



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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What do you collect ----- and why not show it to us ????

There were seven exhibitors at the members competition of "Side lines and Oddities" on May 4th. And each collection was different. Charles Zenker started the show with a colorful collection of Poster stamps, foreign fiscals, foreign revenues, Christmas seals and what have you? But he took second prize with it. Charlie is proud of the fact that every item was acquired through swapping.

Dr. Irwin Yarry took 3rd prize with a collection of old stamp journals, Most of them No. 1.

Carl Pelander then showed a beautiful collection of oddities in the stamps of PONGA. Double surcharges, half surcharges, surcharges on surcharges and other odd items. This collection as well as the next group by Harry Konwiser were "not for competition". H.M.K. showed the early Postal History of the U.S. by means of covers, Postmasters bills and other rare early papers.

Next came Fred Hill, who received Honorable Mention for a collection showing the "Life of Christ" in connection with 1¢ "Four Freedom" stamps.

Forrest Ellis celebrated his return to the club by taking 1st Prize with an excellent display of source material for U.S. Stamp designs.

Our Program Chairman, Charles Brooks, closed a swell show by showing designs of U.S. stamps from his fine collection.



ALL OUT FOR THE

mighty 7th WAR LOAN

MEETINGS

- | | |
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| MAY 25th | Family Night--The Carla Pelander collection of "Animals On Stamps" will be shown. |
| JUNE 1st | Annual Meeting--Election of members of Board of Governors. |

MEETINGS FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH
COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING 22 East 35th St. N.Y.

CARLA'S ZOO

BY

CARL PELANDER



Western Cattle
in Storm



Dove of Basel



Orang-utan



Native Parrot



Camels



African Gazelle



Seal



Quetzal Bird



Merino



Pied Fantail



Eagle



King Penguin



Giraffe



West African Buffalo



Bull



Codfish



Kookaburra
(Kingfisher)



Beaver



Kangaroo

By request of our good Editor, and as a preface to the showing of my late daughter's collection at the Masonic Stamp Club, I will here attempt to give an idea of how this collection was started.

About 11½ years ago I was asked to look over some stamps for Vahan Mozian and, in leaving my home, was requested to take my 3½ year old daughter along. After completing my task Gregory Mozian asked Carla if she also collected stamps, to which she promptly replied, "Yes, Animal Stamps!" I was rather taken back by this, but refrained from any remarks. Down came several stock books, and in no time Carla was the proud possessor of about 50 new Birds, Beasts, and Fish stamps plus a small loose leaf miniature album, all the gifts of our good friends. Upon arriving at home I asked her about her animal collection and out came a Maxwell House coffee can inside of which was a glassine envelope with five stamps, all having animal designs.

The above adventure, or easy way of getting new treasures, was rather appealing to this youngster, so that whenever she suspected me of going to a stamp office, she wanted to go along. Her winning ways soon found a number of friends, and in those early days Eustace Power, Paul Albertis, Kellog Stryker, and a number of others became the founders of this collection, which on her eighth birthday, the 20th of April 1938, was shown at the Collectors Club's Junior Exhibition, and won second award.

That night was the beginning of a real collector, because, due to her charm and personality she made a host of friends. Letters and contributions kept pouring in, sometimes as many as 15 letters a week. She was always careful to reply with a "thank you" letter in return, which of course brought more stamps. Soon rarities began to find their way into her collection, such as the Dove of Basel by Bro. Col. Wilson, the \$1.00 Omaha by Ezra Cole, the 5sh Falkland Islands Penguins, etc. Her album by now had long since been inadequate, so three new albums were donated by Philip Robbins of Elbe Binder Co. In getting these she conceived the idea of devoting the first page to signatures of those who donated to her collection, and soon this page looked like a "Who's Who" of Philately

In mounting her collection she was always careful in familiarizing herself with her stamps. Whenever there was a strange animal she did not know, she would delve into the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and later spring her new gained knowledge on her unsuspecting parents.

Her unique way of collecting stamps soon brought requests to show her collection, and at the age of 10 she was the guest speaker at "Ye Kings Highway Stamp Club" in Noroton, Conn. Then followed the Philatelic Congress where she stole the show, Gimbels, and many other showings. Her speeches were never rehearsed, but always spontaneous, and very amusing due to her intersprinkling of Kipling's "Just So Stories" and personal remarks regarding her own feelings of the design or corner card.

It did not take long before even the three albums were inadequate, and when 11 she received from me eight new Oriol Albums. Shortly after getting these new albums she asked at breakfast, "Dad, can I have \$15.00?" Asked for what purpose, she replied, "I want to go to Pratt Institute to take up a course in lettering, so as to be able to re-mount my collection". After completing her course at Pratt, the task of re-mounting started, and by now this collection had grown to be one of the outstanding in the World, being about 98% complete at the time of her death.

Carla's collection was shown several times, and in competition won a gold medal at Bronx, a gold cup at Newark and other awards. She also had a 30 frame display at the Bronx Zoo, Horns and Heads Museum, in conjunction with the Chase National Bank's coin exhibit.

Her fans all over the world were loyal to her to the last day, and even on that day came an unusual rarity from her great admirer Arthur Linz, whom she had dubbed "Sir Arthur".



African Elephant



Chinchilla



Toucan



Kiwi



Masonic Cancellations.

More than fifty post offices in the United States, in the 19th Century, used a Masonic sign or emblem for varying periods as cancelling devices on postage stamps. It might be assumed these post offices were manned by members of the craft or at least that the Postmaster was a Mason.

The late Charles Gramm, a member of the Masonic Stamp Club, said the earliest cover of the Masonic type, known to him, was a Square and Compass design, used on a 3¢ stamp of the 1857 vintage, postmarked at Chicopee, Mass.

Masonic cancellations were private markings, permitted to be used as "killers" on the stamps of the 1857-1890 period

OUTING AND PICNIC AT TAPPAN - SUNDAY JULY 15th.

In conjunction with the American Stamp Dealers Assn. the Club will act as host to your family and friends. Bring a basket filled with food, we'll supply the liquid refreshments. Plenty of fun for all in a real beauty spot. Games, indoor and out. Come spend a day in the country with your friends. The cost will be nominal.

MYSTERY SOLVED

When Andy Rasmussen, won the big prize last year, he carried it home and sort of vanished. The mystery of his disappearance was solved, when he walked into our last meeting in the uniform of the U.S. Maritime Service. Andy is a Yeoman stationed at Kings Point, L.I. Good luck to you, from all of us.

POST RUNNERS OF AN EARLY AMERICA

Written Especially for the MASONIC PHILATELIST
by Frank I. Morse.

Postal Historians can say what they please and shout their claims from the roof tops, the Postal System is an American Institution as much as it is European, Asiatic or What Have You. Isolated from the outside world by unpenetrable mountains, the Incas of South America or better perhaps of Peru, outmatched the civilization of the then known world; for as early as the thirteenth century they had a communication system functioning which kept the government authorities at Cuzco in constant touch with the remotest regions of their Empire.

About 1425 this system was in the zenith of its working order. On all the roads leading to the capital, at Cuzco, at intervals of about a mile, post runners were quartered in post houses for the speedy delivery of messages and parcels. In these post houses two runners called Chasquis were stationed. There being no written language, these runners conveyed from one post house to the other and thence to the capital, government messages, either by word of mouth or by quipus (knotted cords). Urgent messages were accompanied by a thread of the crimson fringe of the Ruler's headdress. These Chasquis were dressed in their own peculiar livery designating their profession, and were trained for their work and chosen for their speed and trustworthiness.

Not only messages but fish fresh from the ocean and tropical fruits were conveyed over these routes to the capital by these runners and delivery at the capital was guaranteed within the day. Records of that time show no civilized government with a system of message delivery equal to that of the Inca. As the postal system is part of the communication system, and as the Inca Runners delivered messages, and as message delivery is the postal service's chief idea, this system of Inca Runners was the earliest known postal system in the Americas; therefore the Postal System is as American as it is anything else.

On April 27th, we were privileged to see Fred Hill's collection of "Religion on Stamps". He showed us four albums, each one more beautiful than the other. Fred uses black pages lettered in gold with much of the text printed in gold ink. Each stamp is illustrated with a picture, some of which were hand painted. As one of the viewers put it, this collection is a "labor of love". We hope some day to see more of Fred's collection.

The next two meetings, bring to a close one of the most active years the club has enjoyed. Thanks to Charles Brooks, our Program Chairman, our members took part in many stamp activities and saw many fine collections.

On May 25th, the Carla Pelander collection of "Animals on Stamps" will be shown. This evening has been given over to entertain your family and friends. You won't disappoint them, and they will thank you for having invited them.

We close the year, with our Annual Meeting on June 1st. New members of the Board of Governors will be elected. Perhaps you have an idea for our activities for next year. Come down and tell it to us. It is your duty to attend and voice your opinions.

Much credit must be given to our President, Dr. George Camnitzer for a splendid year of entertainment and instruction.

