



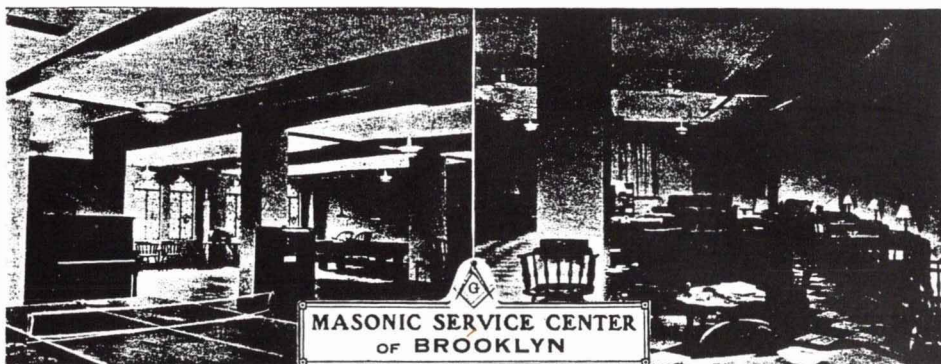
The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY
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VOL. 56

JUNE 2000

NO. 2



MASONIC SERVICE CENTERS OPERATED BY GRAND LODGE F. & A. M. OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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Masonic Postcard Collecting

Howard Lasker

Washington Lodge No. 85

Albany, New York

The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 56

No. 2

June 1999

Dr. Allan Boudreau
Editor & Publisher

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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REGULAR MEETINGS: 2:00 p.m., Second Wednesday each month except June, July, and August at:

THE COLLECTORS CLUB
22 East 35th Street
New York, New York 10016
Telephone (212) 683-0559
FAX (212) 481-1269



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.

The Editor invites all members to submit items of information and articles on the subject of Masonic Philately. Typewritten copy and/or camera ready items will result in the best possible presentation of your material if it is selected for use.

MASONIC POSTCARD COLLECTING

Howard Lasker

Washington Lodge No. 85, Delmar, N.Y.

It has been quite some time since I last wrote about the pleasure in collecting Masonic postcards. At that time, I remarked that as an adjunct to our hobby of collecting stamps and covers, an additional area of enjoyment was to seek out postcards picturing Masonic Temples, Shrine Mosques, Masonic Homes and Hospitals, Scottish Rite Temples, etc. All sorts of Masonic subjects are to be found.

I also mentioned our Masonic Service Association Centers in Masonic Temples during WW II. We all are aware that one of our Masonic principles is charity, being of assistance to our widows and orphans and distressed brothers when needed. We know of our Shrine Hospitals and of our support of research for cures for many of the medical ills that plague mankind. However what is not so commonly known is our aid and comfort to our servicemen and women during World War II, and our continued work with hospitalized veterans. The centers in our Temples were discontinued after the war but our work and visitations in our hospitals still goes on. The Masonic Service Association has representatives and volunteer workers in every Veterans Hospital in the U.S. We show our veterans that they are not forgotten and that "Masonry Cares".

Getting back to the years 1942 to 1945, many of our Masonic Temples opened their hearts and doors to servicemen and women. They set up recreation centers and lounges in their buildings, a place to relax and forget the war for a brief spell. The centers contained game rooms, ping-pong and pool tables. They provided reading rooms and writing rooms for letter writing. They offered coffee and refreshments and hot meals.

A number of these Temples provided picture postcards on which to write home. These cards pictured the buildings and the lounges and rooms provided. Some showed service people participating and relaxing. These cards are a historical reminder of what Masonry did during this period to serve our servicemen and women. They should be collected and preserved.. Without them, who will remember this?

The rough part is that these cards are rapidly disappearing, and becoming very difficult to find. For instance, the Grand Lodge of

New York issued a set of eleven cards picturing servicemen's centers in eleven New York Temples, Brooklyn, New York, Queens, Attica, Richmond, Sheepshead Bay, Black River, Syracuse, New Rochelle, Farmingdale and Huntington. In my collection I have ten of these, only missing Huntington, L.I. I have been searching for this card for a dozen years but to no avail. I'll keep hunting for it and it will be a great thrill if and when I can locate one.

So, as I have said, if you are looking for something additional to spice up your collecting, try hunting for Masonic postcards. Finding them, you will discover is a source of great additional enjoyment. If I have piqued your interest, anyone wishing to get his feet wet in this phase of Masonic collecting, if you write to me, Howard Lasker, 114 Eileen Street, Albany, N.Y. 12203, enclosing an S.A.S.E., I will get you started by sending you a pair of Masonic postcards as a gift.



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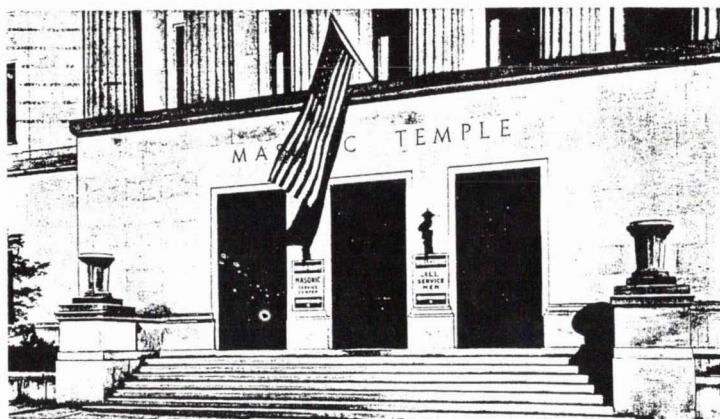
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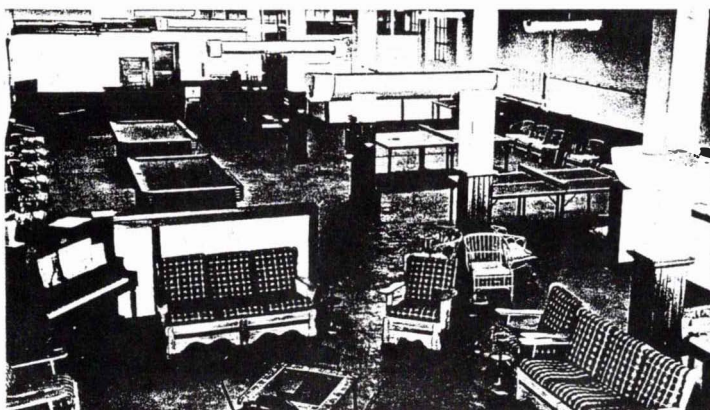
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Army and Navy Masonic Service Center—Masonic Temple, Trenton, New Jersey



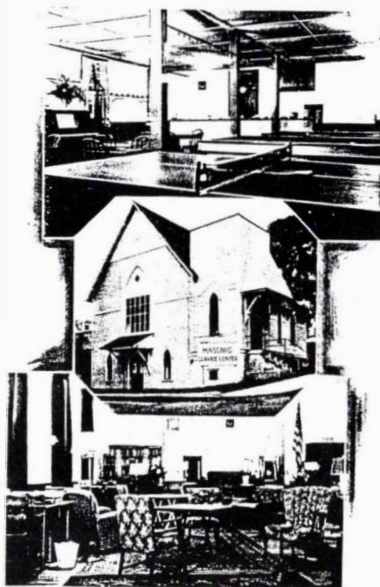
Army and Navy Masonic Service Center—532-34 Hay Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina



Army and Navy Masonic Service Center—105 Huntingdon St., New London, Conn.

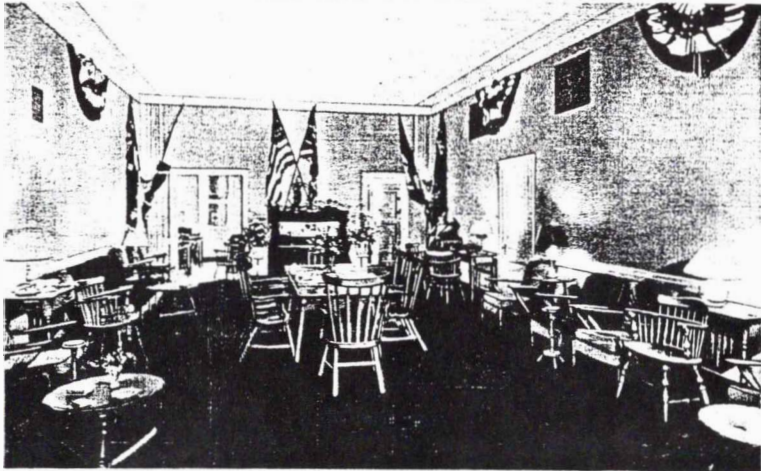


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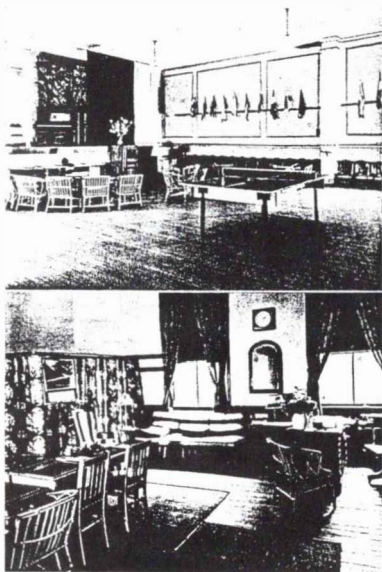
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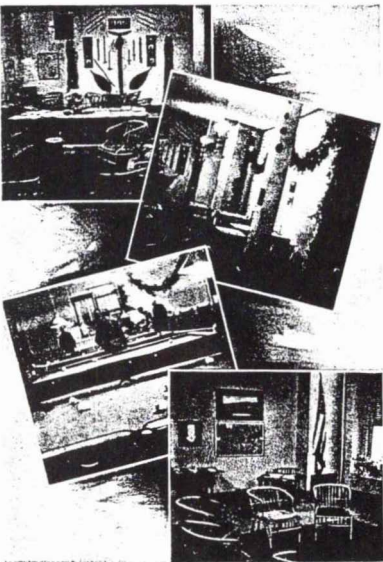
Army and Navy Masonic Service Center—Masonic Temple, 13th and N. Y. Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.



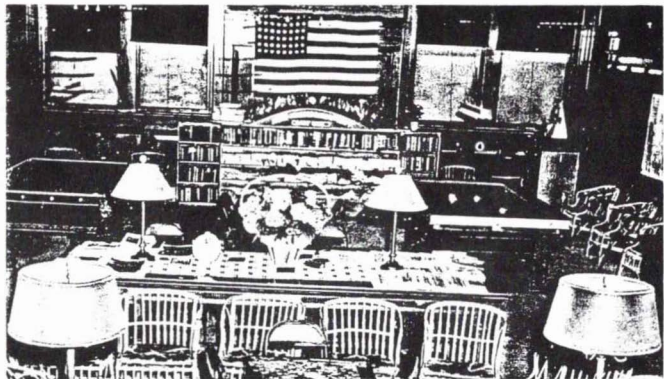
Army and Navy Masonic Service Center—1505 Sumter Street, Columbia, South Carolina



Army and Navy Masonic Service Center
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FLORIANÓPOLIS - SC - BRASIL

Florianópolis, April 27, 2000.

To
THE MASONIC PHILATELIST
22 East 35th Street,
New York, New York 10016
U S A

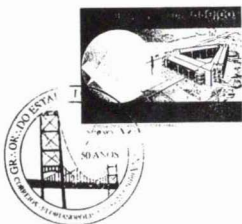
Dear Brothers

I am directing for publication in "The Masonic Philatelist" the last innovations of the Masonic philately of Brazil.

The interested ones can acquire them through the Masonic Philatelic Club of Brazil – P O Box 3085 88010-970 Florianópolis – SC – Brazil.

Fraternally and Respectfully

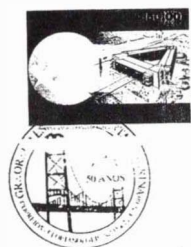
Bro. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm P.'M.'
President



GRANDE ORIENTE DO ESTADO DE SANTA CATARINA

FEDERADO AO GRANDE ORIENTE DO BRASIL

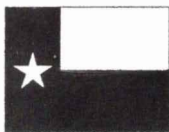
Carimbo Comemorativo alusivo aos 50 Anos – 12.04.2000 – Florianópolis - SC



GRANDE ORIENTE DO ESTADO DE SANTA CATARINA

FEDERADO AO GRANDE ORIENTE DO BRASIL

Carimbo Comemorativo alusivo aos 50 Anos – 12.04.2000 – Florianópolis - SC



James G. "Jim" Dougherty

W.: Grand Photographer & Member Public Relations Committee

Editor, The Texas Mason

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.



April 24, 2000

Dr. Allan Boudreau
One Washington Square Village
New York, NY 10012-1601

Dear Bro. Allen:

My latest cachet is enclosed and was serviced by our Grand Master's wife, Faye's, hand. This cachet isn't available until May 21, but we will take orders. Here are the details: We have had 250 cachets printed in 2-color (black and green) on 100% rag, ungummed flap, envelopes. All will be canceled in blue ink on the day of the 51st annual Masonic Oak Pilgrimage and barbecue. They are franked with the "Honoring Those Who Served" stamp. Cost is \$10.50 and includes 1st class return postage. 100% of the proceeds after preparation cost will go to the upkeep of Masonic Oak Park in Brazoria.

Just a little explanation. The Masonic Oak is the site of the first formal meeting of Masons in Texas in 1835. The men resolved to request a charter from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, which indeed, was granted and presented to Bro. Anson Jones. A cavalry officer in the Texian Army under Gen. And Bro. Sam Houston, he carried the document in his saddlebag through the Battle of San Jacinto, which sealed the independence of the Republic of Texas. The charter of Holland No. 1 adorns the wall of that venerable lodge in Houston to this day. Masonic Oak Park is owned by the Grand Lodge of Texas and is located on acreage once owned by Moses Austin, father of "Father of Texas," Stephen F. Austin.

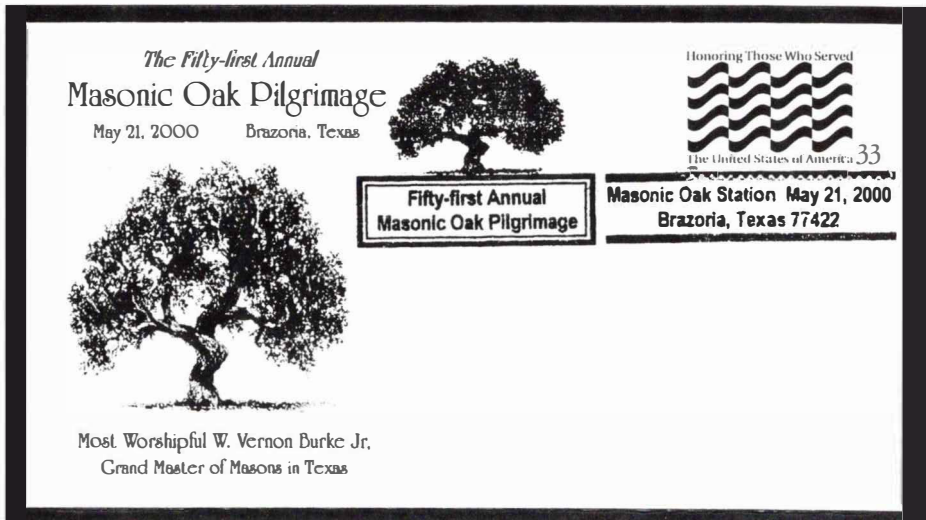
I'm really excited about this cover as the artwork was prepared by Victor Y. Armstrong, a Past Master of my Lodge, Parsons*No. 222, and well-known Western artist. Vic's family owned the Masonic Oak property for many years. I designed the cachet layout and the cancellation device.

Next month, I will have an Audie Murphy FDC. This past month the Sojourners chartered a new chapter for Dallas and named it after Bro. Murphy. I made a cachet for the event and sold all but a literal handful ... I saved one for you and one for Bob D. It is enclosed. Unfortunately, there are not enough to publicize. Had no idea the guys would buy me out ... plus another 20. I hurriedly had the PO stamp store lady cancel for me when she opened on Monday, the 17th, before she had a chance to change the cancellation device. The neat thing about the event was that Mrs. Audie Murphy came in from California to present the charter. There may be a cachet for Gen. Bradley, as well, if I can get decent artwork.

There is a Tranquility Lodge 2000 cachet and cancellation in the works in July. More on this later.

Better close for now. Thanks again for everything.

Warmest regards,





The New York Postmaster's Stamp of 1845

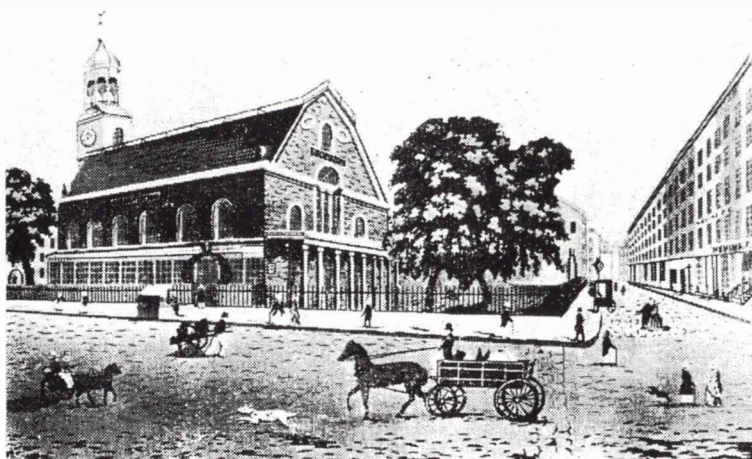
By James Brush Hatcher

THE first American postmaster to take his cue from Great Britain's "Penny Black" of 1840, and issue an adhesive postage stamp for interurban mail, was Robert H. Morris of New York. The year was 1845, and Morris had just been appointed by the newly inaugurated President James K. Polk.

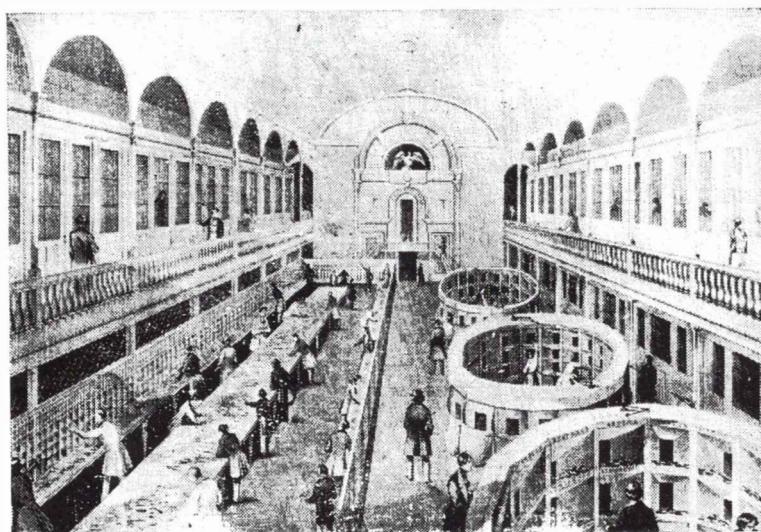
That was the year Florida became the 27th State, and Texas was annexed as the 28th. Mexico declared war on the United States. Andrew Jackson died at the Hermitage at 78. Annapolis acquired a school for naval officers.

And New York got a new post office on Nassau Street. It was really the Middle Dutch Church, remodelled, and it still looked quite ecclesiastical, steeple and all. Franklin had done his electrical experiments in that old wooden steeple. The church had been smashed up during the Revolution when the British were turning churches to military use. But it had been repaired for the worshippers in 1790, and finally the Government had bought it, taken out the pews and converted it into a gloomy post office. It had a postmaster's room arranged so that he could see everything that went on in the building.





Exterior view of the Middle Dutch Church. Located at Nassau and Liberty Streets, it became the New York Post Office in 1844.

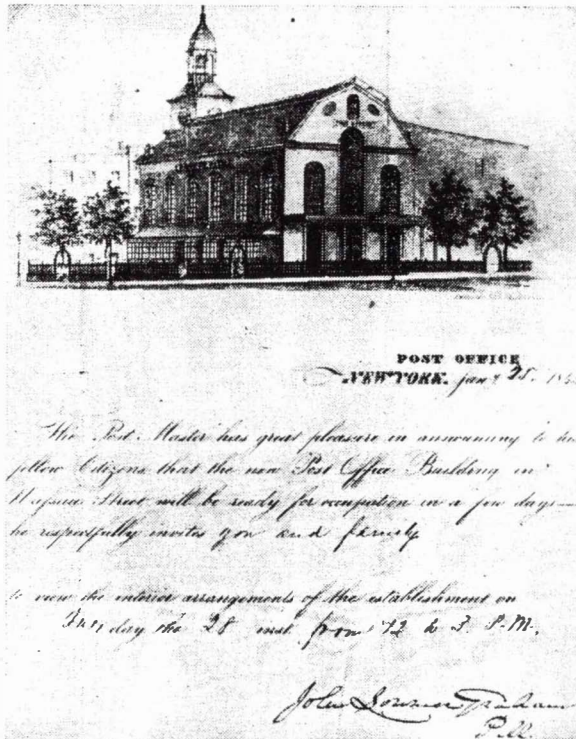


Interior view of the same post office showing clerks sorting mail and the postmaster's "eagle-eye" room.





The first proud postmaster to move in was John Lorimer Graham who held a preview on Jan. 28, 1845, for a select list of citizens and their families. The invitations "to view the interior arrangements" were extended on elaborately lithographed letter sheets bearing a picture of the renovated church. One of these quaint invitations is in the collection of Norman Serphos, president of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. With it, he has mounted a copy of Postmaster Morris's 5-cent black postage stamp.



INVITATION TO NEW YORK
POST OFFICE PREVIEW

The invitation was issued January 23, 1845 and signed by John Lorimer Graham, then postmaster.





Morris took over Graham's eagle-eye room at the post office on May 21, 1845, and promptly gave his order for the new stamp to Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, a reputable engraving firm which made bank notes and fancy letterheads. They took a medallion of Washington's head, after a famous Gilbert Stuart portrait, which was on a die then being used for bank notes, and engraved a suitable, dignified frame involving the words "New York," "Post Office" and "Five Cents."

The engravers delivered the first batch of these stamps to Postmaster Morris at the Old Dutch Church Post Office on July 12. He advertised them for sale on July 14, and copies have turned up on letters dated July 15.

The bill that Postmaster Morris received from the engravers for the first 1,000 sheets of stamps totalled \$55.01. That covered "engraving steel plate of Post Office Stamps, \$40.00. Printing 1,000 impressions, \$10.00. 167 sheets paper and gumming do. @ 3c, \$5.01." He paid the bill out of his own pocket.

There were 40 stamps to the sheet, in eight horizontal rows of five, but stamp collectors didn't know this definitely until 1921 when A. Hatfield, Jr., a studious philatelist, proved it. Collectors first thought the plate consisted of 100 subjects. About 1890, specialists questioned this, and eventually the experts decided there had been 50 stamps to a sheet. Finally Hatfield borrowed all the outstanding col-

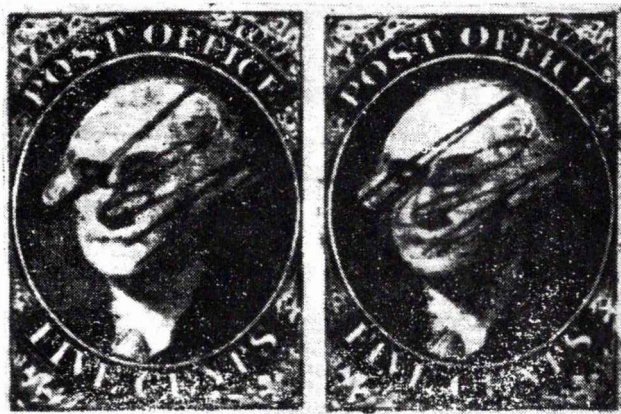




lections and dealers' stocks of this stamp that he could, had enlarged photographs made of all horizontal and vertical pairs, and found enough overlapping ones to prove his case.

The tiny marks which denote the position of a stamp in a sheet are slight shifts, scratches or dots, and finding them calls for a keen eye plus a jeweler's magnifying glass. Each of the 40 positions differs from the others in some way. There are shifted transfers on seven stamps and evidence of recutting on two, according to John N. Luff's "Postage Stamps of the United States," to which the writer has turned for several data.

Reconstructing a sheet of stamps in this manner is called "plating," and serious philatelists love it. It has the fascination of solving a murder case or deciphering a difficult coded message.



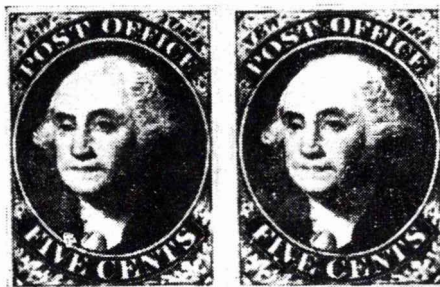
A specimen of the New York Postmaster's Stamp of 1845 with the initials ACM in red ink which Alonzo Castle Manson had his aides write on each stamp before it was sold to discourage counterfeiting.





Even in 1845, the fear of counterfeits was disturbing, so Postmaster Morris decided after the first day or so of stamp selling to write his initials on every stamp in red ink. He signed all the stamps on a few sheets, wearied of this monotonous task and called on his assistants to take over. So "RHM" copies are scarce. Most of the stamps are signed "ACM," for Alonzo Castle Monson, the postmaster's brother-in-law. A few were endorsed "ACM" by Marciana Monson, brother of Alonzo.

No one knows what happened to the original engraved plate, but the American Bank Note Co., successor to Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, is said to still have the original die. This die was dusted off in 1862 and a new plate made for George A. Hussey, obliging proprietor of Hussey's Post who supplied bales of local and other stamps to dealers. The new plate had nine stamps — three rows of three. These reprints are not hard to tell from the original printings, but are scarcer. From the original plate 142,240 stamps were printed, but it is doubtful whether as many as 2,000 copies have been saved.



An illustration of the 1845's without the initials





Pleased with his innovation, Postmaster Morris sat down on the same day he received his new stamps, July 12, 1845, and wrote to the postmasters at Albany, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington:

I have adopted a stamp which I sell at 5 cents each. The accompanying is one. I prefer losing the cost of making them to having it insinuated that I am speculating out of the public. Your office of course will not officially notice my stamp, but will be governed only by the post office stamp of prepayment. Should there by any accident be deposited in your office a letter directed to the City of New York with one of my stamps upon it, you will mark the letter unpaid the same as though no stamp was upon it, though when it reaches my office I shall deliver it as a paid letter. In this manner the accounts of the offices will be kept as now, there can be no confusion, and as each office is the judge of its own stamps there will be no danger from counterfeits.

The next year, 1846, Postmaster General Cave Johnson directed Postmaster Morris to sell small quantities of his 5-cent black stamp to the postmasters of Albany, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington so that this new postage stamp idea could be tested on an intercity scale. The stamps were to be sold only for letters addressed to New York City, and letters so stamped at the four other cities were

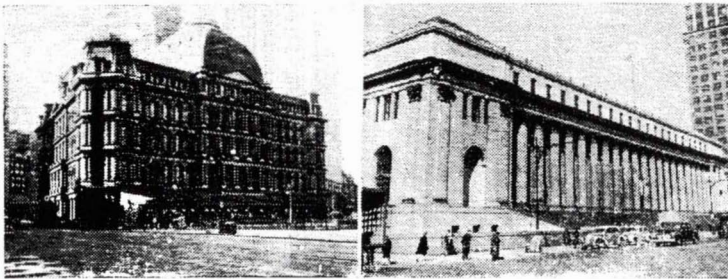




to be handled as though unpaid and forwarded to New York where the postal clerks would consider them paid.

For a little while this experiment was carried on, and today collectors are very happy if they can acquire specimens of this stamp on cover, posted from Albany, Baltimore, Boston, Charleston, Jersey City, New Hamburg, N. Y., Philadelphia, Sing Sing or Washington. The largest known block of the 5-cent New York stamp — an unused horizontal multiple of 10 consisting of the two bottom rows of a sheet — is held by Scott Stamp and Coin Co.

The success of Postmaster Morris's stamp was fairly evident from the start. His fellow postmasters at New Haven, St. Louis and Washington followed suit with stamps or stamped envelopes later in 1845, and those at Baltimore and Providence in 1846, not to mention the postmasters of several smaller cities. And in 1847, the Postmaster General issued adhesives for use throughout the United States.



TWO RECENT POST OFFICES

At the left: The General Post Office of 1875 showing loading platforms. At the right: The General Post Office of today which bears the famous inscription, "Neither Snow, Nor Rain, Nor Heat, Nor Gloom of Night Stays These Couriers From the Swift Completion of Their Appointed Rounds".





**THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA**

May 30, 2000

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Richard E. Fletcher, 1-301-588-4010

APPEAL FOR RELIEF IN NEW MEXICO

Wildfires have caused severe damage in the Los Alamos area of New Mexico and a separate fire is now threatening Santa Fe, New Mexico. There has hardly been time to assess the damage from one fire before a second one is threatening the same kind of damage.

There are many people in New Mexico who have lost everything as a result of this disastrous fire.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel will be appropriate to help our devastated Brethren in this stricken jurisdiction. Please make checks payable to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to 8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

Thank you very much for your help!

Most sincerely and fraternally,

RICHARD E. FLETCHER, PGM
Executive Secretary

The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street - New York, New York

Schedule of Events
(Social Hour 5:30 PM)
(Exhibit Opens 6:00 PM - Meeting 6:30 PM)

September 20, 2000
Quarantine and Disinfection
In the Age of Cholera
V. Dennis Vandervelde - London, England

October 4, 2000
Modern Stamp Production
Wayne Youngblood - Iola, WI

October 18, 2000
Cross-Border Mail
Dr. John L. Robertson - Warren, PA

November 1, 2000
Soldiers' Privilege Raters of the British Empire to 1898
Gerald Sattin - London, England

November 15 1999
Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast
David Herendeen - Harbor City, CA

December 6, 2000
Something for Everyone
David Springbett - London, England

January 10, 2001
Annual Meeting – Elections
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and explain rate as much as possible*

January 17, 2001
Post World War II France
Gene Fricks – Clementon, NJ

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