

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York



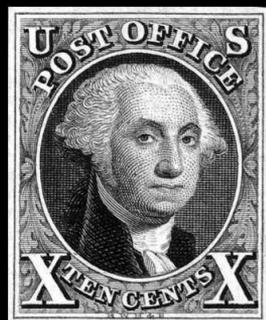
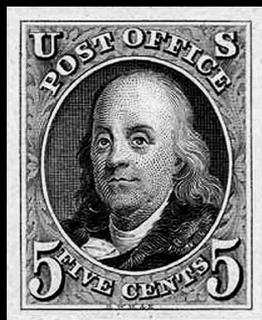
**NY
2016**

**WORLD STAMP SHOW
NEW YORK CITY**

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized by a group of Freemasons in 1934. At that time, the Club did not have any particular stamp specialty. It was common knowledge that both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were Freemasons and shown on the first two stamps issued by the United States, but this just received passing interest. However, over the next few years it was seen that many Freemasons, were depicted on stamps, along with other Masonic references, and thus the term *Masonic Philately* was coined to cover such stamps. There are six classifications of stamps in this specialty, which range through stamps specifically honoring the Masonic Order, Freemasons depicted on stamps, and stamps with other direct or indirect Masonic references.

The Club continued to maintain interest in general philately with numerous member presentations at stamp shows in the United States. In 1944, it published a newsletter which soon brought requests for membership throughout the world. The newsletter was eventually given the name *The Masonic Philatelist* and in time became a professionally printed magazine that has continued to the present day.

In 1936 the Club petitioned the United States Postal Service for a stamp showing George Washington being inaugurated as the first President of the United States. President Franklin



Roosevelt (a Club member) granted the petition (stamp issued shown).

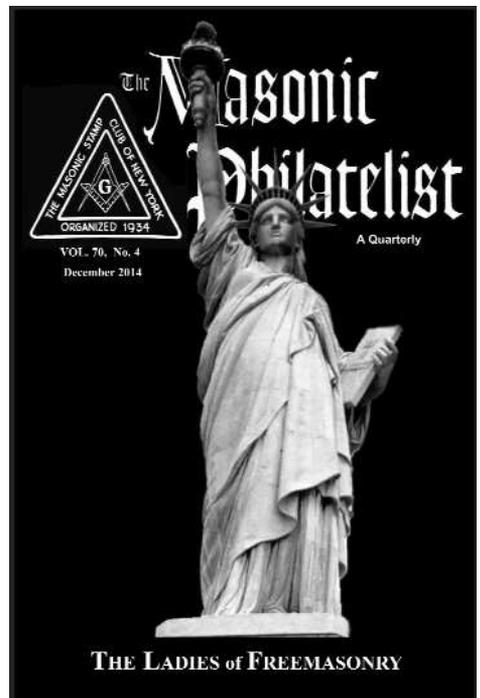
In 1956, Cuba issued the first stamp specifically honoring the Masonic Order. It was issued concurrently with an Air Post stamp of a similar design. Over the next 60 years other countries followed suit, and such stamps became known in philately as Government Issue Masonic Stamps. At this time there are 87 government issued Masonic stamps world-wide, and about 2,000 regular stamps depicting Freemasons. The number of stamps in the other classes is not known, but would definitely be in the thousands.

Many requests from non-Freemason to join the Club resulted in the decision to have an open membership policy in 2000. Anyone interested in philately was welcomed as a new member and the Club benefited from their knowledge and contributions.

Masonic Philately became recognized by the American Topical Association and handbooks have been published on this specialty.

In 2012 research was commenced to determine the number of musicians depicted on stamps world-wide who were members of the Masonic Order. A total of 77 stamps were found, which resulted in the Club's special publication, *Masonic Musicians*. It is reasoned that the study of other disciplines in the arts would produce similar results.

In early 2014, the Club em-



barked on a massive program to post its archives (70 years) on an Internet website, and provide extensive information on Masonic Philately. The site continues to grow, and at this time is the largest and most comprehensive on this subject. Presentations on philately in general as to historical information are also featured.

On January 1, 2016 the Club adopted an informal membership policy (no dues). Its quarterly publication, *The Masonic Philatelist*, is posted to its website and can be viewed by anyone throughout the world. The quarterly, which is now a 48-page booklet, is still published and sent to selected major public and private institutions (includes public libraries) for the benefit of those who do not have Internet access.

Individuals who wish to have a printed copy can apply under our subscription process.

Our Club, which is a non-profit organization, now operates strictly on donations. At this time, a new Club booklet (in color) is available, which provides a detailed account of all Government Issued Masonic stamps. A profile of the issuing country is shown along with stamp images and relevant information. The booklet is provided on our website, but for those who wish to obtain a professionally printed copy, for a donation of \$15 US or more, an autographed booklet will be provided.

We welcome all stamp enthusiasts, regardless of their particular interest, to visit our site and submit philatelic related articles for possible inclusion in our quarterly publication.

Our Club is headquartered at The Collectors Club building in New York City, shown on the right. We look forward to hearing from you, or your visit to our website.

Our best wishes are extended to the WSS 2016 – New York.

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MASONIC POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD

Class I – Government Issues



Special Publication

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