

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. V No. 5 December 1948



Degree of Master of Philately

Through the courtesy of the Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee we were permitted to work the Degree of Master of Philately on a class of fourteen candidates, on December 3rd.

Using the work of the Temple Stamp Club, Arthur I. Heim presided, and was assisted by Carl Pihl, Harold Matters, Fred Wendel, Morris Strauss, Harry O. Henneman, Sam Brooks, Irwin Yarry, George Camnitzer and Charles Fish.

Considering the few rehearsals, the work was given in a very commendable manner, to Robert Pech, George Wray, Charles Carpenter, Joseph Sanda, Gordon Shoap, Fred Hill, Ferrars Tows, Alfred Thompson, Harry Popkin, Sylvester Sigler, Russel Roane, William Schumacher, Harry Konwiser and Emanuel Reggel.

The group really enjoyed the evening and are looking forward to the next degree night on June 3rd. As for the officers they were so "fired" with enthusiasm that they accidentally burned the secretary's minutes. Much credit should be given to Arthur Heim and Carl Pihl who did the Major part of the preparatory work.

Well done, Brothers.

• Meetings •

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

Jan 7 Spot auction sale

HARRY M. KONWISER-Postal History & the Stampless period.

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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EDITOR

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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Charles H. Johnson	President Emeritus *
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<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
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Arthur W. Deas	1934-38	George Camnitzer	1943-45
Ralph A. Barry*	1938-39	Sam Brooks	1945-46
Henry W. Holscombe	1939-41	Jacob S. Glaser	1946-48
Carl E. Pelander	1941-43		

Names marked with a star (*) indicates deceased.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<u>Membership:</u> Carl E. Pelander	<u>Exhibition:</u> Dr. George Camnitzer
<u>Program:</u> Carl H. Pihl	<u>Entertainment:</u> Harrold Matters
<u>Publicity:</u> Arthur I. Heim	<u>Auction:</u> Henry M. Friedman
<u>Correspondence & Exchange:</u>	Harry O. Henneman

President Harry S. Truman (Brazil #662) is posing for a short time daily in the White House for a portrait in the regalia of a Grand Master. The painting has been commissioned by the Grand Lodge of Missouri and will hang in the St. Louis Masonic Temple. -- Mirt.

Masonic Philately

This term has been used for some time to designate that branch of stamp collecting which in any way refers to Freemasonry. I do believe that I was the first to use the term, when it was applied to my collection of Masons on stamps.

Recently it has been much in the philatelic news. Elsewhere in this paper is an item from "Stamps" telling about a radio program about Masonry on stamps. From time to time stamps papers have carried articles on the subject by our Denver member George B. Clarke, and the November-December number of the Masonic Family Magazine of New York carried a similar article by the writer. Many articles appearing in the Masonic Philatelist have been reprinted by Masonic and stamp papers all over the world.

Now we have two books on the subject, one by George B. Clarke and the new book "Masonic Philately" by your editor. And soon, we hope to see John A. Mirt's book. This promises to be the best of all.

All these ventures are an asset to stamp collecting, but Brother, it is a greater asset to Freemasonry. We members of the Craft are not prone to talk about our achievements, but when tied in with the hobby of stamp collecting, we show in a popular manner, just what Masons have done in our national life.

So support your club and give a helping hand to the new Masonic Stamp Clubs already in existence and those yet to come. We need more of these clubs. Encourage the formation of one in your own community. It is surprising how many stamp collectors are Masons, and how many Masons are potential stamp collectors.

--Sam Brooks

The four winds are pictured allegorically on Greece's #C55 (North); #C56 (South); #C57 (East) and #C59 (West). --MIRT

MASONRY IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The announcement in "Weekly Philatelic Gossip," July 10 that Canada is considering designs for a 1949 stamp to mark the bicentenary of Halifax, Nova Scotia, founded in 1749 by Edward Cornwallis is of especial interest to Masonic philatelists.

The development of Nova Scotia and Masonry in that province went hand in hand. The first Lodge at Halifax was established, July 19, 1750, a year after the founding of the community. Edward Cornwallis served as its first worshipful Master. After a varied career, it became St. Andrews No. 1, the oldest Lodge in the British Empire outside of the British Isles.

An interesting historical account of the founding of the Lodge is to be found in the February, 1851, issue of "The Freemason's Monthly Magazine." It reported that on the preceding July 19 (1850), a "Grand Lodge was opened in due form" by Alexander Keith, Grand Master under English and Scottish authority, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Masonry in Nova Scotia. The laying of a cornerstone for an addition to the Masonic Temple in Halifax was a part of the day's ceremonies.

The Orator of the day, Bro. the Rev. J.T. Twining, D.D., told how the charter for the Lodge was received on July 19, 1750. "The Lodge was opened without delay, and the same evening Lord Colville and several other gentlemen of the navy were entered as apprentices," the Orator said: "The same Lodge subsequently made many of the principal inhabitants and most of the persons who had considerable offices under the Government; and the number so rapidly increased that on the 18th of March, 1751, it was found expedient to form a second Lodge at Halifax."

He went on to say that Governor Cornwallis was succeeded in his Government and in the chair of the Lodge by Governor Lawrence, who held both until his death. Governor Parr was another who served as Grand Master, being so proclaimed in

1785. After him, the Grand Master was his Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent and father of the Queen

"Under such illustrious auspices Masonry greatly flourished in Nova Scotia," the Orator continued. "The site was obtained and the cornerstone of our venerable hall laid by his Royal Highness in 1800.

The parade preceding the cornerstone laying in 1850 was a colorful one. The Scottish Lodges were preceded by Highland pipers; the English by the band of the 38th Regiment, "which discoursed some fine Masonic airs."

--John A. Mirt

Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. Worshipful Master

On December 13th, our old friend Frank Bruns, was elected Master of Gramatan Lodge No. 927, Bronxville N.Y. Frank will be installed on January 10th, and has extended an invitation to all of you to be present. It is expected that the Masonic Stamp Club will attend in a body. Please make a note of this date and attend with us.

Congratulations to you Frank, and the best of luck for a happy and constructive year in the East.

Another New Masonic Stamp Club

A group of Masonic Stamp Collectors in Toledo, Ohio, have formed the Masonic Stamp Club of Toledo. They meet regularly on the first and third Wednesdays at Adams and Michigan Streets. A cordial invitation to attend is extended to all Master Masons.

On behalf of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, we extend best wishes to the officers and members for a successful organization.

King Kalakaua (Hawaii #35, #40) was a 33d Degree Mason of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S. He served as Master of his Lodge in Honolulu in 1876. -- Mirt.

Masonry on Stamps and the New Find of St. Louis Bears Featured on WNBC Stamp Club

THE fact that the new find of St. Louis Bears, which was recently featured in an article by George B. Sloane in STAMPS, had been donated to the Masonic Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has stimulated quite a bit of discussion, not only on the find, but on Masonry on stamps in general. Hence, on the WNBC stamp club broadcast Saturday morning, December 4, Masonry on stamps was the theme.

Bernard Harmer of H. R. Harmer, who will sell the stamps, gave an outline of the find, and explained that it is part of a famous find made back in Philadelphia in 1912 when a lot of wastepaper had been sold to a junkdealer. The covers had been wrapped up and put away for nearly thirty-six years and when the original owner died it was found that he

had left his effects to the Masonic Homes in Elizabethton, Penna., and so the stamps are being sold for the benefit of this organization. Mr. Harmer estimated that nearly \$50,000 will be realized for the stamps, which is well over \$1,000 per cover on an average.

Sam Brooks, the author of a new booklet on Masonic Philately, which is reviewed in this issue, was one of the speakers and explained how he had formed a Masonic collection made up of portraits of famous Masons who appear on stamps, as well as stamps which have some Masonic connection.

Sidney F. Barrett of the Economist Stamp Co. also gave some interesting details regarding his famous collection of Masonic covers made up of covers having Masonic cancellations.

December 18, 1948 ☆ STAMPS

Carl E. Pelander receives decoration from Finland

Our meeting of November 26th was set for a talk from Carl Pelander on "How to appraise a Collection", but it was turned into a spontaneous reception to Carl, who was honored by the Government of Finland, with the Order of the Lion.

Although a native of Finland, Carl fought with the U.S. Army in World War I, and was in the Army Reserve in the last War. However, Carl never lost an opportunity to help the people of his native land. It is for the assistance he rendered so willingly that he was awarded the Caveted decoration. Congratulations, Carl. The Masonic Stamp Club is honored by the honor you so richly deserve.

Oh yes, Carl spoke about his specialty, appraising and auctioning stamps. What did he say? Who knows, and who cares. It was all lost in the glow of goodfellowship that permeated the atmosphere. We did have a fine evening.

Charles A. Lott, who makes Niagara Falls, his headquarters these days, visited the "Big Town" recently. However he tells us, it has always been on the wrong Fridays. Too bad Charlie, we'd like to see you.

Another visitor from far off Kansas City, was William C. Michaels. Brother Michaels, who represents some large Insurance Companies, was in town to attend an Insurance Agents' Convention. This was in-between meetings also. Sorry we missed these Brothers.

Congratulations to Fred Hill, who was awarded Life Membership in Corner Stone Lodge. Twenty-five years is a long time in the craft.

Harry Henneman has offered to answer questions about Music on Stamps. Harry is an expert on the subject. Any other offers to answer questions about stamps? We may compile a list of such experts, if we have more requests.

John A. Mirt of Chicago is a real busy fellow. Besides doing research work on Masons on Stamps, John finds time to write articles for the Masonic Philatelist and talk to Lodges on his favorite subject. John has joined the Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee and is Feature Editor of their quarterly publication, The Temple Stamp News.

Once again the G.A.O.T.U. has seen fit to call from our midst one of our long-time members.

Frank Nelson Pond

a member of Sagamore Lodge No. 371, and the holder of the Grand Lodge Fifty Year Medal, passed away recently. Until recent years, Brother Pond was very active in our Club and attended most meetings. To his family and to all his friends we extend our sincerest sympathy.

Carlos Manuel de Cespedes (Cuba #273), known as the "father of his country," was a Mason. He proclaimed the independence of Cuba in 1868 and was elected first provincial president. He was brutally slain by the Spaniards. -- Mirt.

GENERAL THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO



This stamp was issued on October 13, 1933, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the citizenship of Kosciuszko. First placed on sale at Kosciuszko, Miss., and 6 other cities. The design is taken from the statue by Anton Popiel, in Lafayette Park, Washington, D. C.

Born, Lithuania, February 12, 1746.

Died, Switzerland, October 17, 1817.

Though it is possible he was a Mason when he came to America, it is most likely that he was raised in one of the Military Lodges during the Revolutionary War.

Kosciuszko came to America in the summer of 1776 and was accepted by General Washington as a Colonel of Engineers. He first assisted in fortifying Philadelphia after which he was made Chief Engineer of the Army under Gates in the Burgoyne Campaign. He planned the entrenchments at Bemis Heights and in 1778 he planned and built the fortifications at West Point. By the close of 1779, West Point was considered the strongest Post in America. In 1780 he was appointed Chief Engineer of General Greene's Army in the South. At the end of the War he received the thanks of Congress and an Estate near the present site of Columbus, Ohio.

While in Switzerland on October 17th, 1817, he was thrown from his horse and killed.

A page from the new book "MASONIC PHILATELY"
by SAM BROOKS