



# The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY

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## 200 Years of Freemasonry in New York

An exhibition of memorabilia and illustrative material collected to celebrate the bicentennial of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. August 18–November 1

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
170 Central Park West, New York, N.Y.



**GRAND LODGE  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**

**BRUCE WIDGER  
GRAND MASTER  
11 FLOWER LANE  
MARCELLUS N Y 10001**

**PROCLAMATION**

23 January 1981

WHEREAS, two hundred years ago this day, 23 January 1781, thirty Masons representing six Lodges met in the City of New York to form a Grand Lodge, and

WHEREAS, their petition to the Antient Grand Lodge of England was granted and a provincial warrant, the Atholl Charter, was signed in London by the Duke of Atholl as Grand Master and duly presented in New York, and

WHEREAS, by authority of this Grand Warrant, and the efforts of its officers and their duly elected successors, the six Lodges have become hundreds and the thirty Masons, thousands, creating the present fraternity in this Masonic jurisdiction, now

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Widger, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, do designate and proclaim this year 1981 Grand Lodge Bicentennial Year, and do enjoin all officers and members, and invite all families and friends to celebrate with pride and thanksgiving the two hundred years past, as we dedicate ourselves as a fraternity to universal brotherhood in the years to come.



Given under my hand  
and the seal of the  
Grand Lodge this  
23rd day of  
January 1981, A.L. 5981

*Bruce Widger*  
Grand Master

Attest:

*Marcellus N. Y. 10001*  
Grand Secretary

## 200 Years of Freemasonry in New York

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### THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

170 Central Park West, New York, N.Y.

"200 Years of Freemasonry in New York," an extensive exhibition featuring people, places, and things relating to the contributions made by members of the Masonic fraternity to the growth and development of New York, will be on view in the museum at The New York Historical Society from August 18 to November 1, 1981.

The exhibition is part of the New York Mason's celebration of the Bicentennial anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State.

Freemasonry, a 600 year old fraternity with a 3,000 year tradition, the prototype of most modern fraternal societies and service organizations, is the oldest, largest, and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. It is a universal fraternity of friends and brothers who seek to become better men through their association with one another.

In New York City there were Masonic lodges in the early 1700s and the Grand Lodge of the State of New York dates from January 23, 1781 when representatives of Lodges in New York City petitioned for a Warrant from the Ancient Grand Lodge of England, which was signed by the Duke of Atholl as Grand Master on September 5, 1781. The first meeting under the Warrant was held in Roubelet's Assembly Hall in New York City on December 5, 1782.

The exhibition features Masonic aprons worn by early American Freemasons, officers' jewels and badges, glassware, ceremonial swords, portraits, and other memorabilia. The original 1781 Warrant is exhibited together with the original documents from the American Revolutionary period and printed items from the past 200 years.

Fifteen Presidents and nineteen Vice-Presidents of the United States, nineteen Governors of New York State, and thousands of prominent men in every field have been Freemasons.

Among the famous New York Freemasons included in the show are Robert R. Livingston, an author of the Declaration of Independence and Chancellor of New York State (and also Grand Master of Masons) at the time he administered the Presidential oath to George Washington (who was also a Mason) on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City on April 30, 1789 (using the altar Bible of St. John's Lodge No. 1 borrowed for the occasion); DeWitt Clinton, Grand Master (1806-1819), President of The New-York Historical Society (1817-1819), and successively Mayor of New York City and Governor of New York State; Daniel D. Tompkins, Grand Master, Governor of New York State and Vice President of the United States; Morgan Lewis, Grand Master (1830-1843), President of The New-York Historical Society (1832-1835) and Governor of New York State (1804-1807); Hamilton Fish, President of The New-York Historical Society (1867-1869) and Governor of New York State (1848-1850); Governor William Sulzer; President Theodore Roosevelt; President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia; and Congressman Sol Bloom, signer of the United Nations Charter.

Items on display come from the collections of The New-York Historical Society, private collections, St. John's Lodge No. 1, Holland Lodge No. 8, the Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Massachusetts.

"200 Years of Freemasonry in New York" may be viewed at The Society Tuesday through Friday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; and Sunday from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. The museum is closed Monday. There is a discretionary admission fee for non-members and it is recommended that adults pay \$1.50 and children 75¢.

## How To Expand Your Masonic Cover Collection

By GEORGE H. WETTACH  
Vice President & Treasurer  
Masonic Stamp Club of New York Inc.

Collectors of Masonic covers who restrict their collecting to first day covers and Lodge anniversary commemorative covers sometimes have a long wait between acquisitions until a suitable individual or anniversary can be postally commemorated.

It is granted that a newcomer to the field may derive much pleasure and challenge in attempting to collect the older covers of those types. Much has been written on them for the researcher to discover. At least two individuals are currently compiling catalogues of Masonic first day covers.

This article will endeavor to describe other categories of Masonic covers that are interesting and collectible in their own right in the author's opinion.

Let us consider first the envelopes that bring your Lodge bulletins or dues notices. (While the term "Lodge" is used, the following comments can apply to Chapter, Commandery, Shrine, DeMolay, Rainbow, O.E.S., Square Club, etc. equally well.) These can usually be categorized as follows:

1. Corner card with organization name and emblem.
2. Same but without emblem.
3. Same without any indication of Masonic origin.

The first two groups are definitely Masonic covers and can form the nucleus of a collection of similar items. A good source might be the Secretary of your Lodge who probably gets the notices of other Lodges in the district. Ask friends in other Lodges to save their Masonic envelopes for you.

Before long you will notice variations in the covers acquired. You will notice changes of Lodge names due to merger. You will notice that some covers bear first class postage and others have non-profit organization stamps or bulk rate permits. A few will have postage meters which will be covered in a separate article. Occasionally you will acquire a meeting notice on a postal card. If any of the above show Masonic origin, they are collectible. The Masonic Stamp Club of New York uses its name and emblem on its stationery to create collectible items for the recipients.

A challenging collection would be to try to acquire one cover from every type of Masonic or related body, i.e., Blue Lodge, Chapter, Consistory, Shrine, DeMolay, Triangle, Rainbow, Eastern Star, Grotto, Tall Cedars, Amaranth, Square Club, etc., etc., etc.

Or you could try to get one cover from every Lodge in your state. You might find older ones in stamp dealers' cover boxes.

Grand Lodges frequently have interesting and sometimes ornate covers. See your Lodge Secretary for some of these.

Then there are the occasional "home made" Masonic covers. They are made by applying the Masonic emblem to your regular personal stationery by a rubber stamp.

A more colorful personal Masonic cover can be created by affixing one of the many Masonic seals or labels next to the stamp where it will be tied to cover to prove that it was not added later to dress up the cover. These labels can be used on all kinds of envelopes, obviously, and would be good for publicizing our fraternity or related bodies and their charities. The many Masonic seals and labels will be dealt with in a separate illustrated article.

A popular type of collectible is the Masonic picture post card, especially those that passed through the mails although mint ones are equally desirable. Some are currently available but the majority were issued in the early nineteen hundreds to about the 1920's. The majority of them picture Masonic Temples of all kinds and sizes from small towns to large cities. Some show interior views of historic lodges or Masonic symbols or regalia. A few were made of leather.

Sets of humorous post cards have been published as well as individual items. A picture of one such adorned the cover of The Masonic Philatelist several years ago.

Also described in one issue were the QSL or acknowledgement cards used by both amateur radio operators ("Hams") and citizens Band radio operators (C.B.) who in many cases indicated their Masonic affiliations by having the Masonic or other emblem printed on their cards. This type of card is often colorful, amusing and personalized.

In summary, the following are submitted as major categories of Masonic covers:

1. First Day Covers
2. Masonic Anniversaries
3. Masonic corner cards
  - a. With adhesive stamps
  - b. Embossed envelopes
  - c. Bulk rate imprint
  - d. Postage meter
4. Masonic Postmarks
  - a. The old scarce types
  - b. Recent usages
  - c. Mailer's Postmark Permits
5. Picture Post Cards
  - a. Masonic buildings
  - b. Interior views
  - c. Masonic regalia
  - d. Humorous
  - e. Individuals or groups
  - f. Leather cards
6. Masonic rubber stamps applied to covers
7. Masonic seals or labels tied to cover
8. Masonic perfins

Readers are invited to send comments, additions and corrections to:  
 George H. Wettach  
 P.O. Box 261  
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## **MASONIC POSTMASTERS GENERAL**

by

**Sir Knight John R. Allen** — Ivanhoe Commandery No. 19, New Orleans, Louisiana  
and **Brother Spencer C. Sands** — Reynoldsburg Lodge No. 340, F. & A.M., Ohio

*Sixty-five men have held the office of Postmaster General of the United States, and 21 of these were known Freemasons. The terms of office of the 65 Postmasters General have ranged from less than one month to more than 12 years. However, the first Postmaster General of the United States, Brother Benjamin Franklin, served also as joint Postmaster General for the English Colonies from 1753 until 1774 when he was dismissed for sympathizing with the cause of the colonists. He had previously been Postmaster of Philadelphia, 1737-1753.*

*President Andrew Jackson in 1829 invited William T. Barry, another Freemason, to become the First Postmaster General to sit as a member of the President's Cabinet. A total of 53 Postmasters General of the U.S. served as Presidential Cabinet members before President Nixon signed the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 which converted the Post Office Department to the U.S. Postal Service and removed the Postmaster General position from the President's cabinet.*

*Although the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is a quasi-private corporation with less chance of a new Postmaster General being named because of a new Presidential administration, the USPS was established within the Executive Branch of Government. The President appoints nine members of the Board of Governors who in turn appoint a Postmaster General as their tenth member. These ten appoint the Deputy Postmaster General who serves as the eleventh Board member. The President additionally appoints an independent, five-member Postal Rate Commission to recommend postal rates and classifications for adoption by the Board of Governors. Although no longer a member of the Presidential Cabinet, the Postmaster General must still be responsive to requests from the President because of this organizational structure which came into effect in 1971.*

The appended chart lists all 65 Postmasters General of the U.S. since the Post Office Department was first established by the Continental Congress on July 26, 1775. Included are details on the Masonic memberships of 21 known Freemasons.

*"Of all the men whose names sound through the everechoing halls of Fame to immortality, for their work in creating the Republic in which we live, the two most conspicuously identified with our Fraternity (Freemasonry) were Washington and Franklin, and no two represented more different types and yet held in closer tie one*

*predominating trait. Washington from the South, Franklin from the North, one a man of the country, the other of the cities and towns; one recognized as a founder, the other as the saviour of his country. Washington, a man of battles, Franklin, a man of diplomacy and peace . . . But both of these men had to an unusual degree faith: faith in themselves, faith in other men and faith in a Divine Providence, and in His love and law as displayed by our First Great Light."*

These words are quoted from the *Franklin Bicentennary* → → →

*Memorial Volume* published by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1906, but they still seem appropriate today in discussions of our Founding Fathers.

**Benjamin Franklin** became the first Postmaster General 206 years ago, July 26, 1775. The year 1981 marks the 275th Anniversary of Franklin's birth (January 17, 1706) and the 250th Anniversary of his Masonic initiation. The anniversary of Franklin's Masonic initiation is not as widely celebrated as that of George Washington, however, because the exact date of Franklin's initiation is not known. Franklin was evidently initiated in February 1730 or 1731, and the year 1731 is more popularly recognized because existing documentary evidence found in an old account book of St. John's Lodge shows that on St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24, 1731, Franklin paid the balance due on his initiation fee and dues to date. Exactly three years later, on June 24, 1734, Franklin was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Franklin served as Secretary of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia from 1735-38. On April 13, 1738, in a letter to his mother, Franklin wrote: "Freemasons have no principles or practices that are inconsistent with religion and good manners." During the later years of his life as a Diplomat and Statesman while in France, Franklin's Masonic activity "with the Brethren was intimate and close, both personal and official, Franklin taking an active part in their proceedings, even advancing to the so-called higher degrees."

As joint Postmaster General for the English colonies from 1753-54, Franklin effected many important, lasting improvements in the colonial posts. After a long inspection tour of all post offices in the North and as far south as Virginia, Franklin laid out new and shorter routes, and increased the speed of travel on old lines. "Before he left office, post roads were in operation from Maine to Florida and from New York to Canada, and mail

between the Colonies and Mother England operated on a regular schedule." In July 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Franklin Postmaster General at a salary of \$1,000 per year. Franklin served as Postmaster General until November 1776, when he was sent to France to enlist support for the American Revolution. America's present postal service descends in an unbroken line from the system that Brother Benjamin Franklin planned and placed in operation under the Continental Congress.

**Joseph Habersham** (1751-1815) was the third Postmaster General after the adoption of the Constitution. He served under Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson from 1795 to 1801. From 1802 until his death in 1815, Habersham was President of a branch of the Bank of the United States.

Joseph Habersham was born in Savannah, Georgia, on July 28, 1751. He was a member of Solomons Lodge No. 1 in Savannah as were his father, James, and brother, John. The father was a Colonial Governor of Georgia, and the brother served in the Revolution, became a Georgia delegate to the Continental Congress in 1785 and 1786, and was appointed Indian agent by General Washington. Meanwhile, Joseph Habersham became Colonel in the First Georgia Battalion of the Continental Army and served concurrently with his brother as a member of the Continental Congress.

**Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr.** (1764-1824) was born in Middleton, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale College in 1785; studied law, was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1788 and moved to Marietta, Ohio. Meigs fought in Indian wars in that area (the Northwest Territory), was appointed one of the territorial judges in 1798, and was elected representative of Marietta region in the territorial legislature in 1799.

Meigs received his Masonic degrees in American Union Lodge No. 1 at Marietta

on December 6 and December 24, 1790, and on January 11, 1791. His father was recorded as having been Raised in that Lodge on the same date. In 1792, he delivered two addresses before the Lodge, and records of 1802 show him very regular in attendance. After that period, his absence from Marietta interfered with his Lodge activity. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the new State of Ohio in 1803, and served until appointed Commander of U.S. troops in the St. Charles District of Louisiana from 1804 to 1806.

In 1807-1808, Meigs served as U.S. District Court Judge for Michigan Territory. He resigned to become candidate for governor of Ohio, and was elected, but declared ineligible due to prolonged absence from the state. Elected U.S. Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of John Smith, Meigs took the seat in December 1808, was re-elected in 1809, and served until 1810 when he ran for governor. This time Meigs was elected (and re-elected), and he served from 1810-1814 at which time President Madison appointed him Postmaster General.

Serving under Presidents Madison and Monroe from March 1814 to June 1823, Meigs resigned due to ill health and died only nine months later. Deficits and irregularities in awarding mail contracts led to congressional investigations in 1816 and 1821, but neither investigation resulted in more than charges of inefficiency.

**John McLean** (1785-1861) was Postmaster General of the U.S., Justice of the Ohio and U.S. Supreme Courts, and a U.S. Congressman. McLean's family migrated from his birthplace in New Jersey, to Virginia, Kentucky and finally to Ohio where he studied law. He served in the U.S. Congress from 1812-1815, and declined a Senate nomination in 1815 for election to the Ohio Supreme Court where he served until 1822.

President Monroe appointed McLean Commissioner of the General Land Office

in 1822 and Postmaster General in 1823. John Quincy Adams re-appointed him Postmaster General, and President Andrew Jackson asked him to remain in office again in 1829. However, McLean declined because he differed with President Jackson on appointments. He also declined appointments to both the War and Navy offices. Finally, McLean accepted appointment as Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court, and he served from 1829 until his death in 1861. During his tenure, he was a contender for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1856 and 1860.

The backgrounds of most Postmasters General who served after Benjamin Franklin imply that the office was simply a political appointment as part of the President's Cabinet, and that the Postmaster General seldom had previous Post Office experience. This belief is generally true. Current Postmaster General William F. Bolger is only the third career postal employee to hold the title.

Horatio King, who started as a Postal clerk in 1839, took 22 years to become Postmaster General on February 12, 1861. He held the office less than one month before being supplanted by Montgomery Blair, a Lincoln appointee.

Brother Jesse M. Donaldson was the second to rise through the ranks, being appointed by (Brother) President Truman in 1947 and serving until President Eisenhower's inauguration in 1953. Mr. Bolger, the current Postmaster General, is a native of Waterbury, Connecticut, who began his postal career in 1941. He has stated on occasion that there have been more Postmasters General than Presidents, and that this might be some indication of the hazards of the job.

Sir Knight Allen's mailing address is P.O. Box 26135, Richmond, Virginia 23260; Brother Sands lives at 8200-15562 Palmer, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. The authors welcome any information which may prove the Masonic membership of others on the lists on pages 14 and 15.

## POSTMASTERS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

*Beginning with Benjamin Franklin under the Continental Congress, 65 men have held the office of Postmaster General of the United States; beginning with Samuel Osgood, the first Postmaster General appointed after the adoption of the Constitution, 62 men have held this office.*

<u>President Served</u>	<u>Postmaster General</u>	<u>Took Office</u>	<u>Masonic Memberships</u>
Not Applicable	Benjamin Franklin	July 26, 1775	PGM (PA); PM, St. John's Lodge (PA); Lodge of Nine Sisters (Paris); HON—Respectable Lodge de Saint Jean de Jerusalem & Lodge des Bon Amis (Rouen, France)
Not Applicable	Richard Bache	Nov. 7, 1776	
Not Applicable	Ebenezer Hazard	Jan. 28, 1782	
Washington	Samuel Osgood	Sept. 26, 1789	
Washington	Timothy Pickering	Aug. 12, 1791	
Wash., J. Adams, Jefferson	Joseph Habersham	Feb. 25, 1795	Solomons Lodge No. 1 (GA)
Jefferson	Gideon Granger	Nov. 28, 1801	
Madison, Monroe	Return J. Meigs, Jr.	Mar. 17, 1814	Amer. Union Lodge No. 1 (OH)
Monroe, J. Q. Adams	John McLean	June 26, 1823	Columbus Lodge No. 30 (OH)
Jackson	William T. Barry	Mar. 9, 1829	Lexington Lodge No. 1 (KY); Daviess Lodge No. 22 (KY); Federal Lodge No. 1 (DC)—Hon.
Jackson, Van Buren	Amos Kendall	May 1, 1835	Original Lodge Unknown; PM, Hiram Lodge No. 4 (KY); Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 14 (KY)
Van Buren	John M. Niles	May 19, 1840	
Harrison, Tyler	Francis Granger	Mar. 6, 1841	
Tyler	Charles A. Wickliffe	Sept. 13, 1841	PM, Bradstown Lodge No. 38 (KY)
Polk	Dave Johnson	Mar. 6, 1845	
Taylor	Jacob Collamer	Mar. 8, 1849	Rising Sun Lodge No. 7 (VT)
Fillmore	Nathan K. Hall	July 23, 1850	
Fillmore	Samuel D. Hubbard	Aug. 31, 1852	
Pierce	James Campbell	Mar. 7, 1853	Lodge Unknown; Harmony Chap. No. 52, RAM (PA)
Buchanan	Aaron V. Brown	Mar. 6, 1857	Lodge Unknown; Pulaski Chap. No. 7, RAM (TN); Gr. Jr. Warden, 1925, Grand Lodge TN
Buchanan	Joseph Holt	Mar. 14, 1859	
Buchanan	Horatio King	Feb. 12, 1861	
Lincoln	Montgomery Blair	Mar. 5, 1861	
Lincoln, A. Johnson	William Dennison	Sept. 24, 1864	
A. Johnson	Alexander W. Randall	July 25, 1866	Waukesha Lodge No. 37 (WI); Orator, Hermes Senate No. 1, Ancient & Primitive Rite of Free. (DC)
Grant	John A. J. Creswell	Mar. 5, 1869	
Grant	Marshall Jewell	Aug. 24, 1874	St. John's Lodge No. 4 (CT); Wash. Commandery No. 1, KT (CT)
Grant	James W. Marshall	July 3, 1875	
Grant	James N. Tyner	July 12, 1876	
Hayes	David McK. Key	Mar. 12, 1877	

Hayes	Horace Maynard	June 2, 1880	
Garfield	Thomas L. James	Mar. 5, 1881	Hamilton Lodge No. 120 (NY)
Arthur	Timothy O. Howe	Dec. 20, 1881	
Arthur	Walter Q. Gresham	Apr. 3, 1883	
Arthur	Frank Hatton	Oct. 14, 1884	
Cleveland	William F. Vilas	Mar. 6, 1885	
Cleveland	Don M. Dickinson	Jan. 16, 1888	
Harrison	John Wanamaker	Mar. 5, 1889	"At Sight" by GM; PM, Friendship Lodge No. 100 (PA); Abington Chap. No. 245, RAM; Mary Com. No. 36, Phila., KT; 33 AASR, NJ; Grand Lodge Museum Committee
Cleveland	Wilson S. Bissell	Mar. 6, 1893	
Cleveland	William L. Wilson	Mar. 1, 1895	
McKinley	James A. Gary	Mar. 5, 1897	
McKinley, T. Roosevelt	Charles Emory Smith	Apr. 21, 1898	"At Sight" by GM; later affiliated Rising Star Lodge No. 126 (PA)
T. Roosevelt	Henry C. Payne	Jan. 9, 1902	
T. Roosevelt	Robert J. Wynne	Oct. 10, 1904	
T. Roosevelt	George B. Cortelyou	Mar. 6, 1905	
T. Roosevelt	George von L. Meyer	Jan. 15, 1907	
Taft	Frank H. Hitchcock	Mar. 5, 1909	
Wilson	Albert S. Burleson	Mar. 5, 1913	Masonic Bodies in Austin (TX)
Harding	Will H. Hays	Mar. 5, 1921	Sullivan Lodge No. 263 (IN); York & Scottish Rites; 33 AASR, NJ
Harding	Hubert Work	Mar. 4, 1922	Pueblo Lodge No. 17 (CO)
Harding, Coolidge	Harry S. New	Feb. 22, 1923	Ancient Landmarks Lodge No. 319 (IN); 33 AASR, NJ; Murat Shrine Temple
Hoover	Walter F. Brown	Mar. 5, 1929	
F. D. Roosevelt	James A. Farley	Mar. 4, 1933	
F. D. Roosevelt	Frank C. Walker	Sept. 10, 1940	
Truman	Robert E. Hannegan	May 8, 1945	
Truman	Jesse M. Donaldson	Dec. 16, 1947	Oconee Lodge No. 392 (IL)
Eisenhower	Arthur E. Suinmerfield	Jan. 21, 1953	Genesee Lodge No. 174 (MI); Genesee Valley Com. No. 15, Flint, KT; 33 AASR, NJ
Kennedy	J. Edward Day	Jan. 21, 1961	
Kennedy, L.B. Johnson	John A. Granouski	Sept. 10, 1963	
L. B. Johnson	Lawrence F. O'Brien	Nov. 3, 1965	
L. B. Johnson	W. Marvin Watson	Apr. 26, 1968	
Nixon	Winton M. Blount	Jan. 22, 1969	
(U.S. Postal Service began on July 1, 1971; Postmaster General no longer a Cabinet member.)			
Nixon, Ford	E. T. Klassen	Jan. 1, 1972	
Ford, Carter	Benjamin F. Bailar	Feb. 16, 1975	
Carter, Reagan	William F. Bolger	Mar. 15, 1978	

ABBREVIATIONS: PGM (Past Grand Master); PM (Past Master); HON (Honorary); RAM (Royal Arch Mason); KT (Knight Templar); AASR, NJ (Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction); AASR, SJ (Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction).

The authors' thanks to Keith Arrington, retired Assistant Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M., who also aided in compiling this list.

# How To Build A Masonic Stamp Collection

W. Joseph Nathan Kane

Past Master, King Solomon Lodge No. 279

Most people believe that philatelists are nuts until they read that a certain stamp brought \$200,000 at an auction sale. Then they make a quick about-face and await the day when millions of gold pieces will pour into their coffers. But, they generally suffer the inevitable disappointment.

Before advising what stamps a Mason should collect, let us first look at various types of collectors.

There is the individual who buys mixtures of a thousand stamps for a dollar or five thousand stamps for a dollar seventy-five until his attic, cellar and garage are stuffed full of these bits of gaily colored paper. He is looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack—the rarity of rarities. From an investment point of view, he would do better to put his dollar in the savings bank, collect his 5% interest, and receive a set of dishes when he opens his account.

On the other hand, there is the individual with the healthy bank account on the lookout for bargains. He buys stamps with a high catalog value without the ability to judge their worth. His wife and kids can go without food and clothes while his album increases in size. His hopes know no bounds until he is confronted with the sad fact that his rarities are clever forgeries.

We must not overlook the meticulous chap who hoards stamps, as you and I accumulate stocks and bonds, awaiting the day when he can sell them and reap the great dividends so that he can trudge 36 holes a day in the hot Florida sun.

All of these chaps, despite the blurbs of optimistic stamp dealers, are heading straight for perdition.

The way to start a stamp collection, especially a Masonic collection, is to adopt the same attitude that you have when you go to the theater. After the performance, you have nothing to redeem, nothing to cash in, no returns of any kind but the enjoyment while you were in the theater. Once you start with this realization, you will never be disappointed.

The second step is to select the type of show you want to see: comedy, drama, musical, etc. In like vein, once you have decided to become a stamp



collector, pinpoint the kind of collection you would like to have: pictorial, air mail, envelopes, 1st day covers, etc.

Before you start to save stamps, you must realize that no matter how long you live, no matter how much time you have, no matter how much money is at your disposal, you cannot generalize. It cannot be done!

You must specialize. You must be specific. Save only the stamps of one country. Save only stamps that have been canceled. Save only stamps that are in mint condition with the original gum.

Save only horizontal stamps; save only triangular or vertical stamps; save only red stamps; save only green

stamps; save only stamps showing flags; save only stamps showing spiders, etc. The selection should be yours, regardless of what it is.

Save only stamps which bear the pictures of living Masons; save only stamps which bear the pictures of deceased Masons; save only stamps which bear the pictures of Masons; or save only stamps commemorating events in which Masons or an individual Mason participated.

Or save stamps on which the square and compass appear. This is not as simple as it sounds. These emblems will not be as prominently displayed on stamps as on the lapel of an insurance agent who just received his third degree. These designs appear on stamps and in many instances are evident only when you put on your bi-focals.

If your interest is in architecture, you may save stamps showing pillars or buildings with Corinthian, Doric or Ionic columns. If you are religiously inclined, endeavor to save stamps depicting the Bible or scenes from the Bible or biblical characters.

These stamps may be saved in singles, pairs, strips or sheets. They may be affixed to envelopes or on first day covers or cachets.

Regardless of how carefully you specialize, you will amass other stamps. You will receive them on your foreign mail, your friends will give you stamps.

You can exchange your surplus/duplicate stamps, etc., with other collectors. There are numerous societies where specialized collectors gather, such as the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. At specified times, you can offer lots for trade or exchange, or even for sale at their auctions. Should you desire, you can buy stamps from your fellow members to fill in the gaps in your own collection.

Other means of increasing your collection is by corresponding with collectors in foreign countries. Many collectors located all over the world belong to the Masonic Stamp Club of New York who in like manner are interested in exchange.

The advantage of a collection is that you can always refer to it and get enjoyment from it, unlike a theater production. And, oddly enough, you may be the one to defy all traditions and find the rarity which will cause the collectors to jump about in glee.

## Joseph Nathan Kane's "New Idea"

A small orange sign hangs crookedly on a dusty bookcase in Joseph Nathan Kane's Manhattan apartment. "The man with a new idea," it proclaims, "is a crackpot—until it succeeds."

In 1929 Mr. Kane approached Halsey William Wilson, founder of The H. W. Wilson Company, with "a new idea" for a book of American "firsts." Since that meeting, Mr. Kane has produced four editions of *Facts About the Presidents* and will soon complete the fourth edition of *Famous First Facts*, all under the Wilson imprint. Mr. Kane's "new idea" has clearly succeeded.

Born in New York City on January 23, 1899, Joseph Nathan Kane has lived a busy life. He worked alongside H. G. Wells in the early 1920's as a Washington correspondent for a newspaper syndicate. His articles and interviews—historical and political—have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Variety*, *Coronet*, and many other publications. During the 1940's, he served as the "research authority" for several nationally broadcast radio quiz shows.

But Mr. Kane has devoted most of his energy to his books of "firsts." He works every day of the week, often well into the early morning, and seldom socializes. His craft, he explains, demands "sacrifice."

To verify the facts he uses, Mr. Kane writes hundreds of letters and spends countless hours in libraries across the nation. If unconvinced a fact is true, he does not include it. As a result, "85% of my work," he estimates with the pride of a perfectionist, "goes into the garbage can."

Although the new Fourth Edition of *Facts About the Presidents* was just published and the Fourth Edition of *Famous First Facts* will appear this fall, Mr. Kane, now 82, is not planning to slow his pace. He is already busy cumulating data for a fifth edition of *Famous First Facts*. "It will be finished," he vows, "if my typewriter holds out."

## FRATERNITY POST NUMBER 612

### American Legion

On October 3, 1918 a group of Masons assembled in the home of Bradford Butler on Dean Street in Brooklyn, New York and placed their signatures on an application for a "Post of American Legion" under the provisions of the American Legion Constitution adopted at the St. Louis Caucus of the American Legion on May 8-10, 1919.

Having served in the military forces of the United States between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 these veterans were entitled to membership in the American Legion and requested a charter for the formation of a Post at Brooklyn, New York, to be known as Fraternity Post, State of New York, Number 612.

The dream of these Brothers was unique! An American Legion Post, ready to assist the veteran in need and the veteran's family and survivors, that would be composed of Masons! And that dream exists today. Fraternity Post Number 612 is composed entirely of Masons and may well be the only organization of its kind.

It may be well to mention at this point that Fraternity Post is open to every Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge and jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York who has served in the armed forces of the United States during the following:

World War I	April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
World War II	December 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946
Korea	June 23, 1950 to January 31, 1955
Vietnam	December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975

Fraternity Post Number 612 is involved in many activities that strive to emphasize Brotherhood, Fraternalism, Americanism and Patriotism. "Scholastic Achievement" awards are presented to support the junior ROTC program, donations are made to needy causes such as the "Italian Earthquake Relief Fund," programs are



carried out in conjunction with other organizations such as the National Sojourners and Masonic Lodges.

The American Legion for the past 61 years has stood tall defending the American way of life. Four members of Fraternity Post were honored this year for sixty-one years of consecutive service to the American Legion.

When these four members joined the American Legion in 1919 it was but a dream of what might be. Today the American Legion has over 1,600,000 members in over 16,000 Posts covering every state in the Union and some of the foreign territories that were defended by Legionnaires. Never has a blemish been cast at the American Legion. The time has come in our country for the us, the Mason and Veteran, to be counted. The Legion needs you and you need the Legion. Let's stand up and be counted NOW while we can. The stronger we are the surer we are to be heard.

Benefits of American Legion membership are many, too many to be listed here. The monthly magazine alone is well worth the membership dues. The importance of lending your support to the national organization that speaks for the veteran, his widow and other survivors is beyond measure.

Dues are only \$10.00 annually and bring back a large return, the American Legion magazine, monthly, and all the programs offered by the American Legion including the special low cost life insurance.

Perhaps the most important benefit of membership is being counted on the list of those who gave their time and effort in support of our country and stand ready, if called, to be counted.

Brothers eligible for and interested in membership are invited to send a self addressed stamped envelope (legal size please) to:

Fred Weberpals  
80-35 Springfield Boulevard  
Queens Village, New York 11427

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC  
**MUSEUM** OF OUR  
**NATIONAL**  
**HERITAGE**  
 LEXINGTON, MASS. 02173



*Masons on Stamps*  
 Collection of Wolfgang Brachvogel  
 Photo: Jacquelyn Oak

**MASONS ON STAMPS: An  
 International Collection of  
 Famous Freemasons**

THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 1981

Over 600 international personalities—men of science, art, government and the military—who are members of the brotherhood of Freemasonry are featured in this unique stamp collection, lent by Wolfgang Brachvogel of Hamburg, West Germany. A biography highlighting the role of each person is displayed along with the stamps. Additional materials show stamps and first day covers of Masonic symbols and Masonic events.

## Stamp Exhibit Opens At Museum Of Our National Heritage

Lexington, Mass. . . Opening June 14 through November 15, 1981 at The Museum of Our National Heritage is a new exhibit, "Masons on Stamps: An International Collection," lent by K. H. Wolfgang Brachvogel of Hamburg, West Germany. This topical stamp collection commemorates the achievements of Masons in every walk of life - statesmen, patriots, scientists, military heroes, explorers, inventors, and men of arts and letters. The stamps, numbering over 700, are accompanied by individual biographies of the person whose portrait is featured on the stamps. The scope of the achievements of these prominent individuals is indicative of the international character and diversity of the Masonic membership throughout the world.

The collector, Wolfgang Brachvogel, began collecting stamps at the age of nine. The special Masonic stamp collection began in 1962 when Mr. Brachvogel became a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Hamburg. In addition to portraits, Mr. Brachvogel has also included in the collection commemorative stamps and first day covers of Masonic symbols and special events. Represented in the exhibit are 730 names of eminent persons not only from this century but from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries as well. Some of those most familiar personalities are: Sir Winston Churchill, Henry Ford, Sam Houston, Charles Lindbergh, Andrew Mellon, Samuel Gompers, Paul Revere, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Will Rogers, Clark Gable, John Glenn, Harry S. Truman, Booker T. Washington, and General Douglas MacArthur. Also, W. C. Fields, Henry Clay, James Buchanan, John Hancock, Andrew Jackson, John Paul Jones, Meriweather Lewis, William Clark, and Haym Solomon.

This collection does not pretend to be complete, neither as far as the names of Masons nor as far as the number of stamps are concerned. Mr. Brachvogel intends to go on collecting Masonic philately, and he hopes with this exhibit he might inspire others to become interested in the subject and in topical stamp collecting.

The Museum of Our National Heritage, located at 33 Marrett Road, at the junction of Rt. 2A and Massachusetts Avenue, is sponsored by the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction in the United States. The museum is open seven days a week and admission is free. For more information and directions to the museum, call 861-6559.

## Masons On Stamps

Statesmen, patriots, scientists, military heroes, explorers, inventors, and men of arts and letters are all represented in an international stamp collection of famous Freemasons currently on display at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Mass.

Originally exhibited in Germany, the col-

lection is the work of Wolfgang Brachvogel, who began collecting stamps at the age of nine. After becoming a Freemason in Hamburg, Germany, he began collecting stamps associated with members of the Masonic fraternity. To his sur-



BRACHVOGEL

prise he has already compiled 730 names. Although his collection is not complete, he regards it as a study of Masonic philately that might inspire others to become interested in the subject.

A biography of each famous person accompanies the commemorative stamps. The captions appear in both German and English.

Brother Brachvogel was initiated in 1959 in Lodge Bruderkette vor den Sieben Bergen, now Prometheus Lodge No. 268a, Bonn, Germany. A Scottish Rite Mason since 1962, he received the 33° in 1971 and became an Active Member of the Supreme Council for Germany in 1974. Presently he is an editor of *Eleusis*, the official publication of the German Supreme Council.

Since 1961, he has been a television and electronic media specialist with several advertising agencies.

The international stamp collection will remain at the Lexington museum through November 15.

## FREE WILL AND ACCORD

IT HAS LONG BEEN a custom among Masons that no man shall be solicited to join a Masonic lodge. The reason is basic and fundamental. Masonry teaches individual liberty and freedom of choice. Whenever a man knocks upon Masonry's door, he must do so of his own free will and accord.

The one unfortunate result of this policy is that many men with a real desire to become Masons never actively seek admission because they labor under the illusion that they must be invited.

It has been suggested that the best way to inspire others to voluntarily seek membership is for Masons to act in a most exemplary manner and thus by precept and example encourage others to follow. In the past this high idealism served its purpose, but in today's fast moving world men are apt to rely on only that which they hear and read.

There is no violation of Masonic policy when a Mason tells a non-Mason that membership is predicated on a request to join and not on an invitation. Grand Lodge provides lodges with the printed word explaining its membership methods and Masons are encouraged to distribute this information to others.

Masonry is a better organization because it does not solicit or engage in membership drives or campaigns, but lack of knowledge and misunderstanding should never prevent or deter a man from seeking admission into one of the greatest organizations for the benefit of mankind this world has ever known.



Visit The Masonic Stamp Club  
Of New York, Inc. Lounge At The  
**ASDA National Postage Stamp Show**  
**At New York Coliseum, New York City**  
*November 19-22, 1981*

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# Did You Know?



**BASEBALL'S HALL OF FAME**  
CONTAINS ELEVEN WHO ARE  
KNOWN FREEMASONS.....  
TY COBB, CHRISTY MATHEWSON,  
TRIS SPEAKER, "PIE" TRAYNOR,  
MICKEY COCHRANE,  
EDDIE COLLINS,  
JIMMIE FOXX,  
LEFTY GROVE,  
WALTER JOHNSON,  
HERB PENNOCK, &  
ROGERS HORNSBY.



**OLDEST MASONIC TEMPLE** IN THE UNITED  
STATES WAS BUILT IN 1789 IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,  
AND HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS USE EVER SINCE.  
GOVERNOR EDMOND RANDOLPH LAID THE CORNERSTONE.



**PURCHASED BY MASONS**—THOMAS JEFFERSON, ROBERT  
LIVINGSTON, JAMES MONROE.

**EXPLORED BY MASONS**—MERIWETHER LEWIS, WILLIAM  
CLARK, ZEBULON M. PIKE, ANDREW HENRY.

**GOVERNED BY MASONS**—THE FIRST OFFICERS OF THE TER-  
RITORY INCLUDED LEWIS AS GOVERNOR; CLARK AS INDIAN  
SUPERINTENDENT; FREDERICK BATES, SECRETARY; OTHO  
SHRADER, SILAS BENT, PIERRE CHOUTEAU, BERNARD PRATTE  
JUDGES; THOMAS F. RIDDICK, CLERK; JEREMIAH CONNER, SHERIFF.

## President's Report 1980-81

By Allan Boudreau

The past year has been the most active and successful in the long history of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Regular monthly meetings were held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Collectors Club. These meetings were frequently devoted to the business and administrative affairs and viewing special Masonic stamp displays.

To encourage our ladies to join with us three special evening programs were held. October 11, 1980 was the Annual Dinner and honored our Past President, Joseph Nathan Kane. We dined in splendor among the treasures of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. On October 29, 1980 we (and all the ladies) joined The American Lodge of Research for a slide presentation of Masons - Philately - American History. On February 14, 1981 the Club hosted a special philatelic night and Valentine's Day program for all the members and their ladies. We were entertained with an art program by our Trustee, David Deutsch.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST, our Club publication, was issued on its regular quarterly schedule and compliments flowed in from many of our readers/members. Under the editorship of Dr. Irwin M. Yarry the MASONIC PHILATELIST has grown and prospered and is without peer in the field of Masonic Philately.

Membership increased last year and we expect this trend to continue. George H. Wettach, our Treasurer, has computerized our membership list and significantly improved communications with all members. A special bonus to all non-New York members was achieved with the New York Grand Lodge Magazine, THE EMPIRE STATE MASON, sent, bi-monthly, to all members of our Club.

After much discussion it was decided that the wishes of our members would be respected and no names and addresses and/or roster of Club members would be published. With the ever increasing number of philatelic thefts in recent years, the confidentiality of members names and addresses must be maintained.

Our special Bicentennial Program to support the Grand Lodge of New York was a special temporary Masonic

Hall Post Office Station during the Grand Lodge. The Postmaster of New York City and all his staff were wonderful in their support. The Masonic Hall Station operated from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on May 5, 6, and 7, 1981. Thousands of envelopes were sent in to this unique post office for a special Masonic cancellation.

Our Club designed and printed three special cachets with historical inner liners featuring, The First Masonic Hall in New York City, The Seal of the Grand Lodge of New York and the present Masonic Hall complex on 23rd Street and Sixth Avenue in New York City. The profit on the sale of these cachets will be donated to the Trustees of the Masonic Home to help support the Building Fund.

The regular Masonic Cachet program continued under the devoted Chairmanship of Past President Louis Bernstein. A special first-day cover for the Obelisk centennial on October 5, 1980 and a Masonic Stamp Club cover on January 4, 1981, the first day of issue of the Everett Dirksen 15¢ stamp, were issued and received with enthusiasm by our members and other interested collectors. Many of our earlier Masonic Stamp Club covers continue to be in demand and, regrettably, we cannot fill all the orders, especially for "out-of-print" issues.

At the Annual Membership Meeting on June 10, 1981 the following officers were elected and installed for the 1981-82 year:

President	Dr. Allan Boudreau
First Vice-President and Treasurer	George H. Wettach
Assistant Treasurer	Aydin Y. Turkman
Second Vice-President	Louis Bernstein
Secretary	Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
Chaplain	Joseph Nathan Kane

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Warren Ehrig	One Year
Joseph Levinsohn	Two Years
David Deutsch	Three Years

[All Past Presidents are ex-officio members of the Board of Directors]

# BOOKS FOR FREEMASONS

A new Masonic Home Building Fund project, sponsored by the William R. Punt Deputies, is a specially prepared Masonic cook book containing, in addition to the many recipes, items of interest and value to anyone planning a Masonic feast.

This is a limited numbered edition and any and all profits will go to the New York Masonic Home Building Fund.

Please send your check for \$6.70 (\$5.95 for the book and .75¢ for postage) to:

Mrs. C. A. George Room 1506  
Masonic Hall 71 West 23rd St.  
New York City, New York 10010

The new Fourth Edition of **FACTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTS** is a compilation of biographical, anecdotal, and historical information about every President from George Washington to Ronald Reagan.

**FACTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTS** is the definitive reference book on the American Presidency and also includes Masonic details. Essential for any student and/or scholar of American History it is available for \$25.00 (including postage and handling from:

The H. W. Wilson Company  
950 University Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456

**NEW YORK FREEMASONRY A BICENTENNIAL HISTORY** by Herbert T. Singer covers in detail the past 200 years of the Grand Lodge of New York and points out some of the Masonic accomplishments of the past as well as the directions for the future. Send your check for \$9.50 to:

Lodge Sales Room #1  
71 West 23rd Street  
New York, New York 10010



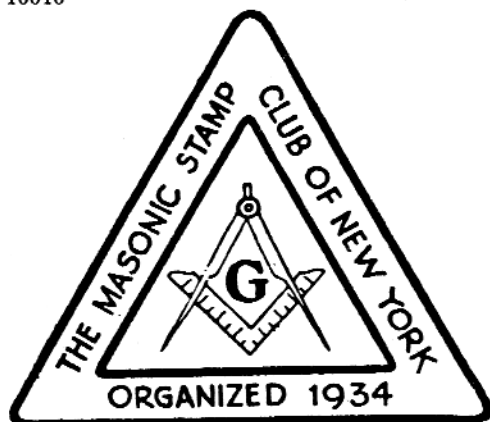
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

*Please Address All Communications To The*

**MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N. Y.**

c/o COLLECTORS CLUB

22 East 35th Street, New York City, N. Y. 10016



## The MASONIC PHILATELIST

DR. IRWIN M. YARRY  
EDITOR