarmouth, N. S.	A. J. Hood	M
13 & 14	Kingston, Ont.	Robert Deacon	?	20		Off-cover 3¢ Jubilee	
15	Preston, Ontario	Conrad Nispel	?	21		Off-cover 3¢ 1870	
16	St. Barnabe, Que.	Francis X. Bellemare	?				
17	Stayner, Ontario	William W. B. Sanders	M				
		Edgar B. Sanders	M				

The Postmaster of Toronto, Thomas Patterson (a clerk) was initiated a member of Kerr Lodge #230, Barrie. He later affiliated with Stanley Lodge

#426, Toronto, as a charter member.

Alexander J. Hood, Postmaster at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, likewise was a Mason. He joined Hiram Lodge, now #12, at Yarmouth, prior to 1870, at which time he was of record a Past Master. This information was furnished by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia through our good brother W. A. G. Huxsel.

The Postmaster of Stayner, Edgar B. Sanders (a solicitor) was a member of Northern Light Lodge #266 in Stayner. He was Postmaster from October 1, 1887 to July 5, 1895. His predecessor was Wm. W. B. Sanders, his brother, who also was a member of the Fraternity.

**WILLIAM HARGRAVE** (Woodstock) was initiated March 13, 1867 in Oxford Lodge No. 76, located in Woodstock. He was deputy postmaster of that town.

The other postmasters mentioned in the preceding article are not Masons of Record, but it is possible that some may have been members of the Craft prior to the formation of Ontario's Grand Lodge and never affiliated with the Lodges of that jurisdiction.

**DONALD BRUCE MCKINNON** (Blyth) was initiated November 16, 1864 in Clinton Lodge No. 84 and became a charter member of Blyth Lodge No. 303. He was its first Junior Warden. (Please note correct town spelling is Blyth, not Blythe.)

We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Brother E. G. Dixon, for his splendid cooperation in digging out the details which we are able to report here. Without his help we would have had little information of value.

We also wish to thank John Kitchen, Bro. Robert Thomsen, Bro. J. Ronald McMurrick, Dr. K. M. Day and E. A. Smythies, who have been instrumental in furnishing us with the material illustrated, and Bro. W. A. G. Huxsel who has cooperated in our report.

## GENERAL JAMES WOLFE

General Louis Joseph Saint-Veran Montcalm and General James Wolfe, leaders of the French and English forces respectively, were both mortally wounded in combat at Quebec on the Plains of Abraham, September 13, 1759. Canada No. 100 portrays both gentlemen on the 7¢ stamp of the Quebec Tercentenary Issue of 1908.

James Wolfe, born January 2, 1727, was the son of Lieutenant General Edward Wolfe. He entered the army as a 2nd lieutenant at an early age, was present at a number of battles, and distinguished himself in 1747 and 1748.

It is claimed that Wolfe was a member of "Minden Military Lodge" (10,000 Famous Freemasons, page 343). In the interest of accuracy it must be explained that the lodge originally was known as Lodge No. 63 and did not acquire the name "Minden" until some years later in commemoration of its services at the Battle of Minden in August 1759.

The warrant for Lodge No. 63, on the Grand Registry of Ireland, was granted to the founders, Lord George Sackville, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Cornwallis and Captain Milburne of the 20th Regiment, in December 1748. Major James Wolfe joined the 20th Regiment in January 1749 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in March 1750 to succeed Edward Cornwallis who left the regiment at that time to become the first governor of Nova Scotia.

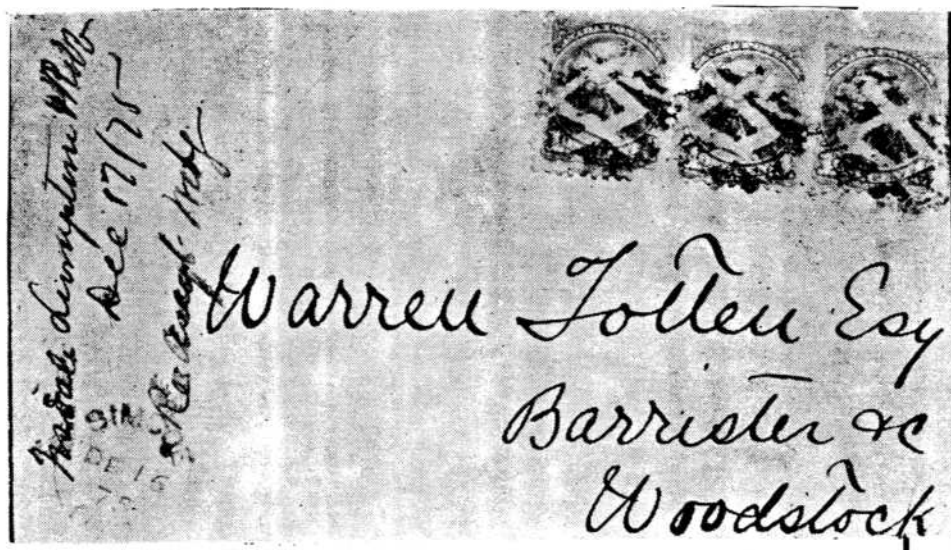
Lt. Col. Wolfe was in command of the 20th, or East Devonshire, Regiment from 1749 to 1754. Thereafter he received appointments and promotions until he became Major General and was placed, by William Pitt, in command of an expedition for the conquest of Canada in 1759. He arrived in the St. Lawrence with 8,000 men in June, was repulsed by Montcalm in the first attack July 31, but fell in the moment of victory September 13, 1759.

The foundation stone of the Wolfe and Montcalm monument at Quebec was laid by the Masons in 1827, an event which is perpetuated on a mural painting in the Masonic Memorial Temple in Montreal.

Marshall S. Loke.



CANADIAN MASONIC CANCELS



1870, 1c Yellow, Small Queen (35). Three Copies, each tied by Masonic Cancel., "Simcoe, Ont." 1875 pmk. on fresh cover,



Illustrated above is a Canadian Masonic Cancellation, from the collection of Dr. K. M. Day, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. See article within by Dr. S. Duffield Swan.



## Masonic Cancellers

Accumulating data concerning the Masonic Cancellations used in the early postage stamp days, has brought many interesting facts to light, which give us some idea of the nature of the individuals who devised the cancellers. Many of the postmasters who were responsible for these cancellations were in small villages where they were the only postal employee and frequently they combined a general store with the post office.

We find one such in Putney, Vt., where Alexis B. Hewitt operated a general store and was postmaster from 1862 to 1882.

Another interesting report showed George S. Silsby as postmaster of Winterport, Me. A local history reports him as "a very religious man, a good dresser who sang in the choir of the Congregational Church."

In Douglas, Kansas, J. B. Ives was a school teacher, "an excellent, artistic penman,"—samples of his records are still held for their beauty.

William B. Darlington of Westchester, Pa. was a Major in the Civil War who lost a leg in the battle of the Wilderness. "He was known for his whittlings,"—(wood carvings).

At Painted Post, N.Y., Henry D. Edwards, according to a local history was "a dealer in and repair of watches, clocks, jewelry, etc., also engraving."

Again, W. S. Miller, the postmaster of Ludlow, Mass. claimed his masonic connections in Chicopee, Mass. He probably was inspired to produce a masonic canceller by Capt. Andrew S. Hunter, postmaster of Chicopee, who was one of the early users of Masonic Cancellations. These latter cancellations are quite common.

Actual connection of most of these men in Masonic circles is difficult to establish. Local lodges of the day have been superseded by those organized after the 1885 period, and the old records have been lost. In other known cases members claimed their affiliation with lodges in different cities. It is reasonably safe to assume that they all were "brothers" who were loyal to the fraternity and were demonstrating that loyalty by the use of the special designs in cancellers.

One of the earliest users of Masonic Cancellers was Cambridge, Ohio, according to Carl J. Rech. It seems that C. L. Madison was secretary of the local "Blue Lodge" in that period as

—the ninth one in the U.S. Masonic cancellers of various designs are reputed to have been used by Postmaster Madison, but the only one we have observed was the square and compasses.

I have seen many other cancelers, mostly single-headed ones, but all with the hollowed out head, tapering for easy fitting. Some were even square or oblong in shape.

The use of Masonic cancelers was not new in the late 60's, as several towns, namely, Chicopee, Ludlow and Mittenague, all of Massachusetts, Holderness, N.H., Newport, Tenn., and Norwich, Conn., all used the square and compasses before 1860.

It is not certain which of these towns was the first to use a Masonic canceler, but Mittenague has been generally accredited as being first, since they went to the trouble of having a metallic canceler made, while the others were simply carved cork. This canceler was used at frequent intervals over a period of more than five years as covers are of record from 1857 to 1863. The postmaster in this period (1854-85) was Luke Bliss, who was definitely established as a Mason.

It is possible that the earliest fraternal canceler was an "odd fellows" cancellation from Canton, Miss., which was used early in 1857, but it too was made from cork or broom handle.

Following 1865 towns all over the country and Canada began the use of fancy cancelers and especially those of Masonic import.

For the sake of systemization we classify Masonic cancellations in seven groups or classes, according to types and apparent intent of the designer of the canceler. These are:

Class I: Negative square and compasses with the letter "G" in the center. Commonly made from cork.

Class II: Positive square and compasses with the letter "G" in the center. Many made from metal and hardwood.

Class III: Negative square and compasses, similar to Class I, but without the letter "G."

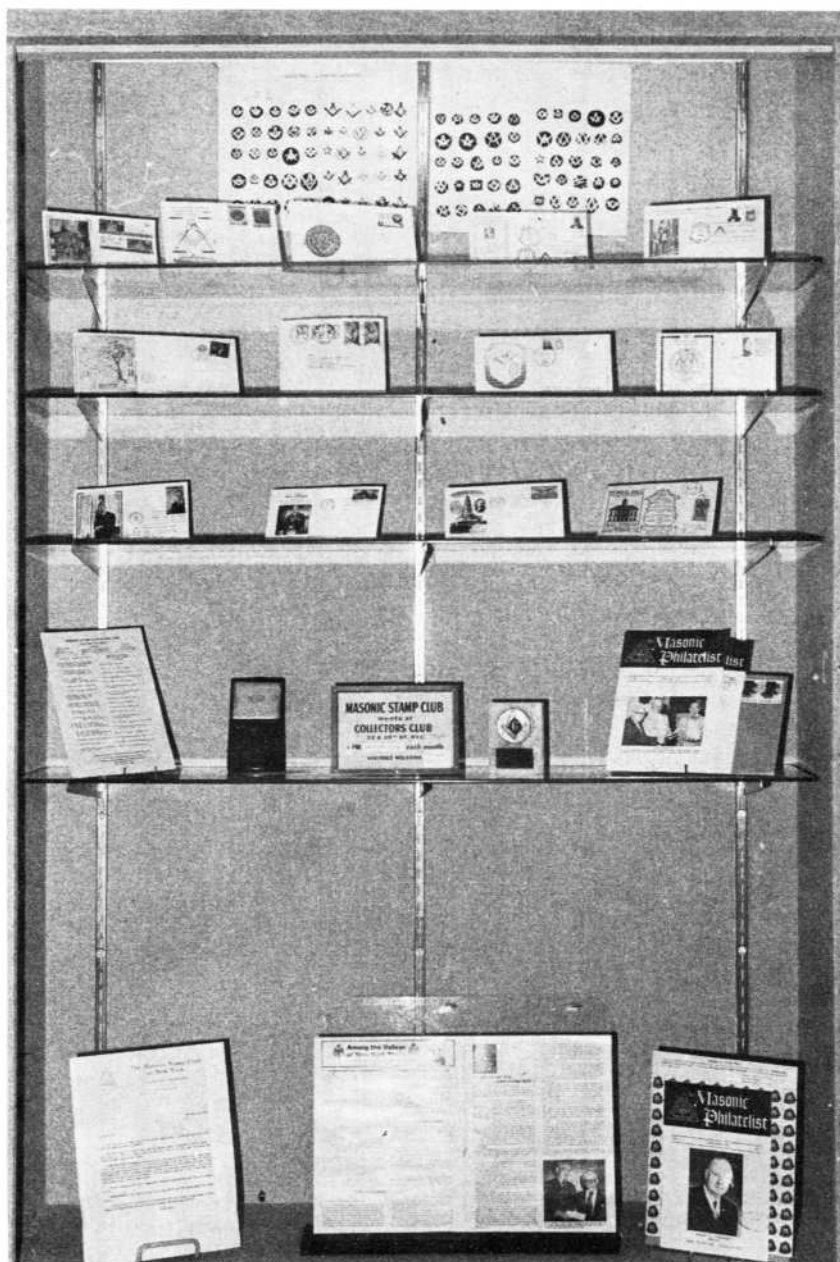
Class IV: Positive square and compasses, similar to Class II, but without the letter "G."

Class V: Identified degree symbols.

Class VI: Identified higher degree symbols.

Class VII: Marginal symbols

(To Be Continued)



MASONIC STAMP CLUB of NEW YORK DISPLAY CASE  
GRAND LODGE LIBRARY  
71 WEST 23rd ST. NEW YORK CITY

























Arthur Braver  
John F. Wysmuller  
George Wettach  
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Dr. Allan Boudreau  
Emanuel Reggel  
James Morton

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry  
Joseph N. Kane  
Krikor Dirigian  
Edwin Mayer

# MASONIC CANCELLATIONS CLASSIFICATION CHART

- Notes: 1. Only nineteenth century cancellations are illustrated.  
 2. Normal cancellation is in black, but examples are known in red, blue, green and purple.  
 3. True Masonic Cancels of the Square and Compass Type should contain one right (90°) angle.

TYPE	EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS	TYPE	EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS
1		NEGATIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS. WITHOUT G	11		SEEING EYE ALL DESIGNS
2		POSITIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS. WITHOUT G	12		ROD WITH OR WITHOUT DOTS. ALL DESIGNS
3		NEGATIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS. WITH G	13		G ALL DESIGNS
4		POSITIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS. WITH G	14		OTHER MASONIC DESIGNS OPEN BOOK PLUMB AND LEVEL 7 DOTS ETC.
5		NEGATIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS WITHOUT G. ENCLOSED IN GEOMETRIC DESIGN.	15		CROSS ALL DESIGNS
6		POSITIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS WITHOUT G. ENCLOSED IN GEOMETRIC DESIGN.	16		SOLOMON'S SEAL OR STAR OF DAVID ALL DESIGNS
7		NEGATIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS WITH G. ENCLOSED IN GEOMETRIC DESIGN.	17		CANADIAN ALL DESIGNS
8		POSITIVE SQUARE AND COMPASS WITH G. ENCLOSED IN GEOMETRIC DESIGN	18		MASONIC SIGNIFICANCE TRIANGLE-STAR AND CRESCENT-MALTESE CROSS.
9		KEYSTONE ALL DESIGNS	19		ALLIED MASONIC MATERIAL CORNER CARD POST CARD ETC.
10		TROWEL ALL DESIGNS	20		ANYTHING NOT COVERED IN ABOVE TABLE