

THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

BULLETIN NO. 3

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HARRY M. KONWISER, EDITOR

OUR NEXT MEETING

Will be held Friday May 26th at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, at which time a members competition will be held. The subject, U.S. Bring and show 25 pages from your Collection, and of course Every Meeting Night is Swap Night. Plenty of time for those interested in the collector's favorite pasttime and the facilities are perfect., stamps and covers. And remember: You are cordially invited to bring your friends to all meetings. Talk about the Club to your Masonic Stamp Collecting friends.

NEWS

Jake Glaser, who is really responsible for our meeting at the Collectors Club, assisted by his Son, moved our exhibition frames from Masonic Hall to our new location, where they are now stored.

OUR NEW CHAMPION

Our Annual Exhibit was held May 5th, bringing out a nice attendance to view 22 frames of choice material shown by 11 members. The exhibition, under the leadership of Carl E. Pelander, was judged by Mr. Norman Serphos, President of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Frank "Denmark" Mayberry, and Edward E. "G.B." Elkins. The Grand Prize winner was Andrew Rasmussen, a fine showing of U.S. Proofs. Second Prize went to our President, Dr. George Camnitzer, for his display of German Colonies; Third, Dr. Irving Yarry, Jamaica Postmarks; Fourth, William Staecher, U.S. Commemoratives; and the Booby Prize to Dan Brengel of U.S. Farleys. Other exhibitors were Charles Brooks, Forest Ellis, Ferrars H. Tows, Dr. Charles H. Johnson, Alex Watts and Sam Brooks. The Prizes were donated by Sylvester Colby, Carl E. Pelander and Dr. George Camnitzer.

SOME MORE GOOD NEWS

We had a visit from our former Treasurer, Fred Wendel. Our best detectives could not locate Fred, but in he walked, the same old Fred and looking as spry as ever. We expect reports on some of our other wandering Brothers, either in person or by mail. And that reminds us, we can use plenty of help on this Bulletin. Members are encouraged to write all types of material, either of philatelic or friendly interest. We want Brother Pech to tell us a few stamp stories. We would like to hear from Bill Labashin, who we understand is moving to a new location, from State Island. And perhaps we can hear from Solo Goldsmith from the "Wilds" of Nevada. And what is on YOUR MIND?

WHO IS "BED-RIDDEN MEMBER?"

Our President received an anonymous card declaring it to be the duty of the Club Members to visit "Bed-Ridden" members. Of course it is our duty. But??? Who??? Mr. Postal Card Writer is "Bed-Ridden" Member? Inquiry at recent meetings has not uncovered any information. We are anxious to obtain details, but Brothers, let's be told in a manner befitting a Member of the Craft.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

Members desiring opinions on stamps, seeking definite information on a stamp, may have an expert's opinion by writing to Sidney Barrett, 97 Nassau St. New York, N.Y. Brother Sidney is well qualified to "expertize" any adhesive in the book. This is a "for free" service to members, and by Mail Only.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Members are urged to plan now to attend our Annual Meeting on June 30th. New members of our Board of Governors, and new Officers are to be chosen. Every member is eligible for office, so do attend, nominate, and Elect.

TEANECK TIP ON STAMPS

Gordon Johnson, one of our "all-too-quite" members who is the President of the Teaneck Stamp Club, suggests that the brethren of the Masonic Stamp Club "take a night" and travel to Teaneck to show and talk on Stamps. Not a bad idea, and will the management please take notice? Incidentally the "Tea-Stamp News" issued by the Teaneck club, in a recent number, urged beginners in stamp collecting to take due note of the financial rewards likely in the collecting of charity stamps. The writer in the "News", Herbert Skinner, points out the wide range and notes cheerfully that certain stamps of this group have advanced in price. And here is a tip----"Semi Postals of Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands and Colonies, as well as France, are all dividend-payers of the first order, yet, strange as it seems, the first of the family of charity stamps remains the catalog stepchild. New South Wales B1-2, issued in 1897, price about \$1.00, is still catalogued about \$10.00. Yet in 25 years of collecting I have seen just three of B1, two of which I secured. B2 I have been privileged to gaze at once". The once was at an Auction.

And while talking about tips on stamps---Harry Lindquist exhibited and spoke on April 28th on Guatemala, Norway and War Savings Stamps. These, all made famous among stampsters by the one-time curly-headed Harry, are presented here for what they are worth. No warranty is to be had, obviously responsibility cannot be assumed. The Bulletin speaks. Incidentally, Brother Lindquist is planning a trip to several countries south of Mexico soon, and on his return we will learn all about the stampic virtues of a good number of South American lands.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS

Clarence Brazer, former member of the Board, and recognized authority on Proofs and Essays, will make up for recent non-attendance at meetings, by writing a short paper for the Bulletin. Clarence is the Editor of the "Essay and Proofs Society Journal" and this quarterly is a "beaut", or to be more erudite, presents the interesting story of U.S. Essays and Proofs in a distinguished manner. The reading matter is interesting, well-told and instructive. By the way---Clarence founded the Essay-Proof group, which now has a roster of 200 members. Interested in Proofs and Essays? Join this live group.

The Procedure Before Stamps Are Issued.

By Clarence W. Brazer

The historical data behind a postage stamp begins after the idea to approve an issue has been properly considered. The regular routine of artist's designs, or models, are prepared and then the procedure of vignette and letter engravers are required to complete the proposed Die.

Prints are occasionally taken from the die when partially completed, to show the engravers the amount of progress of their efforts. When the whole design is engraved then the Die Essays in various colors are printed on India paper in order to submit same to the proper authorities for approval.

Sometimes miniature or full sized plates are then made from which the plate essays in various colors are proffered for the final checking of approval. Essays are cataloged in Essays for U.S. Adhesive Stamps by C.W. Brazer and Proofs are cataloged in Scott's U.S. Catalog which also includes Trial Color Proofs. The authorities in charge may advise changes in the design, which when printed and finally approved for the issued stamp, are thereon termed "PROOFS".

These proofs may be in several Trial Colors from which the color for the stamps is selected. When proofs of the design and color are finally found to be satisfactory, then the plates are made, and PLATE PROOFS printed on India paper for another checking before the plates are hardened and the general course of printing is inaugurated.

These unaccepted Essays, Trial Color Proofs, normal color Die Proofs, and Plate Proofs are sought for by collectors, and are greatly treasured as scarce historical items. They are printed with great care, and selected qualities of ink, so that the finest impressions make it possible to effect a beautiful relief of the stamp design. Few specialized collections may be regarded as complete without the historical essays and proofs.

Plate proofs in normal colors were reprinted on cardboard the plates used for the stamps, in 1879, 1885, 1890, January 1893 and May 1893. Each of these five printings of cardboard proof's included all stamp designs issued prior to the respective dates of printing. Each time they were cut apart into singles and 500 sets were enclosed in printed envelopes and freely distributed. None have been made on card since 1894. As only the May 1893 printing included the 1890 8¢ and 1893 8¢, only 500 full sets of these issues are available to Philatelists.

JOHN PAUL JONES



Jones and Barry
4 cts



One of a series of stamps issued during 1936 and 1937 to honor Military and Naval heroes of our Country. This stamp, to honor John Paul Jones, was issued on December 15, 1936 at Washington, D.C. In addition to the portraits, are shown ships of that time including the "Bon Homme Richard".

BORN—July 6, 1747 at Arbigland, Scotland.
DIED—July 18, 1792 at Paris France

Raised November 27, 1770 in Bernard Lodge No. 122, Kilwinning, Scotland. He also held membership in the Lodge of the Nine Muses, at Paris, France.

Born John Paul, son of a poor gardener, he had as a young man, a varied and successful career at sea.

In 1773 he came to America to settle the estate of a brother. He decided to set up as a planter and remained here.

One of his neighbors was a gentleman by the name of Wiley Jones who was of considerable help to the young planter. Out of gratitude he added the name Jones.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Jones, a sea-roving adventurer, quickly offered his services to the Continental Congress. On December 7, 1775 he received his Commission as Lieutenant in a Continental Navy. He commanded the "Alfred", the "Ranger" and the "Bon Homme Richard"

On September 23, 1779 in a battle off the Northeast Coast of England, he engaged the British ship of War "Serapis". In a desperate and spectacular battle he captured the "Serapis". During the battle, when called upon to surrender he replied, "I have not yet begun to fight."

After the war, the Navy being neglected, Jones went to Russia and was commissioned a Rear Admiral in the Russian Navy. He did not like the Service and returned to Paris where he died at 45 years of age.

On April 7, 1905 his remains were discovered in an abandoned cemetery in Paris, and was removed to the United States. On July 24th of that year, his body was interred in the Chapel of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

He was the first to receive a Commission as Lieutenant in the Continental Navy. He was also the first man to command a War Vessel for the United States Navy.