

# The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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Editor-SAM BROOKS, 985 Anderson Ave., New York 52, N. Y.  
Associate-FORREST L. ELLIS, 2120 E. Tremont Ave., New York 62  
Managing Editor-HARRY M. KONWISER, 181 Claremont Ave., N. Y. 27

Masonic Stamp Club Secretary-DR. IRWIN V. YARRY  
61-23 Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, L. I., N. Y.



## OUR PRESIDENT SAYS

Poor attendance at our meetings is of concern to the officers and directors and to the faithful who attend all meetings regularly.

Our "Trestle Board" has produced some good results and more activities are in store for you.

The officers are gratified at the response to our pet projects.

We would like to have each member constitute himself as a booster for the Masonic Stamp Club and talk about our good things to your Masonic philatelic friends and get them to join. Get those who have joined to become active for their own good and for the good of the rest of us.

The International Philatelic Exhibition is to be held May 17 to 25, 1947. What an opportunity to put our lounge to work for philately and Masonry! Put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ideas—they will be welcomed.

On behalf of the officers and board of governors permit me to wish you the brightest and merriest Christmas and the happiest and healthiest New Year!

—Jacob S. Glaser.

At our last meeting, the question of dues for the coming year was brought up for discussion by Bro. Pelander. Bro. Gaston proposed the following motion: That the by-laws of the Masonic Stamp Club be amended to raise dues as follows—"An initiation fee of one dollar and dues of two dollars for one year must accompany each application. Dues of two dollars are payable in advance on the first day of January." This motion was seconded. This is published for your information. In accordance with our by-laws, final action will be taken at our next meeting.

## • Meetings •

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

Dec. 27th Subject Collections Exhibits

1947

Jan. 3rd Visit of the Scandinavian Collectors Club

**GUS GASTON REPORTS  
ON OUR MEETINGS:**

At the meeting of November 29th, Mr. John J. Britt, President of the Aero-philatelists, showed his Lundy Island air mails including errors, proofs, and quite a number of interesting covers. In his remarks, Mr. Britt told the story of Mr. Martin Coles Harman's acquiring the island, his difficulties with the courts in establishing his right to issue stamps, the problems encountered in getting them produced, and his failure to convince the court that he could also issue money. The talk and display quite completely covered the stamps of this bit of land off the coast of Devonshire, which is a unique spot in philately—with "puffins" for currency.

At the conclusion of his talk on Lundy, Mr. Britt showed us two sheets of the recently obsolete U.S. 6 cent air mail with different "RF" overprints. These sheets showed the overprint inverted and doubled in a few positions.

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Due to a mix-up in engagement dates, Bro. Charles H. Johnson was unable to attend the regular meeting December 6th. The frame of foreign stamps bearing the portraits of George Washington was displayed and will be presented to Bro. Johnson for display at the Tappan Shrine at a subsequent meeting.

Bro. Carl Pelander graciously acted as pinch hitter in the absence of Bro. Johnson and showed us a volume of early Netherlands and one of Finland. Carl's remarks as he showed the stamps were most interesting and illuminating. The story of the special printings for Grand Duke Michaelovitch, the color errors on two values, and the revaluing of the early letter sheets serve to remind us that there is nothing new under the sun. Each of these occurrences have a counterpart in twentieth century U. S. in the Farleys, the 5 cent error of 1916 and 1917, and the many overprinted envelopes.

Bro. Harry Konwiser reported on the RIPAEX National Stamp Exhibition, sponsored by the Ridgefield Park Stamp Club, and held at Hackensack, N. J. December 6th to 8th. The board of judges included Bro. Harry L. Lindquist as chairman and Bros. Franklin R. Bruns Jr. and Harry M. Konwiser. The Grand Award for "best in the show" was won by Bro. Alex P. Watts with his specialized Jamaica which was shown to the Club last spring. Other winners were Dr. Charles H. Johnson, associate group of Finland; Dr. Clarence Henan, Costa Rica; Arthur Heim, Congo; and Carl E. Pelander, Tonga.

Carl E. Pelander reported that the Club Lounge at the Centenary Exhibition is fully paid for. Much credit is due to Carl and to Jake Glaser, our President, for making this lounge available as Masonic headquarters at the "big show." Our lounge promises to be a popular meeting place for Masons and their friends. Complete schedules of Masonic activities in New York will be displayed and copies of the "Masonic Philatelist" will be available. Arrange to meet your friends at the Masonic Stamp Club Lounge when visiting the show.

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**THE RALPH A. BARRY  
PUBLICATION FUND**

Several valuable additions to our Donation Auction to be held Feb. 7th were presented by Fred L. Hill, Robert Pech, Charles Carpenter, and Henry Friedman. We now have over fifty lots, but hoped to have more. Do you have any duplicates in your collection with which you care to part? Please send it to me at once. A complete listing of lots will be sent to each member so that bids may be sent by mail. If you are in town the night of the sale, don't fail to attend. Henry Friedman, official auctioneer of the Club, will preside, and will be assisted by Charles Brooks who will handle the "book." This sale is being held to assure continued publication of the "Masonic Philatelist" without burdening the Club treasury. Won't you help?

—Sam Brooks

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**SOME NOTES FROM  
FORREST L. ELLIS:**

The recently issued Honduras 8 centavos air mail postage stamp depicting F.D.R. and a broken column makes an interesting companion piece to the 1935 issue of Honduras. The regular postage stamps of this issue are of Masonic interest, regarding the personages and building as such. Irving Green of Newton, Mass., says that the design of the 8 centavos Roosevelt stamp is not that which the Director of Posts of Honduras had in mind, a sort of allegory of Roosevelt looking down from heaven to bless the peace. The resultant design is a poor representation of Roosevelt. The stamp is a product of the Hamilton Bank Note Company who made the "Seebek" stamps of Honduras, 1889-1895.

The Republic of Honduras, never having had a state religion, has always been tolerant to Masonry, and the person who might be conversant with the Spanish language and interested in Masonic research would do well if he took up the study of this country's postage stamps. It's postmaster-general, Tomas Estrada Palma, was a prominent Mason and perhaps did influence to some extent the use of Masonic symbols in the design and cancellations of postal use.

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The Twelfth American Philatelic Congress held at the Hotel Statler in Boston, Mass., November 15, 16, 17, 1946, turned out many members of the Masonic Stamp Club. Among them were:

Bros. Franklin R. Bruns Jr. (N.Y.C.) President of the Congress; W.R. McCoy (N.Y.C.) Vice-President; Sol Glass (Baltimore) and Dr. C.V. Hennan (Chicago) of the Congress Council; Rev. Dr. Floyd S. Leach (Noroton, Conn.) who wrote a paper for the 12th Congress book called "Philately in the Wars;" Clarence Brazer (N.Y.C.) exhibiting 1869 proofs and who had a booth in the dealers' bourse; Marcus White (Worcester, Mass.) U.S. stamped envelope collector, who exhibited stamped envelopes showing use of advertising the name of the sender arranged around the embossed stamp so as to appear as a complete part of the design; Bro. Paul W. Savage, editor of the "Stamp Collector" column of the Worcester (Mass.) Evening Gazette, general collector and specialist in the stamps of Sarawak; Julius Windner (Philadelphia) specialist in the stamps of old Austria Hungary and other countries; and F.L. Ellis, Met present, but exhibiting U.S. and foreign booklet panes, was "Stamps" publisher Harry L. Lindquist (N.Y.C.).

In the John Ayer (Medford, Mass.) exhibit, there were two covers of Masonic interest... a Chicopee, Mass., cancellation of superimposed triangles or so-called "star of David," and a Greenfield, Mass., "trowel in circle."

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB**

is open to every Mason in good standing in his Lodge, who is interested in any phase of stamp collecting. The cost is low, dues are one dollar per year and the entrance fee is one dollar. If you have a friend who is interested, have him complete the application form and send it with two dollars to Carl E. Felander, Chairman of the Membership Committee.

**Masonic Stamp Club of New York**  
22 East 35th St. New York, 16, N.Y.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature



## ANDREW JOHNSON

This stamp is one of the Presidential series and was issued at Washington, D.C. October 27, 1938. The design is from a photograph of the bust by William C. McCauslen in the Senate Gallery, U.S. Capitol, Washington.



Born at Raleigh, N.C., December 29, 1808.  
Died at Carters Station, Tenn., July 31, 1875.

Raised in Greenville Lodge No. 119, Greenville, Tenn., in 1851.

His national political career began in 1843 when he was elected as a Congressman from Tennessee. He served in the House of Representatives for ten years, and then as a Governor of the state from 1853 to 1857. Later elected to the U.S. Senate, he served until 1862, when he was appointed Military Governor of Tennessee. He was elected Vice-President for Lincoln's second term; and upon the assassination of Lincoln, he became the seventeenth President on April 15, 1865. His term, during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, was marked with much turbulence. All this led to his impeachment by Congress, but he was acquitted. When his term expired, he returned to Tennessee, and was again elected to the Senate, where he served from March 5, 1875 until he died.

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### CONCERNING THIS PERIODICAL

From time to time readers of the "Masonic Philatelist" - all brethren, some craftsmen of high rating - have been told that one of our earnest endeavors is to publish this periodical for the benefit of the philatelic craft (in Masonic circles).

You have heard the words from the head of the room, wherever the President sat, that stories on stamps were required from the members. Many have responded, others have ignored the appeals made.

Sometime ago the body in meeting indicated that this periodical should consist of more than what the trade calls four pages. This means MORE MONEY. The regular dues, one dollar a year from the 150 members, does not permit publishing many eight- or twelve-page issues.

Therefore, the BARRY PUBLICATION FUND was established. Donations have been received, both in cash and in stamps for suction. The sale of the latter will be announced shortly.

In closing, permit me to say that the "Masonic Philatelist" is what the members make it. It should not be the entire burden of any one member. Everyone having the interest of the Club at heart can help, and there is no time like the present to do your bit for the Masonic Stamp Club.

—Harry M. Konwiser.

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### ANTI-MASONIC STAMPS OF SERBIA (Scotts 2NB15-2NB18)

The new catalogue reports that these stamps were issued "to commemorate the anti-Masonic Exposition of October 22, 1941. The surtax was used for anti-Masonic propaganda."

Here is a fine field for the Masonic scholar. What was the nature of the Exposition? Why the need for anti-Masonic propaganda in a country with very few Masons and probably few Lodges?

The editors will welcome any comments about this issue.

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FROM THE CHILDREN AT THE MASONIC HOME IN UTICA: a letter of thanks through Brother Charles G. P. Knight for stamps and catalogues sent to the children. Have you received one of these letters? All you do to get one is to send some stamps to Brother Knight, Masonic Home, Utica, N.Y. The children will be delighted, and you will have a nice warm feeling for doing a kind deed.