



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOLUME III No. 3

JUNE 1946

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

EDITOR: Sam Brooks 985 Anderson Ave. New York, 52, N.Y.
ASSOCIATE: Forrest L. Ellis 2120 E. Tremont Ave. New York, 62, N.Y.
MANAGING EDITOR: Harry M. Konwiser, 181 Claremont Ave. N.Y. 27, N.Y.
Secretary of The Masonic Stamp Club:
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, 61-23 Roosevelt Ave. Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.

PRESENTATION OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON FRAME

June 7th, a Special Meeting of the Club, will be held at the Collectors Club, for the purpose of presenting our framed collection of George Washington stamps to the "George Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan."

The presentation will be made by Arthur W. Deas, first president of the Club, and will be accepted by M.'.V.'. Charles H. Johnson, for the Shrine Committee.

Please come to this meeting and bring your friends.

Gathering of the stamps for this collection was a pleasant experience, especially noted for the splendid cooperation given by many members. We cannot close without expressing our thanks to those who aided in the work. The list of Donors follows:

E. W. Abell	John A. Fox	John W. Nicklin
Sidney Barrett	Jacob Glaser	Carl E. Pelander
Clarence W. Brazer	Peter Couled	Gordon Shoop
Sam Brooks	Herman Herst, Jr.	Ferrars Tows
Dr. George Camnitzer	Henry W. Holcombe	Alex Watts
Charles D. Carpenter	Gordon Johnson	Sid Weissman
Sylvester Colby	Charles I. Lott	Dr. Irwin Yarry
Arthur W. Deas	Harry M. Konwiser	

If any name has been omitted, please forgive me.

-----Sam Brooks
President

MEETINGS

MAY 31st Open Meeting. Trading, Exhibitions.

JUNE 7th. Presentation of George Washington
Frame.

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

PAST PRESIDENTS' NIGHT - MARCH 29th, 1946

By Harold Jay Snyder

After informal introductions by Bro. Charles Brooks, covering respectively the Masonic background of each of our four Past Presidents, we were accorded the pleasure of enjoying the presence of our Junior Past President, Dr. George Cammitzer, first exhibitor on the evening's program. Dr. Cammitzer showed his fine collection of Mulready and Ex-Britannia. The good Doctor always is enthusiastically received, especially on this occasion for his studied remarks on his excellent display. He is ever ready to come to the defense of Mulready's pioneering efforts to place Great Britain as the forerunner, and in the chief role, of initiating Postal Stationery; likewise, its mission to popularize the usage of postage as a universal medium to increase commerce and spread the written word in all civilized areas of the globe.

The power of the Penny Post -- to aid in the promulgation of knowledge and news -- was given impetus by this gifted English artist when he designed his pictorial envelope sheet, and when he had it accepted by the British Postal Authorities in London. It went into use on May 1st, 1840. As with every initiator of the new, the novel, and the untried, the Mulready One Penny Letter Sheet did not immediately find favor with certain agencies. This is concretely evidenced by the literally hundreds of caricatures that followed in the wake of the first attempt to permit One Penny Postage throughout the British Isles. Dr. Cammitzer, in his wide and thorough search for historical material covering the progress of the Mulready Envelope, has assembled an outstanding collection of original covers tracing the Mulready influence right down to the day these interesting printings were demonitized in 1900 by the British Post Office. Dr. Cammitzer gave his fellow members and friends a real treat in the presentation of his graphic, philatelic data, interwoven as it was with reportorial observations about each of his well-selected documents. Thank you, Doctor!

Our second exhibitor and speaker was Brother Carl E. Pelander. In his inimitable style, jocular and friendly, this distinguished philatelist and specialist in Scandinavian countries, told us why he has now turned his attention and collecting interests to a comparatively little known British Protectorate. He called it "his last love in philately." This esoteric soul, who puts fellowship before philately, but who still loves the unusual in stamps, chose a romantic spot on the map, hidden away in the far South Pacific, called Tonga. This country, discovered in 1644 by Tasman and re-discovered by Capt. Cook several decades later, consists of 150 virginal islands, and is inhabited by about 1,000 natives of Polynesian stock. Starting with the purchase of a Tonga stamp collection containing the usual varieties obtainable in the open stamp marts, Bro. Pelander then "went to town," as it were; and, with the pep and enthusiasm of a neophyte he showed what can be done when the desire is strong enough to bring into being a prize-winning collection. He exercised his bidding power at one of Col. Green's auctioned philatelic properties, and came away with the choicest of this Island's postage rarities which once rested in that famous collection but which are now Carl's pets and eye-openers. He also searched dealers' stocks for the finest specimens and unique pieces of Tonga's postal emissions. Then he still kept on adding to what he originally purchased before exposing them to public exhibition and wonder. If there is another collection like it in all the wide world, then Bro. Pelander's efforts are in vain. But, from what we saw and heard, the Masonic Stamp Club can again proudly boast, that its membership includes this outstanding philatelist who ranks high in his ability to build one of the best specialized collections in world philately. Thank you Brother Pelander!

(To be continued)

Don Housworth, editor of the STAMP REVIEW, trod the hot sands on May 8, 1946, becoming a shiner via the Scottish Rites.

Another Portrait for your Masonic Stamp Gallery

General John Sevier on New Tennessee Stamp.



Born-Sept. 23, 1745, Harristburg, Va.
Died-Sept. 24, 1815, Ft. Decatur, Ala.
Raised in Tennessee Lodge, No. 41.
Was Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 2,
Knoxville, Tenn. in 1800.

While yet a boy, the Sevier family moved to North Carolina, settling in the valley of the Watauga, which is now in Eastern Tennessee. He became a leader of the settlers and was noted as an Indian fighter. At the Battle of Kings Mountain, he commanded a group of Backwoodsmen, and contributed towards the defeat of the British.

At a convention held on Aug. 23, 1784, a new State of Franklin was created and he was chosen as the first Governor. He was arrested for treason by the North Carolina authorities but was later released.

In 1786 - when Statehood was granted to Tennessee, he was elected its first Governor. To the pioneers of that sparsely settled country he was known as "NOLICHUCKY JACK"

---Sam Brooks

The origin of design of the Jackson portrait on the forth coming Tennessee statehood stamp is from the engraving by A. Sealey after the Thomas Sully painting of Jackson. This engraving is the same as the one on the twenty dollar notes. The Bureau artist dubbed in a military type collar, which to the writer's mind, spoiled the portrait.

The origin of the Sevier portrait on the stamp is from a halftone reversed reproduction of the C. W. Peale painting of Sevier.

Peale originally painted Sevier in Philadelphia, in 1792, the painting being retained by the Sevier family until 1891 when Mrs. Eliza Sevier Donald, grand daughter of Sevier, presented it to the Tennessee Historical Society at Nashville. There are many copies of this painting and on the other hand it seems to be the only representation of Sevier.

----F. L. Ellis

THE "RALPH A. BARRY PUBLICATION FUND."

A few days ago, we received a note from one of our members, enclosing a five dollar bill. He wrote: "to keep the Masonic Philatelist going." Yes, Brothers, we'll "Keep it going." The Fund has hit the 100 dollar mark.

With financial worries over, we are now bending our efforts to obtain a stock pile of articles for future publication. Soon you may receive a request from one of the Editors for an article about your collection, or about some particular stamp, or about anything of interest to our readers. You'll help us, won't you?

If you have not contributed, you may help by sending cash, or some good stamps which will be sold at a Donation Auction in the Fall. The following have contributed sums from one dollar to twenty-five dollars:

Carl K. Pelander
Jacob Glaser
Dr. George Cammitzer
Harold Jay Snyder
Bert Ehrenberg
Robert Pech
Charles A. Lott
Arthur W. Deas

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
Fred L. Hill
Richard C. Dahlem
Henry Holcombe
Irving E. Black
Gordon Johnson
Charles Carpenter
Russell B. Roane

Harry Konwiser
Sam Brooks
Jose Rueff
Charles Zerker
Richard Polick
Dr. S. Duffield Swan
G. Howard Fisher

GEORGE WASHINGTON CITIZEN AND FREEMASON

From an address by Fred J. Wells, Past Master, Forest Hill, #206.

George Washington was made an Entered Apprentice Mason November 4th, 1752. On this anniversary of his Masonic birth let us think of him as a citizen and Freemason.

Freemasons in Revolutionary times were outstanding members of their community.

Washington frequently testified to his love for the Craft. He visited lodges in the various colonies as is seen from lodge records. The friends and associates that surrounded him were mostly Masons and of his many portraits the one which his family liked best showed him in his Masonic regalia.

Masonic lodges were important factors in the community. Washington's faith in and ambitions for the Craft were unlimited as he realized that the fundamental teachings of the Fraternity were ideally suited to cement the colonies into a nation.

In a general way everyone is familiar with Washington's life story. Certain great events stand out in bold relief. The lesser things that have escaped notice were no small factor in making the Father of his country the ideal citizen. To recall some of them may help to appreciate his worth as a man and a Mason.

At the close of the Revolutionary War he returned to his farm, taking active management of 9,000 acres. And realizing that tobacco was taking too much nourishment out of the land, he began diversification of his crops. He also experimented with plaster of Paris and powdered stone as fertilizer. He laboriously calculated the number of seed in a pound to determine the yield of particular grains. He not only delighted in doing his own surveying but also devised a method of accounting that greatly simplified the management of his estate.

Washington was among the first who understood and appreciated the possibilities of the West. When in 1754 he was sent as a messenger of the Virginia government to warn the French to keep out of the Ohio valley he wrote an accurate account of his journey which is still a fascinating book of travel. As a reclamation engineer he was in no small part responsible for reclaiming much of the Dismal Swamp in Virginia. He was quite interested in transportation and there is evidence that he had ideas of the possibility of linking the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes by way of the Erie Canal.

In education he was self-taught and earned a sufficient reputation of love of knowledge to be made President, or as it was then called, Chancellor of William and Mary College.

When he was called to the Presidency of the nation he was keenly aware of his limitations for the task. One can appreciate the wisdom Brother Washington felt in need of when it took several weeks to decide even the title that should be used in addressing the chief executive. A week before the inauguration a Senate Committee was appointed to report a title which should best accord with Washington's personal dignity. One of the most stirring titles was "His Highness the President of the United States of America, and Protector of their Liberties." Another suggestion was, "His High Mightiness," still another, "His Elective Majesty." The question of title never was settled and to this day the President may be addressed in whatever terms good breeding or partisan animosity suggest.

On April 30, 1789, came the inauguration originally set for March 4th. When it came time to administer the oath of office it was discovered that in the general excitement no Bible had been provided. The marshal of the day, General Jacob Morton, Master of St. John's #1, who in 1801 became Grand Master of Masons in New York, ran the few steps to the rooms of St. John's Lodge and fetched the Bible from its altar. The oath was administered by the Chancellor of the State of New York, Robert R. Livingston, who had been Grand Master of New York since 1784.

The personal escort of the President for the day was General Morgan Lewis who became Grand Master in 1830. March, 1793, he was inaugurated for the second term in the Senate Chamber at Philadelphia. Within six months he was chief participant in the historic public appearance of the Fraternity when on September 18, 1793, he laid the corner stone of the Capitol of the United States at Washington with due Masonic ceremonies.

This nation owes much to the Freemasons of America for their share in establishing our country. The principles that underlie the welfare of the nation are basic in the Fraternity. These principles appear again in the Bill of Rights. The Constitution was framed and signed by more Masons than by others.

Washington had little to gain by casting his lot with the Revolution. But he was a Mason and stood for human liberty--and thus brought a great nation into being. Shrines and monuments reared to his memory are outward symbols of esteem. The centuries may erase them, Washington himself will always be "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his fellow countrymen."

**From "Masonic Light",
Essex County, New Jersey.**



For those who might like to obtain back numbers of the *Masonic Philatelist*, the writer has on hand a number of copies of the following issues--

#4, June, 1944; #6, Oct., 1944; #7, Nov., 1944; #9 Jan., 1945; #10 Feb., 1945; of Volume two #1 to 10, except #9, 1945; Volume three, #1 and #2, 1946.

First come, first served, some of the numbers are scarce, return postage would be appreciated.

----Forrest L. Ellis