



# *the Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 10

FEBRUARY 1954

NO. 7



Masonic Temple at Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The Latin American Masonic slogan "Liberdad, Igualdad, Fraternidad," (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity) has a prominent place on the facade of the Temple. These three words are also names of three Hondurian Masonic Lodges, Liberdad #4 of Santa Rosa de Copan, Igualdad #1 of Tegucigalpa, and Fraternidad of Telo.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 10 NO. 7  
FEBRUARY 1954



Published by  
The Ralph A. Barry Publication Fund  
of  
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York



## EDITOR

F. L. Ellis, P. O. Box 477  
Pearl River, N. Y.

## ASSOCIATED EDITORS

John A. Mirt, 644 Melrose St., Chicago 13, Ill.  
R. M. Needham, % B.I.S., Lancaster, Ohio  
F. T. Anderson, 1235 Idylwild Dr., Lincoln, Neb.

## OFFICERS

Carl H. Pihl	President
Thomas Phillips	1st Vice-Pres.
George B. Wray	2nd Vice-Pres.
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry	Secretary
31-12 54 Street	Woodside, N. Y.
Russell B. Roane	Treasurer
126 Tenth Avenue	New York 11, N. Y.
	Treasurer Emeritus
	Harry M. Konwiser

## ● Meetings ●

First Friday of Each Month  
Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

February 5, 1954—Past President's Night. Arranged by Arthur I. Helm.

March 5, 1954—Report from the Niagara Frontier — Charles A. Lott.

## About the Club

Bros. Clarence Brazer and Chester Smeltzer were extended honorary membership for life in the Essay Proof Society recently for their work in developing that society. Bro. George Wray is making arrangements for the formal presentation at the Collectors Club.

## HONORS CONFERRED

On May 8, 1953 the Scottish Rite Degrees were conferred on Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield and at the same time on his son, Arthur E. Summerfield, Jr., both members of the Ralph W. Temple Class at Bay City, Michigan, according to the Masonic magazine *NEW AGE*.

Thirty years ago Bro. Summerfield, Senior and his father, William H. Summerfield, were knighted in the Genes-

see Valley Commandery at Flint. Frank G. Millard was at that time Captain-General. Now, thirty years later, Bro. Millard as Commander-in-Chief of Bay City Consistory, officiated in the 32nd degree received by Br. Summerfield and his son.

## WANTS OLD COPIES

Bro. J. F. Reinhardt, Jr., of 804 Taylor street, Wichita Falls, Texas, would like to have a complete collection of the *Masonic Philatelist*. Being a member of the club but a few years he needs quite a few copies to have a complete set. The editor has sent him 32 different issues and if any other brother can send him any early issues he might make his ambition. He now has all editions after and including volume 7, No. 1.

He also is interested in securing anything pertaining to Masonic collecting as he is assembling a collection of this material.

## MASONIC CACHET FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STAMP

The conductor of "Back Porch" has prepared a cover for the Columbia University stamp bearing the following cachet:

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STAMP.**  
The 200th anniversary of Columbia University, New York City, is honored in a stamp issued January 4, 1954. Columbia's graduates include distinguished Masons. Founded in 1754 as King's College, an early pupil was Robert R. Livingston, later Grand Master of New York and great public servant. After a change of name to Columbia College in 1784, the first student was DeWitt Clinton, who later fathered the state's public school system, and who was Grand Master 1806-1820. When the New York Legislature ratified the university's charter in 1787, named as trustee was Morgan Lewis, later Grand Master in 1830-1843.—John A. Mirt, Chicago.

(DeWitt Clinton is pictured on the federal cigaret tax stamp).

## PERRY'S BIRTHDAY?

In the Oct.-Nov. issue of *The Masonic Philatelist* under title Oliver H. Perry we find an error. Brother Matthew C. Perry was born in South Kingston, R. I. Oliver was born in Newport, R. I.—F. Bensen.

Americanized Encyclopaedia Britannica says "Oliver Perry, born in South Kingston. Did not check further. (Editor).

### FROM NEEDHAM'S LINOTYPE JAMES MADISON, A MASON

Depicted on the \$2 1894 issue of the United States (Scott's #262) is a likeness of James Madison, source of design not known by writer. This was one of three of the first high value postage stamps to be produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. This stamp was first issued on Dec. 10, 1894. They were all printed from one plate, #84, and only 10,027 were made.

James Madison was born at Port Conway, Va. on March 16, 1752 and died at Montpelier on June 28, 1836. He was the fourth president of the U. S. from 1809 to 1817.

The **Masonic Digest** of June 1933 stated: "Masonic Record — Madison's Masonic membership is unknown, but evidence gathered from contemporary records leaves no doubt that he was a Mason."

From another source: "He was made a Mason in the Williamsburg, Va. lodge, Dec. 22, 1775."—from a letter written April 2, 1941, by James M. Clift, Grand Secretary of Virginia, to R. Baker Harris, Librarian of the House of the Temple, Washington, D. C.

### CENTURY OLD HANDBILL

One of our members, Bro. Herman Herst, Jr. of Shrub Oak, N. Y., whose Masonic hobby is presenting Masonic memorabilia to lodges and organizations where it can be kept for posterity, has recently been commended by the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Va. for presenting a century old handbill to the Memorial.

The handbill, undated, but enclosed in a cover bearing a 3¢ 1857, thus giving its probable age, advertised a privately owned museum in Alexandria which had on display, in addition to numerous articles possessed by and connected with our first President such un-Masonic items as a two-headed calf, a two-legged sheep, and a four-legged chicken. Printed on red card, the handbill was ornately decorated in the printing custom of the time, and although the museum was apparently not under Masonic auspices, the advertisement specifically mentioned the Masonic heirlooms on display.

At the time Bro. Herst donated the handbill to the Museum in Alexandria, he did not know that the present museum, housed in the tremendous Masonic Memorial Building there is a

direct outgrowth of the very museum advertised on the handbill. In a letter to Bro. Herst from C. Philip Hershley, Curator of the Museum, and on the stationery of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M., Bro. Herst was told:

"... this refers to the same museum that is now housed in the great Memorial here in Alexandria, although none of our records or papers disclose that such curiosities as sheep with two legs, etc., were ever housed in our museum."

Bro. Hershley further stated that the Museum archivist, Dr. William Mosey Brown, found the handbill of great historic interest, being one of the few remaining souvenirs of the earliest days of the museum, before it had become a purely Masonic project.

In his role as stamp dealer, Bro. Herst has in the past found several early Masonic letters, demit notices, meeting notices, etc. from various lodges which he has presented to the lodges themselves, if still in existence, or to their successor lodges, when known. Most interesting item found was the very dispensation issued by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana over a century ago for a lodge in Frostproof, La. The lodge has long since disbanded, but the dispensation is now the cherished property of another lodge in a nearby town that was itself originally made up of brothers belonging to the disbanded one.

### DO YOU KNOW?

In the August, 1953 issue of **NEW AGE**, quoting from **FACTS FOR FREEMASONS**, under the heading "Do you know"—

**Q.** On what famous American frigate was a Masonic Lodge constituted after the vessel was reconstructed?

**A.** "Old Ironsides." Major General Knox Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Massachusetts, was constituted there on March 17, 1926, in Charleston Navy Yard at Boston.

If you use a magnifying glass on the Future Farmers commemorative postage stamp you will see the words—"Vocational - Agriculture"—within the emblem on the boy's coat or jacket. Here is the instance of the lettering engraver (George L. Huber) incorporating his work into the vignette engraver's (Arthur W. Dintaman's) work.

### FREEMASONRY'S MARK ON MONTANA'S HISTORY

No postage stamp conveys a greater story of the protection afforded by Freemasonry, or of the high principles of the Craft, than the 3¢ statehood stamp of 1939 (No. 858), which shows an outline map of Montana and the location of Helena, the state's capital. The stamp was issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the statehood of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington, and also bears the maps of the other three states.

The early history of Montana is a history of Freemasonry in that territory. The two are inseparable, because it was the pledge which binds one Mason to another that brought about law and order in an area where lawlessness was rampant and where guns spewed bullets on little or no provocation.

In the early 1860's adventurers were attracted to Montana (then Dakota Territory) by the discovery of gold and other valuable metals. The first settlement was opened up at what is now Bannack. It was a settlement of the rawest sort. All around was the barest creation. Every stranger was regarded as an enemy. A spirit of anarchy was abroad, and there was no law. Lives were snuffed out with impunity. It was unsafe to voice publicly any opposition to this situation.

In 1863, there was the first gathering of Masons. A brother before his death had requested Masonic funeral services. No one knew the numerical strength of Masonry in that territory, because there was no lodge. A notice was posted. When the brother was consigned to his grave, 76 Masons who had proved themselves under rigid examination were present to drop sprigs of evergreen upon the casket.

This surprisingly large turnout set the Masons to thinking. They decided then and there to establish a working lodge, not only for the fellowship it afforded but as a united front against the lawless element which then ruled. The Grand Master of Nebraska on April 27, 1863, granted a dispensation for a lodge at Bannack. Before the dispensation arrived, most of the Masons had moved to more fruitful regions of Montana, and the lodge never met under that authority.

But the idea of Masonic lodges was not abandoned. Three were established in rapid succession elsewhere—Virginia City No. 43 under a charter from

the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and Montana No. 9 and Helena No. 10, at Helena, under charters from the Grand Lodge of Colorado.

On January 24, 1866, representatives of these three lodges met at Virginia City and formed the Grand Lodge of Montana. The brethren from Helena trudged through blinding storms and snow of unprecedented depths to attend, traveling 120 miles.

Meantime, the Masons had gathered around them other law-abiding citizens and had organized the Vigilantes—a group which was determined to bring law and order out of chaos. Their efforts met with signal success. The assassin and the tyrant, who had killed or insulted with confidence of no punishment, were driven out. Towns sprang up where just a few years before savage men and beasts roamed. An empire was in the making.

The rapid progress of Freemasonry in Montana was a matter of astonishment to the new brethren who came from the States. But, when it is recalled that the Masons met for mutual protection against a common enemy, this growth is not surprising. The brotherhood of the Craft afforded an opportunity for defense against surrounding evils. Thus, the traditions of Freemasonry spread quickly in those western wilds and good men were attracted to its altars.

It is fitting, indeed, that when Helena, the present state capital, became a city, the first four mayors to be elected were Masons. When the cornerstone of the state capitol was laid on July 4, 1899, the Grand Master of Montana was called upon to perform this service with the ceremonies of the Craft.

That is the story one postage stamp could tell, had it the power to speak. It is a story which I found in the proceedings of the early years of the Grand Lodge of Montana.—John A. Mirt in "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

In the October-November issue of the *Masonic Philatelist* we mentioned that Bro. John Mirt was expected to visit New York February 10-18, 1954, but this is a mistake because of a mix-up. Bro. Mirt writes: "Sorry about this confusion. My visit to New York was September 10-18, not February. My mind must have been wandering if I wrote February. Don't know when my next trip will be."