Clube Filatélico Maçônico do Brasil

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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
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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.

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.

Elizabeth Olson
New York Times

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BY ELIZABETH OLSON
WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 — A slice of 20th-century American history will be auctioned for the first time on Saturday in New York, when the National Postal Museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution, sells some 35,000 examples of ornate and colorful revenue stamps.

Among the stamps offered for sale are ones once affixed to wine, beer, narcotics and even marijuana as proof that "sin" taxes had been paid on those items. The federal government stopped using such stamps decades ago.

The liveliest interest has been in the marijuana stamps, which were used starting in 1937 when the Marijuana Tax Act was passed to control, and, some say, outlaw, the use of cannabis. Only a few such stamps are known to be in private collectors' hands. The stamps, which are yellow, blue, green and red, are being sold singly and in sheets.

But the sale, which is expected to raise $2 million for the Smithsonian's National Philatelic Collection, includes a broad variety of other revenue stamps for silver, snuff, filled cheese and distilled spirits. Also on auction are stamps for transactions of documents and stock transfers.

Often confused with postal stamps, revenue stamps were first issued in the colonial era more than 250 years ago. Their use on a large scale began to finance the Civil War's estimated $3 billion cost. The Union government issued 102 different stamps over the four years of the war to tax almost every commercial document as well as items including matches, medicines, perfumes and even oleomargarine.

Using stamps for some transactions, as well as certain so-called sin items, continued until the 1970's. Starting in 1954, the Internal Revenue Service began donating 1,900 various examples of ornate and colorful revenue stamps.

The investment that got away: from pennies in 1941 to $25,000.

The decision set off a controversy among stamp collectors and dealers because the museum said it would burn some stamps. Collectors and dealers fought that, and the museum agreed that it would, instead, mark some of the stamps with ink to differentiate them from more valuable mint-condition examples, and sell the marked ones as well.

Among the stamps expected to bring the highest sums at the auction are three rare 1941 series wine stamps, unmarked, each of which is valued at $25,000. There are also three examples of another wine stamp, the 17/10 cent stamp, which are each expected to fetch about $10,000, because there is only one recorded example in private hands. These stamps are also unmarked.

Stamps on liquor are often the largest ones because they were attached to wine cases or beer barrels. Narcotics stamps charged one cent an ounce for opium, coca leaves and drugs derived from those substances.

Other items expected to bring high prices are sheets of stock transaction stamps, valued at $40,000 to $50,000 each, and a sheet of 18-cent narcotics stamps, distinctive because of their long, thin shape, which were affixed to bottles of medicines. That sheet is expected to bring $10,000, according to the pre-auction estimate.

Still, the marijuana stamps have elicited the most interest.

"About 50 percent of all the questions we are getting relate to the marijuana stamps," said Ted Wilson, registrar of the postal museum.

"These are not collectors, but are people who are just fascinated by them," he said.

Marijuana was among the drugs set to be regulated under the 1914 Harrison Narcotics Act, but the pharmaceutical industry opposed such regulation, arguing that the substance was not habit-forming. As a result of this pressure, marijuana continued to be sold legally for medicinal and research uses.

After decades of debate over its dangers and how to regulate it uniformly among the states, which treated marijuana with different degrees of strictness, the federal government taxed it starting in 1937, said Richard Friedberg, a revenue stamp dealer in Meadville, Pa., who wrote the foreword to the auction catalog. Doctors and dentists had to pay the tax if they wanted to continue prescribing the substance for patients.

The Marijuana Policy Project, an independent research group, and other researchers say the stamps were not that widely used, and that the effect of the 1937 law was to outlaw marijuana. In 1971, marijuana was included in the Controlled Substances Act as an illegal substance.

Adding to the marijuana stamps' aura, about 37 of them were stolen from the philatelic collection in the 1970's. Three of those were recovered. Of the others, some had serial numbers, but none have ever appeared for sale, Mr. Wilson said.

Proceeds from the auction, to be held at the Four Seasons Hotel by Matthew Bennett International, will be used to buy early United States postal stamps and early Confederate state stamps for the stamp collection, said Wilson Hulme, the postal museum's curator of philately.
The Masonic Philatelist

Websites and Links of Use to Masonic Philatelists

*Linn's Stamp News*, the weekly publication that has long been a must for serious stamp collectors, found in a recent survey that over 40 percent of its readers used computers for their collecting activity. The traditional sites for stamp collectors like conventions and stamp shows still exist, stamp club activity on the Internet are growing at a rapid pace.

eBay and other auction sites on the internet seem to be increasing the number of people interested in collecting postage stamps and other postal history items. One study disclosed that there are 40,000 to 50,000 lots of postage stamps on eBay alone. The stamps available on eBay range from the most common varieties to rarities in the $5,000 to $10,000 range.

In an attempt to answer the many inquiries we have received seeking information on Internet websites and links of use to Masonic Philatelists we have put together this preliminary list. This article is a work in progress. We ask that our Club members explore the suggestions here and please give us some feedback. Please let us know what should be added, corrected, or eliminated to eventually achieve a resource that is of value. Please send your feedback to Allan Boudreau at ab1105@columbia.edu.

[Website Link]

www.grandlodge-england.org.uk
Official website of the United Grand Lodge of England
Very informative and useful site with link to MQ Magazine article which includes information regarding The Masonic Philatelic Club (England)

Membership in the Masonic Philatelic Club is open to Freemasons in good standing of the English Constitution and All other Constitutions recognized by that body. The current Annual subscription is £7 for members residing in the UK and £8.50 for those residing elsewhere, payable on 1st January each year. Applications for membership should be made to the Secretary, M. Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland, UK TS10 4JS. An application form may also be Downloaded from the Club’s website at www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.
www.americantopicalassn.org
Official web site of the American Topical Association
Access to ATA Masonic Study Unit
Bimonthly Publication *The Philatelic Freemason*
And ATA Handbooks

#141 *Masonic Philately US and Canada*

#145 *Government Issue Masonic Stamps to 2000*

www.gwmsc.tripod.com
Official web site of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club
Information on the George Washington National Memorial
In Arlington, Virginia – unique covers honoring George Washington,
Complete details regarding the Master of Philately Degree

www.marih.free.fr

*Franc-maçonnerie, Chroniques des Francs-Maçons illustrées par les timbres, philatélie, philatélie maçonnique...*

Chroniques et Histoire des francs-maçons illustrées par les timbres,
Philatélie Maçonnique, philatélie, histoire, maçons, francs-maçons, timbres,
catalogue, masonic stamps, philately, history, freemasonry.
Official web site of Club Philatélique J. T. D. Very comprehensive site
available in both French & English For full use of the site a membership fee
is charged with a special rate for members of Masonic Stamp Clubs

www.msana.com
Official web site of The Masonic Service Association an excellent source of
information and where a description of the book *Masonic Philately* by
Christopher L. Murphy is posted and the book available for purchase

www.collectorsclub.org
Official web site of The Collectors Club in New York City
Contains links to many philatelic organizations and a detailed schedule of
the Programs presented at The Collectors Club in New York City

www.filateliamaconica.com
Official web site of the Club Filatelico Maconico Do Brazil
Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, P.'M.'.,33°
Caixa Postal 3085
88010-970 Florianopolis – SC, Brasil

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.
125 години
Масонство в България
By the time you get this Newsletter you should have received your 2004 book. It is a little late because we always wait for the printer’s down time which allows us to take advantage of lower costs. We hope you enjoy the book The Craftsman and Templar’s Textbook as we prepare the 2005 offering which might be one of the many recently suggested by you, the members.

The deadline for DUES for 2005 is April 1, 2005 the dues notice is included with this newsletter. Early collection allows us to pay the pre-printing cost and to do any research necessary for the 2004 book to be produced. Early submission would be appreciated. Postage rates in the United States increased once again, but the cost to ship a book overseas is now $5 or more depending on the country. Your generous donations have allowed us to keep the membership rates at the same cost at 15 years ago. Let’s hope we can continue. Starting next year we may raise the dues $2 per year until we reach $20.

For the Club to operate we need approximately 1500 members. During this last year we lost over 200 members to death and 50 to resignations. The majority of our members are over 60. Therefore we are asking each of you to try to sign up a new member. We will reward the new member by sending him a bonus book from our past offerings. Please help us out. All we need is name, address, Lodge and the dues.

Enclosed please find an envelope for your dues. $15 U.S. and Canada and $20 for all others. If you have already paid for 2005 please ignore this note. Please enclose the Tear-off below with your dues. US currency, US checks or international money orders are all that can be accepted. We cannot accept credit cards or internet payments such as PayPal because we have experienced problems with them.

Number_________
Name_____________________________________
Street Address_________________________________
State__________________ Zip_________
Phone_________________ e-mail_________________
Amount included__________________________
Please duplicate as needed:

THE MASONIC BOOK CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Robin Carr, Secretary 1811 Hoover Dr. Normal, IL 61761-2202
Phone 309-452-4769 e-mail rlcarr@maililstu.edu

Name

Street Address

State

Phone Number

Occupation

Education

Masonic Background

Received

Accepted

Rejected

Membership Number assigned
This envelope is a collectible Postal Cover prepared to commemorate a specific event. Cover was prepared to honor you as a veteran.

The stamp depicts the WWII Memorial designed by Ms. Patricia Whelan, Postmaster, and features a cachet, comes from an official photograph of the envelope by Joe McElroy, a decorated Vietnam veteran and owner of Professional Printing Services, Inc. in New Jersey.

Post 38 hopes you will enjoy this as a reminder of your service as a member of The Greatest Generation.

You might wish to share this Cover with others who have an interest in Philately (the collection of stamps) and historic events such as World War II.

Tribute to a Generation
Gambler detective, person, organization, locale, etc. This of World War II.
1 in Washington, D.C. and was first issued The cancellation on the stamp was Haddonfield. The color illustration, called of the Memorial; it was printed on the veteran, member of Post 38, and the in Haddonfield.
remembrance of the day you were honored with others, particularly young people who postal materials), as well as significant

Tom Reilly
856-429-0227
The Philatelic Foundation

A Not-for-Profit Corporation
Chartered by the State of New York
and
Devoted to
Educating, Expertizing and Publishing
Since 1945
The Philatelic Foundation is a "Not for Profit" organization chartered by the State of New York in 1945. It is carefully monitored by an eminent group of thirteen collectors and six professional philatelists who exercise their position with utmost dedication.

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Expertizing Services

Before 1945, there was no central expertizing service in the United States to render reliable, independent opinions on the genuineness and condition of stamps and covers.

In addition to its full time staff, the Expert Committee is chaired by Alex Rendon; moreover, the Foundation’s metropolitan-area location makes it accessible to numerous experts who graciously volunteer their experience for specialized situations.

Expert Committee opinions are expressed in written Philatelic Foundation Certificates which include the submitter’s name, catalogue description, the Committee’s opinion and a picture of the item tied by the Foundation Seal. Faults, counterfeit and gum condition varying in a range from “without gum” to “never hinged” original gum are disclosed. “Definition of terms”, a booklet which describes all the terms used on Foundation certificates, is available upon request.

With over 400,000 certificates issued, the PF remains the dominant expertizing service, a service which is able to rely upon the finest reference collections available.

“With Philatelic Foundation Certificate” is the most prestigious assurance of quality which is relied upon by collectors and dealers the world over.
The Library and Reference Collections

More than 5,000 philatelic studies and monographs, our 250 plus volume reference collections, virtually every important auction catalogue, plus specialized publications are all available for research. Highlights include:

- a complete photographic record of all items that have been expertized by the Foundation since 1945.

- a complete photographic record of the world famous Caspary collection on its original album pages.

- the research records of Stanley B. Ashbrook, one of the leading students of U.S. and Confederate stamps.

- the famous John H. Luff reference collection, along with his research notes and philatelic library.

- the Sperati forgeries, the Marcel Lutwak U.S. revenue collection, L.H. Barkhausen U.S. postal stationery, and many other notable stamps and postal history pieces.
"With Philatelic Foundation Certificate" is the most prestigious assurance of quality which is relied upon by collectors and dealers the world over.

The Philatelic Foundation
70 West 40th Street (The 15th floor)
New York, NY 10018
Tel: 212 - 221 - 6555
Fax: 212 - 221 - 6208

Website: www.philatelicfoundation.org
E-mail: philatelicfoundation@verizon.net
Equipment

Our scientific equipment is the best now available to any expertizing service. The equipment includes binocular and comparison microscopes, paper micrometers, ultraviolet, infrared, and other radiant energy sources. More recently, other advanced technology is being applied to special problems, including photometric color determination, x-ray fluorescence, and spectrophotometry.

How can you participate?

Use of our services: For a small percentage of the total value of your purchase, you can obtain an independent check on the condition and authenticity of your stamps and covers.

As a contributor: Our expertizing service is sustained by the fee schedule; however, publications, educational programs, seminars, slide programs, occasional purchase of important items for the reference collections, and of course, the ongoing need to update computer systems and scientific equipment all require extra monies.

While there are many important general and specialized societies, The Philatelic Foundation is the only group devoted solely to expertizing stamps and covers and the dissemination of information on its findings to the philatelic community. No matter what other organization you belong to, the Philatelic Foundation deserves your support.
Presented below is a condensed version of a feature from our *Opinions VI* which is still available from booksellers.

**A Philatelic Bodyslop**
by William T. Crowe

The intrigue of an inverted element of a stamp has attracted fakers over the years. Detection of the more skillful examples of their work may be difficult if certain tests are not used or known.

![Fig. 1](image1.png)

*Fig. 1. The engraved design of the center extends into this frame. . or does it?*

One of the most interesting U.S. printing errors is the inverted center. Patient No. 221,748 is an example of a well traveled and skillful fake. This stamp was first submitted to The Philatelic Foundation as patient No. 4,459 in 1953. It was submitted a second time in 1973 as patient No. 40,136 and most recently in January, 1990 as patient No. 221,748. Each time it was correctly identified as a fraudulent though very deceptive example.

![Fig. 2](image2.png)

*Fig. 2 The work of the faker is revealed when the stamp is examined in fluid.*
Using the Reference Collections

Question: What's wrong with this pair?

Answer: Nothing (other than the centering). If they were better centered, the pair of Scott #388's would be worth a considerable sum. Even this far off center, they are worth more than this lovely, but fake, Scott #349 line pair from our reference collection. Upon comparison, we easily spotted the differences in perforation and size.

Publications

Over the years, the Foundation has published dozens of books and periodicals including its latest, Caribbean Neptune, and most prominently, its ongoing series of Opinions books which now number six; these informative books give the reader an inside view of the ramifications of what happens in the rendering of an opinion and should be on every collector's bookshelf.
December 29, 2004

Dr. Allan Boudreau
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Dr. Boudreau,

The Board of Governors and membership of the Collectors Club gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution of the Masonic Stamp Club to our organization in December 2004. Your thoughtfulness helps make possible the Club’s many activities and promotes the cause of philately, the hobby that enriches all our lives. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Reinhard
President

In compliance with federal tax law, we are required to state that no goods or services of substantial value were exchanged for your contribution, and that the full amount of your gift is eligible for a federal income tax charitable contribution deduction. This acknowledgement may be used for your tax records to substantiate your donation.
Program & Calendar of Events
Social Hour at 5:00 PM - Exhibits Open 6:00 PM
   Meeting 6:30 PM
   Dinner Nearby 8:00 PM

March 2, 2005
Netherlands Military Mail and Related Subjects 1568-1839
   Kees Adema, Fairfield, CT

March 16, 2005
Egypt; Five Hundred Years of Philately
   Dr. Peter A. S. Smith, Ann Arbor, MI

April 6, 2005
Come Take A Ride on the Hindenberg
   Cheryl R. Ganz, Chicago, IL

April 20, 2005
Nineteenth-Century Samoa
   Jan B. Berg, Stockholm, Sweden

May 4, 2005
Booze, Carriages, and Watches: Taxing Luxuries 1791-1817
   Ronald E. Lesher, Easton, MD
The Masonic Philatelist

May 11, 2005

Annual Awards Dinner
Lichtenstein Award
Cornell Club

May 18, 2005

“Monte Carlo” Collection
United States Classics 1847-1869
Charles F. Shreve, Dallas, TX

May 21, 2005

Champion of Champions
Omar Rodriguez, New York, NY

June 1, 2005

The Royal Philatelic Society London Presentation
(Meeting starts at 2 P.M.)

June 1, 2005

Exchange Visit and Display by Club Members at
The Royal Philatelic Society, London
41 Devonshire Place, London, England

June 15, 2005

Lincoln Vignettes on 19th Century U. S. Stamps;
Essays, Proofs, Stamps and Postal History
William J. Ainsworth, Roswell, GA

July - August
Summer Recess

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.