

The Masonic Philatelist

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DANIEL O'CONNELL, FAMOUS IRISH PATRIOT, MEMBER OF THE CRAFT

A short time ago, a very interesting letter was received from Mr. Neil J. Browne of Letterkenny, County Donegal, Eire, telling us that a young shut-in friend of his is interested in Masonic Philately, and had given him some information about the Masonic activities of Daniel O'Connell. Consulting "Famous Masons and Masonic Presidents" by H.L. Haywood and the "History of Masonry in Northern Ireland," we learn that Daniel O'Connell, who was born in 1775, was raised in Lodge #189, Dublin, in 1799. He was Worshipful Master in 1800, later joined Lodge #13, Limerick. Then he became a charter member of a Lodge in Tralee. In 1813 he appeared as counsel for the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Daniel O'Connell was known as the "Voice of Ireland." He was a famous barrister and established the "Friends of Ireland" in 1829. He is revered in Ireland as the "Liberator." He died in 1847.

Although in 1738, Pope Clement XII issued a Bull to excommunicate every Mason, Roman Catholic Masons in Ireland ignored it until about 1815 when the Bull was officially and publicly promulgated. When the promulgation was published, O'Connell was given the ultimatum, to give up either his religion or his Masonic membership. He chose to withdraw from the Craft and gave to the newspapers a public renouncement of his membership in the Craft.

The stamp shown was issued in 1929 to commemorate the centenary of Catholic Emancipation in Ireland.



Daniel O'Connell

RALPH A. BARRY PUBLICATION FUND

will be the beneficiary of a Donation Auction to be held at the Club on Feb. 7th, 1947. Grateful acknowledgement is made of a beautiful cover with a triangular Masonic cancellation, donated by Bro. Herman Herst, Jr. Also a cash donation by Bro. Gordon Rosser. Send stamps and covers at once so that a sale catalogue may be prepared.

Meetings

FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH - COLLECTORS CLUB BLDG., 22 E. 35th Street

OCT. 25 Members Competition

NOV. 1 Spot Auction Night

continuing---

Harold Jay Snyder's story about our Past Presidents.

And now we present that Bearer of Light, that rugged and determined individualist of the North Country, that High Priest and Prophet of the "Near East" and all points south: Bro. Henry "What-is-it-worth" Holcombe. This is no buncombe, brethren, but, we here and now nominate Bro. Holcombe as the champion "searcher-outer" of philately's followers. This collector of "Match and Medicine" is matchless in his endeavors to build the finest collection of these mementoes of early Americana in these United States. He has a story about his special phase of our hobby that would fill a book, viz: to cover his constant search for the labels that the old medicine makers decorated their bottled purgatives and panaceas for nearly every human ill. He has toured the country-sides, the highways and the byways of village, town and hamlet, scouring high and low, to add to his now world-famous collection of "antiques" (contents and all) that once rested on the shelves of our early apothecaries and country stores. How he makes contact with folks is a deep mystery to all, in his desire to acquire these fragilities of philately. "Neither storm nor strife----(fill in the rest yourself)--can stop Bro. Holcombe from his determined course" to track down a rare Match or Medicine stamp, in toto. The Holcombe bankroll has been many times depleted (Here! Here!) in playing his "burning" hobby-lobby for all it is worth. And now he has the great satisfaction of saying: "Hubba-Hubba, Brethren! Here it is--it is yours to inspect and to study--the fruits of my labors have not been in vain--the fun was all mine--the chase was worth more to me than rubies and fine gold!" No dealers' hidden stocks, mark you well, Brethren, helped him in obtaining these curious enlighteners of dark places and relievers of human pain, stamped as they still are with the "approval mark" of our postal pundits. From town and country attics, too; from out of the way spots in suburbanias, came many of the really rare specimens of original matches and boxes, pristine and intact, like the day they left the hands of the early match makers and purveyors to our forebears. They cover, chronologically speaking, the era of 1866-1871, these sulphur-covered sticks (guaranteed) to smell like Hades). They were mighty fine revenue producers for Uncle Sam who authorized their makers to put on their own-designed revenue stamps.

Preliminary to showing some of his original Match Boxes (note: Contents varnished to prevent ignition), Bro. Holcombe exhibited a few specimens of a recent interest of his in what he facetiously labeled "Pseudo-Bank Notes." It appears that "hard" money was scarce way back in 1854, and so a druggist named Wright, in Philadelphia, first struck on the idea of making his own paper money. Those shown are clever examples of the engraver's art, being both decorative and historical, also revealing an unusual economic situation back in the Fifties. Later, one Demos Barnes of New York City, then went Wright one better. He elaborated on this advertising stunt and had printed "high-valued" paper currency to ballyhoo his hair restorers and Indian Root Pills (both obviously intended to put the dandruff back into your hair and scalp--(no joke intended, Editor!)) Other medicine makers followed suite, in the years 1859-1867, and now Bro. Holcombe varies the showing of his Match and Medicine collections with these "funny-money" bank notes. This is a phase of collecting that a present bank-roll cannot go out and buy. You have got to go out into the hinterland and dig them up from some printer's files--you just can't purchase them from the auction block or some dealer's stock. First, you have to strike up acquaintance with folks who just like to chat a bit and then have them help you find the "things" you're looking for. Bro. Holcombe, with his odd accent and gracious smile, has the "open sesame" to the hidden archives where these curiosities still may rest. With deep reflection, he let fall the remark that he has smoked many a stogie and drank his full of "Coca-colas" for friendship sake in country store and grill, until he was a "woozie" as the wayward son;--but it was all part of the game in tall gunning for the unusual and rare in his special brand of philatelics. What may have been forever lost to posterity, Brother Holcombe has saved for future generations to wonder at our ancestral antics in keeping alive the "Vita spark," in dem dere days of horse and buggy.

HAVE YOU HEARD???

SOL GLASS, acting for the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, deserves credit for his activities in connection with the development of the postage stamps to be issued to commemorate the centenary of the 1847 issue.....BRO. HARRY L. LINDQUIST is, of course, right in there, supporting Sol...BRO. HAROLD SNYDER, acting for the Masonic Stamp Club's sponsorship of the stamp club—feature of the Boys Club of New York, Ave. A and Tenth St.—invites the co-operation of all members (and non-Masons) interested in helping boys become better collectors and better citizens...PRO. CLARENCE BRAZER was the guest speaker at the recent annual get-together of the Toronto, Windsor, and Hamilton stamp clubs at Toronto, Ont., Canada...BRO. FERRARS H. TOWS was elected president of the Scandinavian Collectors Club at its recent annual meeting; BRO. HARRY KONWISER was elected vice-president...CHRIS ZOYLLER'S underground war activities are just coming to light and Editor No. 8 hopes to get some data soon that can be typed for this column...BRO. CHARLIE CARPENTER, (6733 Colonial Rd., Brooklyn, N. Y.), hasn't been too well lately and will enjoy hearing from the brethren...Our good friend, Eddie Elkins, has helped on the Utica Home Stamp Club. Eddie, by the way, is the busy secretary of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, and took time out to show his early British philatelic material at the Newark Stamp Show (Oct. 11-13) and, of course, won an award for his well-arranged exhibit....BRO. JAKE GLASER, per persistent rumors, is shortly to "do up" his excellent Colombian Republic collection in up-to-date style, presumably for merited exhibition purposes...BRO. CHARLIE LOTT is back in New York philatelic circulation, assuming his engineering duties in and around Suffern, N. Y. Makes him a local-ite again!...BRO. MARCUS WHITE was in town the night of our regular meeting, but at the "last moment" was asked to look "at a lot" of early U.S. envelopes, and so the Worcesterite missed the meeting.... Mrs. Bert Ehrenberg and her daughter, Edna (Mrs. Nat Deutsch) presented to the Club a collection of foreign stamps depicting George Washington. This grouping (believed to be complete foreign "Washingtonia-philatelica") will be placed at the Tappan, N. Y. Washington shrine....

Right now, BRO. GEORGE CAMNITZER is in his darkroom making a picture of the Washington stamps for the Masonic Philatelist....BROS. GEORGE F. TEMPLE and LOUIS A. BOBEL of Irvington, N.J. (members in good standing) were on the Stampex Exhibition Committee which promoted the show held in Newark, Oct. 11-13, 1946. Among the winners were BRO. SOL GLASS of Baltimore and CLARENCE HENNAN of Chicago. BRO. SIDNEY BARRETT and FRANK FRUNS were on the Board of Judges.....If, somehow, your name isn't mentioned in this column, YOU are at fault—for (1)not having a press agent or (2)not having a friend who possesses a news mind that digs up things for the editors to print, or (3)you ain't "doin' what comes naturally" (philatelically). In this respect you are not aiding the Editorial Group of your Club. After all—it's YOUR stamp club!

MASONIC STAMP CLUB LOUNGE AT THE CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN MAY

At our last meeting a group of members subscribed enough money to pay for a Lounge at the Exhibition. We hope to obtain the support of Grand Lodge so that our Lounge will be a meeting place for all Masons attending the show. Quite a few of our members are actively engaged in various activities connected with the Exhibition, and they invite YOUR assistance.

OUR PRESIDENT SUGGESTS:- - -

You are missing good entertainment if you miss a Masonic Stamp Club meeting. Many of the "regulars" get around to other related meetings as well. A group recently visited the Installation Ceremonies of R. W. Brothers Herman Glaser and Ferrars H. Tows, at their respective Lodges. They also attended Independent Royal Arch Lodge #2, one of the oldest in America, to listen to talks on stamps by Brothers Harry Lindquist and Sidney Barrett. Become a "Regular" and join in some of the fun!

BRO. FORREST ELLIS, now residing in Ithaca, N. Y., advises us that at Newfield, N. Y., the Post Office is housed on the ground floor of the Masonic Temple.

•LOOK FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE - EIGHT PAGES.

PROGRAM FOR SEASON 1946 - 1947

Sept. 27 Opening Meeting...get-together

Oct. 11 British Colonies Night

25 Members Competition

Nov. 1 Spot Auction Night

29 Social Evening

Dec. 6 M. W. Charles H. Johnson Night

27 Subject Collections Exhibits

1947

Jan. 3 Visit of the Scandinavian Collectors Club

31 Sidney F. Barrett will show from his various collections

Feb. 7 Donation Auction for Ralph A. Barry Publication Fund

28 Talk & Exhibit by Edwin E. Elkins

Mar. 7 Members Competition

28 Talk & Exhibit by Ferrars H. Tows

Apr. 4 Annual Members Exhibition

25 Family Night

May 2 Talk & Exhibit by Sol Glass

30 (Memorial day...no meeting)

June 6 Annual Meeting...reports of committees; election of members of Board of Governors



STAMP CLUB AT THE MASONIC HOME NEEDS YOUR AID

The children at the Home are very enthusiastic collectors and under the leadership of Brother Charles Knight are making very excellent progress. They depend on the generosity of all Masons and non-Masons who want to see boys and girls become ardent stamp collectors. At the present time they need your old 1946 Catalogue and some of your nice duplicates. Send them to: Charles C.P. Knight

Masonic Home
Utica 2, N. Y.

1947 CENTENARY

The design of the 3-cent stamp which the United States will issue next May to mark the centenary of the first United States postage series is based on a drawing by Leon Helguera, who designed the 1943 United Nations 2c commemorative. His preliminary sketch in-



Design proposed for 1947 observance of centenary of first United States stamp.

cludes the dates "1847-1947" and an airplane between portraits of Washington and Franklin, whose heads are on the 1847 10c green and 5c brown stamps, respectively, and, below, Pony Express rider, early and modern locomotives and a steamship. "U. S. Postage Centenary" is inscribed along the base.