



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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Meetings You May Have Missed.

January 25th, Brother Alex Watts showed four volumes of his famous collection of Jamaica. An appreciative group saw not only fine stamps, but displayed in a manner that made even the commoner varieties appear like rarities. All present agreed that this was one of the finest displays shown at the Club. Thank You, Alex.

February 1st, was one of the busiest evenings at the Collectors Club Building. It was like a four ring circus- three Club meetings and a public stamp Auction, all going at the same time. We venture to say, however, that the best bet was on the third floor. It was there that Brothers Sidney Barrett and S. Duffield Swan literally held a large group spellbound with their showings of what was said to be the finest collections of Masonic Cancellations. This popular phase of Stamp collecting was thoroughly displayed by two of the out-standing leaders of the group. We are greatly indebted to these two gentlemen for a really fascinating evening.

George Washington Stamps.

Our project for a frame of George Washington stamps is nearing completion. During the past week we received some of the early numbers, and we have promises of the few remaining stamps. It is possible that we may make the presentation, the latter part of March.

We are grateful to the following, who contributed to this project: Edward W. Abell, Sidney Barrett, Clarence Brazer, Sam Brooks, Dr. George Camnitzer, Charles Carpenter, Arthur Deas, John A. Fox, Jake Glaser, Herman Herst, Gordon Johnson, Harry Konwiser, Charles Lott, John W. Nicklin, Gordon T. Shoop, Alex Watts, Dr. Irwin Yarry.

MEETINGS

March 1st Members Competition U.S. & Possessions
(limited to 40 pages or 15 minutes)

29th Past Presidents Night.

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

Federal Postmasters Of Boston Who Were Masons

Number three in a series by Frank I. Morse.

Nahum Capen

Note: The records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at Boston fail to disclose that any of the last four Crown Postmasters of Boston were Masons. That being the case, we continue the story of the Federal Postmasters who were Masons.

On June 4, 1857, President Buchanan appointed Nahum Capen, Postmaster of Boston, to replace Edwin Curtis Bailey. Brother Capen was born April 1, 1804, at Canton, Mass. Capen moved the Post Office to the corner of Summer and Chauncey Streets, February 1859.

The records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts show that Nahum Capen joined Columbian Lodge September 6, 1827, signed Boston Declaration 1831 and affiliated with St. Johns Lodge, Boston, 1834.

Capen was a publisher who took a fling at writing. He was associated with the firm of Marsh, Capen, Lyon, Boston Publishers, edited the Massachusetts State Record from 1847 to 1851, wrote books about the United States and Democracy, and essays upon International Copyright

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Our Annual Members Exhibition

April 5th is the big night of our annual exhibition. Are you preparing for this important event? Charlie Brooks our Program Chairman is making plans for the best exhibit we have had. Now is the time for you to slick up your album. And how about coming to the next meeting to talk it over with the other fellows.

Donald F. Lybarger, President of the American Philatelic Society, writes to the Editor,

You ask for a tie-up of Ohio Masonry with Postal history. I believe that could be accomplished without too much difficulty since most of the early settlers of Ohio who took a prominent part in affairs were Masons. Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr., who, as nearly as I can tell was the first Postmaster in the state of Ohio, was a member of American Union Lodge at Marietta, having been made a Master Mason January 11, 1791. Meigs was Postmaster General of the United States 1814-23; previously, he had served as U.S. Senator from Ohio and Governor.

Of course Rufus Putnam, who was the leading light at Marietta, was a very active Mason and in 1808 was elected Grand Master at the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. (See U.S.#795, Ed.)

John Walworth, Cleveland's second Postmaster and really the one who established the office in this community, was a member of Concord Lodge #15 which was instituted at Cleveland January 9, 1812. Turhand Kirtland, one of the proprietors of the Connecticut Land Company and a leading settler in the Western Reserve, was the first Postmaster in one of the communities of Northeastern Ohio which was important in the early days, namely, Poland, Trumbull County, Ohio. He was the first Worshipful Master of Erie Lodge #47 at Warren, Ohio, which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Walworth (mentioned above) belonged to Erie Lodge prior to coming to Cleveland.

-Attention Members-

The article in the next column was first published in the N.Y. Masonic Outlook. We know that you will all heed the plea by sending stamps and albums to the children at the Home. This was once a major project of the Club. We should revive it, now that a competent collector is in charge of the activity, Send all material direct to Bro. Knight at the Home.

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Who will help here?

I do remember that at one time Bethel, Denmark and Kennebunk port, all in Maine, used the Square and Compasses as a killer and very likely the P.M.s at the time were Masons.

--Sterling T. Dow

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In a December display of Kit Carson material the Colorado State Museum, Denver, is displaying the famous Scout's Masonic ring.

--E.N. Barker

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ORIGIN OF COILS

The first suggestions to the Post Office Department for the printing of coil stamps came from the manufacturers of stamp mailing and affixing machines, which were placed on the market about 1902. The government issued for this purpose the one and two cent stamps of 1902-03 in imperforate form. In order to use the stamps in many of the earlier machines, it was necessary to cut the sheets into strips by hand.

THE COLLECTION OF STAMPS

Hobby of Kings, and King of Hobbies

By CHARLES G. P. KNIGHT

MANY people may be surprised to know that there are over six million stamp collectors in the United States. They are found in all walks of life, from little children to the highest government officials. The educational value, as well as the pleasure of stamp collecting is rapidly being recognized by educators. Many public schools, veterans' hospitals and other institutions have organized stamp clubs with excellent results. A great many countries have issued stamps picturing their industries, exports, heroes, scenery, sports and other objects of note. These, alone, serve to impress children, and they begin to seek information about them. This leads to a deeper interest in their studies, especially geography and history. Some curious facts are connected with stamps. Take, for example, St. Kitts-Nevis, which in 1903 issued stamps with a vignette of Columbus, depicted looking through a telescope, seeking to sight land. This is a laughable error, as the telescope was not invented until one hundred years after Columbus died.

Then there is the story about how a stamp changed the route of the Panama Canal. Early in this century the route of the proposed canal was being fought in Congress, as to whether it should run through Nicaragua or Panama, with the Congressional Committee in favor of routing it through Nicaragua. A few days before it was voted on in the Senate, it was reported that Mt. Momotombo, which was beside the path of the proposed Nicaraguan route, had become active. This was officially denied, and a statement was made that the volcano was extinct. A young French engineer possessed some copies of a Nicaraguan stamp depicting this mountain in a state of eruption. He sent a copy of this stamp to each Senator and when the vote was taken, a few days later, the Panama route was passed, thanks to a postage stamp.

Some years ago, in Westchester County, at a stamp club meeting, one of the children told me he had heard there was a stamp with a picture of Satan on it. Upon telling his father about it his father had laughed and promised him a stamp album if he could show him such a stamp. I assured the child there was such a stamp and secured for him a copy of the stamp issued by Serbia in 1904. This stamp shows two heads; those of Carageorge and Peter I. When this stamp

is turned upside down, there is a perfect picture of his satanic majesty. The engraver of this stamp was a rabid revolutionist, and it was his way of showing hatred and contempt of the reigning dynasty. This story has a tragic but happy ending. Tragic for the engraver, who was executed for the crime of lese-majeste, and happy for the boy, who got his stamp album.

Dr. William T. Clark, Superintendent of the Masonic Home at Utica, New York, of which I am a member, has requested me to organize for the children of the Home a stamp club which will eventually include the adult members. In order to make this successful, we will have to call on our Masonic Brethren for assistance. May we say that if those who have any old, forgotten collections or accumulation of stamps, or are in a position to secure any foreign or United States stamps and will send them to us, their help will be gratefully appreciated. We hope the readers of this article who are stamp collectors will send us some of their duplicates periodically. It will also be appreciated if the Secretaries of the Lodges will read portions of this article pertaining to the club and its needs at their next meeting. All correspondence regarding the club, and letters containing stamps, are to be sent direct to the writer, in care of the Masonic Home. Thank you one and all for the cooperation we are confident this request will receive.

OUR JOB

Getting out a paper is no picnic.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly.

If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other papers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves.

If we don't we are stuck on our own stuff.

If we don't print every word of all contributions, we don't appreciate genius.

If we print them, the columns are filled with junk.

If we make a change in the other fellow's write-up, we are too critical.

If we don't we are blamed for poor editing.

Now, like as not, some guy will say--

We swiped this from some other sheet.

We did.

Masonry In The Texas Republic

John W.Hale, writing* on the early days of Masonry in Texas, places the beginnings of Masonry in Texas in 1828. The first attempt to institute a Lodge on Texas soil was made by Stephen F.Austin and others. Since Austin is depicted on a United States stamp, the beginnings of Masonry together with the stamp, makes for philatelic interest.

Austin is shown, together with Sam Houston, on the Texas postage stamp of 1936. This stamp commemorated the Centennial of Texas Independence. The current Texas stamp, issued in December 1945, commemorates the admission of the Texas Republic into the United States as a State in the Union.

The pioneer Lodge, on February 11, 1828, addressed its petition to the Grand Lodge of Mexico, asking for a Dispensation to form a Lodge at San Felipe de Austin, to be known as the "Lodge of Union." The York Masonic Lodge, Hale states, was expelled from Mexico by a decree of the general government, and this first effort of Texas Masons was futile.

The second attempt was made by Anson Jones, Asa Brigham and others in 1834. They met with J.P.Caldwell, in a secluded spot on the west bank of the Brazos River, near the town of Brazoria, under a large live oak tree and decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form Holland lodge.

In due time the Dispensation was granted. Holland Lodge was so named in honor of the Grand Master of Masons in the State of Louisiana. In 1836, the records and property of Holland Lodge were destroyed by General Urrea and his Mexican troops. Other Lodges were formed under the Louisiana jurisdiction in 1837.

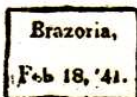
A convention of delegates from Holland, Milam and McFarland Lodges, met in the Senate Chambers of the Republic of Texas at Houston, December 30, 1837. They formed the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. General Sam Houston, then President of the Republic, presided. Dr. Anson Jones was elected Secretary.

Among the early Texians in the Republic period, many were Masons, and were active in the founding of the Republic. Among these was Robert Barr, Postmaster General of the Republic of Texas.
-----Harry M. Konwiser

*John W.Hale, in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Jan. 1946.

Sam Houston
Sam Houston
Frank as U.S.Senator

Robert Barr
Robt. Barr.
Postmaster General
Republic of Texas



Early Postmark
Republic Period.