



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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In our last issue we wrote of the suggestion that a "Publication Fund" be raised to assure the continued publication of the "Masonic Philatelist." We hoped for some financial assistance so that too great a drain would not be placed on the Club treasury. We were unprepared for what followed when Bro. Carl Felander spoke in favor of the plan, and backed it up with a generous contribution. Soon other Brothers signed the subscription list and sums from one dollar to 25 dollars were pledged and paid. Nearly \$100 was raised, all for the continuance of a little paper that has tried to link up our hobby of Philately with our great Masonic Fraternity.

Then and there a vote of confidence was given your Editors, not with up raised hands but with materialistic dollars. The "Masonic Philatelist" will continue to be published, if only to merit the confidence placed in us.

We are tempted to make promises of future plans, which may later prove to be only visionary dreams. We will content ourselves by saying that we will continue to search out articles that will be of interest to you; articles that will tie in Masonry with stamp collecting; stories that will bring to light the great part the Craft has played in our early history and its connection with our Postal History.

One other suggestion made at the last meeting, has been followed. Our new fund has been named, "The Ralph A. Barry Publication Fund," in honor of the late President of our Club. We want this Fund to grow. Will you place your name on the Honor Roll of Donors? You may send cash, or if you prefer, some of your good stamps or covers, which will be sold at a Donation Auction later in the season.

----The Editors

MEETINGS

APRIL 26th Trading-- talk & stamps. Spot Auction.

MAY 3rd Members Competition--- Miscellaneous and Side-lines only.

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

PAST PRESIDENT'S NIGHT

The meeting of March 29 was well-captioned "Past President's Night" and the members (and visitors) were well entertained with the exhibition put on under the supervision of Charlie Brooks, chairman of our Program Committee.

Dr. George Camitzer, the first to show and chat on his stamps, presented an interesting collection of Great Britain's Mulready Envelopes, also Caricatures of these unusual envelopes, likewise British Penny Post envelopes.

Carl E. Pelander, hitherto acknowledged premier "shower" of Scandinavian stamps surprised the members with his Tonga collection, highly specialized, showing many unlisted varieties and covers of the first issue. The showing in blocks and other multiple pieces, as well as singles, indicates this ex-President, has made a proper study of the little-known Tonga stamps.

Henry Holcombe presented an unusual offering in "Bank Note Issues" consisting of ads in the form of Bank Notes, from 1851 on; also a portion of his famous Match Stamps on original covers. Both of these collections rate as unique.

Our first President, the ever-ebullient Arthur Deas, showed his modern foreign covers, and to top it off presented every one present with a loose-leaf pocket binder.

All in all, a goodly throng enjoyed a pleasant evening.

---H.M.K.

Paul Jensen writes from Aruba-

"I have just received a copy of the "Masonic Philatelist" and it certainly is quite a large and interesting issue.

About my stamp collecting, I have received a number of nice covers from Denmark and Sweden since the war is over. Also a number of stamps issued through the years of occupation. My Father-in-Law has been very good in gathering all he came across in Denmark, and sent me enough to keep busy for a long time. All I need now are some pages for my album, Scotts hinged-post, so I can bring my collection up-to-date.

Curacao issues are far between and the last issue, Scott's No. 152 through 160 and 164 through 169 were very limited, so that even collectors locally were not able to get a complete set. Airmails and some older issues are used for regular postage at present. If the last issue will come back or a new issue come out I don't know. Postal Authorities here do not give much publicity to new issues.

We recently had a First Flight from Curacao to Amsterdam Holland, and a number of covers were sent from here. The K.L.M. had an envelope printed for the occasion and people could two each. I sent a couple in regular Airmail envelopes to Holland and Denmark, but although they made the flight, were not stamped with the cachet. Am enclosing a copy of one of the covers.

When I have something of interest for you, I shall write you. Please give my regards to the "Boys" at the Club and tell them that I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting oftener. Paul E. Jensen

Past President's Nite on March 29th as reported by HMK was a huge success. We hope it will be repeated each year, and that these four gentlemen and their successors, will be around to show their stuff, for many many years to come.

Harry's account of the meeting is a reporter's view point and tells only the bare facts. We have, however, in our file a detailed account prepared by our "Literary Reporter," Harold Jay Snyder. It is rather lengthy and will not fit into one issue. We expect to bring it to you in several installments, principally because it gives an excellent idea of the collecting activities of the former leaders of the Club. Look for these articles in future issues.

INTRODUCING BRO. BEARE

Bro. Charles W. Beare, of Fort Gage, Illinois, recently affiliated with the Masonic Stamp Club, was raised May 25, 1943, in Kaskaskia Lodge, No. 86, Ill. His philatelic career began in the latter part of 1931 and was helped considerably in the early part of 1932, "at which time (writes Bro. Beare) I was in the fourth grade."

Minus acquaintance with any collector able to suggest a proper approach to collecting Bro. B. accumulated stamps that came his way and when he had access to the Sixth Grade, in due manner, made the acquaintance of a friend who had some foreign stamps. These were the first foreign stamps seen.

In the High School period - let's read the Beare letter and quote "Planter Peanuts was giving away stamps as a present for empty bags. Then I became acquainted with a big stamp company, and through them got a real album (to replace the composition book with its stuck down stamps of other years). Most of my stamps come via approvals."

Further, writes Bro. Beare "About six years ago I bought a new International and am still using that album. Other than the Masonic Stamp Club, I a member of the S.F.A., & the A.P.S."

Bro. Beare is Senior Warden of Kaskaskia Lodge, which is an old Lodge - in fact one of the first in the Mississippi Valley. Its original charter was from the East, and was first located at Old Kaskaskia, Ill. The Lodge was moved to Ellis Grove, the old charter was lost and a new one acquired.

When Lafayette visited the United States, in 1824, he sat at Old Kaskaskia - in the Lodge, and presented the Lodge a sword at that time. The Kaskaskia Lodge still has the sword.

-----H.M.K.

R. W. Franklin Driana Knusselt

He was a member of Holland Lodge No. 8, F. & A. M., in the First District of Manhattan having been

Initiated on October 10, 1911

Passed on November 14, 1911

Raised on November 28, 1911

He became a 32nd Degree Mason in Albany, N. Y., on February 28, 1929.

He became a Right Worshipful by being accredited the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia near the Grand Lodge of the State of New York on September 22, 1930.

He became a Shriner at Cyprus Temple, Albany, N. Y., during the month of March 1930.

He became an Honorary Member of Almas Temple at Washington, D. C., on May 26, 1933.

He raised his son Elliott Roosevelt at Architect Lodge No. 519, F. & A. M., at the Masonic Hall, New York City, on February 17, 1933.

He raised his sons James Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., at Architect Lodge No. 519, F. & A. M., at the Masonic Hall, New York City, on November 7, 1935.

He became an Honorary Member of Architect Lodge No. 519, F. & A. M., on November 7, 1935.

He was an Honorary Grand Councilor of the Order of De Molay.

He Passed to the Great Beyond on April 12, 1945

Check List--Roosevelt on Stamps

BRAZIL--Pan American Union stamp

COLUMBIA-- set of overprints

GUATEMALA--Pan American Union souvenir sheet

HONDURAS--8 values to be issued

HAITI--20¢ black, 60¢ blk, airmails

NICARAGUA--6 postage and 5 airmail to be issued in June

LIBERIA--3¢ and 5¢ postage
70¢ airmail

GREECE--30dr., 60dr., and 200dr.
(possibly two printings)

CHINA--details not available.

CUBA--2¢ stamp, no other details.

TURKEY--U.S. Constitution issue.

U.S.--5¢ U.N.O. with his name.
1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢ memorial stamps.

---Franklin R. Bruns, Jr.

The "CONGO BELGE" Overprints

The stamps of Congo, before 1908, were inscribed "Etat Independant du Congo" which, translated, means "The Congo Free State." On November 15, 1908 the Congo Free State became a Belgian colony, and an overprint was provided for a provisional issue both for the stamps and the postal stationary. Under the decree providing for this, stamps without the overprint were withdrawn as of August 1, 1909. The overprinted stamps were withdrawn during the period of January to April, 1916, the date varying in the different districts.

The stamps overprinted were Scott numbers 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, (not officially), 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30. The overprinting was done by the use of handstamps applied at Brussels, by handstamps applied in the Congo, and by printing, which was also done in Brussels.

The Brussels handstamp was applied to a rather limited quantity. It is characterized by being carefully applied, the ink being an intense black. There were eight different handstamps used, of which only types 11, V and VI are known on all of the series. The overprint was intended to cover the word "Independant," but has been found misplaced on the 5, 10, 15, 25, 40 and 50 centimes stamps and on the 1 franc.

The stamps overprinted in Congo are noticeably less distinct. The ink used appears greasy and is generally a violet-black, frequently showing through to the back of the stamps. In rare instances a blue ink was used. Here, as in Brussels, there were eight handstamps, which differ from the ones used in Brussels, as well as from each other. Apparently the different types were applied at different places, as follows:

Type 1 at Boma, for the Controller of Posts.
Type 11 at Banana
Type 111 at Matadi
Type IV at Boma
Type V at Leopoldville
Type VI at Thysville
Type VII at Bumba
Type VIII at Matadi (Railroad).

CONGO BELGE

(type of overprint)

In addition to type 1, all types were used by the Controller of Posts at Boma on occasion. The Congo overprints were not carefully applied and often appear, whether by accident or design, inverted, misplaced and double. Each type is known on all stamps of the series, except that no copy exists of type VIII on the 40 centimes stamp.

The printed or typographed overprint is of two types, the large and the small. The large overprint measures $1/4$ mm. longer than the short one, and appears on four stamps of each sheet. Inverted overprints have been found on the 5, 10, 25 and 50 centimes and the 3.50 franc. Pairs with the overprint straddling the two stamps are found of the 5, 10, 15, 40 and 50 centimes, and the 10 franc. A double overprint on the 25 centimes exists. Very minor differences in the printed overprints can be detected and the stamps can be plated by this. When the so-called Prince's issue was produced in March, 1909 the cliches were reassembled and appear in an entirely different order. By this the special printings can be positively identified if the stamps are found in blocks.

---Arthur I. Heim



Climbing Oil Palms



Congo Village



Port Matadi



Hunting Elephants



Bangala Chief and Wife

some of the overprinted stamps