



The Masonic Philatelist

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OCTOBER 2ND MEETING

For those of the members who turned out for the talk on the Local stamps of the U. S. by George Sloane it was an evening well spent. Sloane's running commentary was both informative and amusing. He showed one volume of his many volumed reference library of the postal emissions of the U. S. The volume of locals shown comprised a selection of the locals that not only feature the original but also reprints and counterfeits, and counterfeits of counterfeits. From Adams & Co. to Williams City Post he showed how counterfeits were produced by copying the catalogues of Scott and Moens illustrations.

FROM NEEDHAM'S LINOTYPE— OLIVER H. PERRY, A MASON

Depicted on the 90¢ 1870-71 issue of the United States (Scott's #144) is the likeness of Oliver Hazard Perry, from a statue by Walcott. This stamp was printed from Plate #23 by the National Bank Note Co.

Brother Perry was born in South Kingston, R. I., on August 23, 1785; died of yellow fever at Port of Spain, Trinidad, W. I., on August 23, 1819. Perry was one of "that brilliant galaxy of naval officers: Commodores Preble, Decatur, Porter, Macdonough, Murray, Rodgers, Ludlow, Hull, Bainbridge, and Lawrence, all of whom were **Masons**, he was first under fire at Tripoli, Barbary States, in 1801-04, which brings to mind that stirring declaration from a distinguished naval officer, 'millions for defense but not one cent for tribute!'"

Brother Perry's lodge is unknown, but the D. G. Master of Ohio J. N. Burr, with the assistance of the officers and members of Science Lodge #50, Sandusky, Ohio, on Sept. 10, 1858 laid in ancient and Masonic form, the foundation stone of a monument to be erected to the memory of Commodore O. H. Perry and his companions in arms and their glorious victory on the lake in the war of 1812, on Gibraltar Island.

After his Lake Erie victory, he was later commissioned a Captain and was given the command of the U.S.S. Java in the Mediterranean in 1815-16, and in 1819 went to the West Indies to protect American commerce from pirates, where he died aged 34 years.

From all indications, there isn't much known about Perry's Masonic affiliations. In fact, there doesn't

seem to be much record of his activities as a Mason in existence. Brother Albert Mackey's "Encyclopedia of Freemasonry" (1946) doesn't have any mention of Oliver H. Perry at all and the only information available to this writer was gleaned from Brother George B. Clark's publication "A Masonic Stamp Collection," as published by the Masonic Service Ass'n, June, 1948. Any readers having more information on Bro. Perry are invited to write.

NOTES

The 300 anniversary cancels of New York City are now appearing on mail showing the zone numbers. #10, Madison Square Station, is one of the first to show.

The origin of design for the Perry stamp is for the portrait of Perry, a photograph by Brady and for the scenic background, a contemporary drawing by the Perry Expedition artist, William Heine.

THE POSTAGE STAMP

There was a little postage stamp, no bigger than your thumb,
But still it stuck right on the job until its work was done.
They licked it and pounded it till it would make you sick!
But the more it took the lickin,' why, the tighter it would stick.
Let's be like that postage stamp, in playing life's big game,
And stick to what we know is right, and we can't miss our aim.
—Anonymous.

The 125th anniversary of the birth of Henri Dunant (Mason), founder of the International Red Cross is commemorated by a 10pf. Germany stamp picturing a crimson cross on a compass.

An excellent picture of a crown and scepter (referred to in Masonic ritual) will be found in the New Zealand 1/6 coronation issue of 1953.

Scott No. 500 has been assigned to the recent Cuba 1c issue showing the birthplace of Jose Marti, Mason and national hero.

For the Shriner collector: "Hot sands" will be found on Egypt No. 285, issued in 1950. The road to Damascus is pictured on Syria Nos. 360-1, issued the same year.

PANAMA HONORS FOUNDER OF NEWSPAPER, A MASON

As a former newspaperman, I was attracted by Panama's new 5c and 10c stamps picturing the masthead of "La Estrella de Panama," the country's first newspaper, as it looked at its founding in 1853. The editors whose names appear on the stamp were Luis (Lewis) A. Middleton and Archibaldo B. Boyd.

There was another interest in the stamps because I had a suspicion that maybe Middleton had figured in an important Masonic event in Panama more than a century ago (see Vol. 2, No. 2—page 5—of MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS). Checking proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas for 1851, this was confirmed. Middleton had headed a committee of three appointed by the Master of Union Lodge (U. D.) at Panama City which in 1851 solicited the Grand Lodge of Texas "to declare Panama in the Republic of New Grenada a Masonic missionary station, and this lodge the agent for the purpose of aiding the poor distressed brethren crossing this isthmus."

The gold rush to California was on then and thousands were going by way of the isthmus. One of the assignments of the committee was "to report the most efficient plan for soliciting voluntary contributions from the Masonic world, in money, clothing, medicine, and other necessaries and comforts, to be ministered to the sick and worthy brethren visiting this part of the globe, and to bury those who may die in this place."

In the administration of Masonic charity, the monthly expense of the lodge was about \$150. The seven members taxed themselves higher than known in any part of the world. Dues were set at \$5 "American gold" a month, with added voluntary donations to meet emergencies.

Bro. W. B. Ochiltree, M.W. Grand Master of Texas, in his 1852 report to the Grand Lodge, had this to say about Union Lodge:

"The history of this infant Lodge is one of the most interesting character. Being remote from all other lodges and at a point where the sick, the distressed and the destitute are most likely to be found, the calls upon their charity have been more numerous than in any other lodge, perhaps, in the United States. Composed of old and

experienced Masons from all parts of the globe, we may confidently expect that the principles of our Order will be carried out, the hand of charity extended and the weary pilgrim find rest and refreshment."

Published records do not show Boyd to have been among the moving spirits in Union Lodge (no longer existent) but he could have been because all the members are not named in the proceedings. Nevertheless, the two Panama stamps, reminiscent of Freemasonry at work when distress calls, will be treasured in my collection.

MASONS ON ARGENTINE STAMPS

Bro. Douglas Murison, Alte Brown 656, Temperley, F.C.N.G.R., Arg., has done an extensive study of Masons on Argentine stamps and has graciously submitted the information to this service. The material will be run in installments. This is the first.

Justo Jose de Urquiza—Argentine statesman and soldier, born in the province of Entre Rios in 1800. Was initiated in "Jorge (George) Washington" Lodge No. 44, Concepcion and rose to 33°. Was a member of "Union del Plata" Lodge simultaneously with three other citizens of the country who held the highest office of the land (see MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS, Vol. 1, p. 4). At 26, Urquiza was elected to preside over the congress of his native province. He was a factor in the eventual victory in wars against Uruguay and Corrientes; overthrew the tyrant, Rosas; raised the 10-year siege of Montevideo. He set about to reorganize the sadly dismembered country and called a conference of provincial governors (commemorated by No. 283 issued in 1920). Out of this grew a confederation. In 1853, he was elected president, serving until 1860, when he was succeeded by Derqui, also a Mason. A rupture occurred between the province of Buenos Aires and the Confederation. Urquiza suffered defeat in the battle of Pavon (1862), and Gen. B. Mitre, a Mason, was proclaimed president. Urquiza pledged his support to Mitre, but declined appointment as commander-in-chief of cavalry and retired to his huge ranch where he and two sons were murdered in 1870. (Urquiza is honored on the following stamps: Nos. 57 and 68 of 1888; No. 283 of 1920 and No. 420 of 1935).

(To be continued)

ADDITIONAL PAGE REGARDING THE FRONT COVER

The stamp showing Major General John Sullivan and his tiny compasses and curved ruler is USA No. 657, shown here.

The engraving used for the stamp, as illustrated on the front cover, is owned by the Sullivan family. The engraving was featured in the 1859 edition of a book entitled *Life of Washington*, by Washington Irving. Later editions of this book do not show the engraving. Sullivan is mentioned, but for some reason the engraving was excluded.

Another engraving by Thomas Hart, which is essentially the same as the family engraving, is in the Library of Congress. However the little compasses emblem is not shown in this engraving. If Hart copied the family engraving, then he either purposely omitted it, or did not see it. The following illustrates the location of the emblem.



The little emblem would have been made of silver and similar to that shown here. There would have been something in the center, probably a sun face (As the sun rules the day...)

Albeit very tiny and indistinct, the emblem is definitely there. As we know it is a Masonic emblem, intentionally worn by Sullivan, then this is likely the first stamp to show a definite Masonic emblem for a Masonic purpose.

