



# *the Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 11

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No. 3



This cover bears the first official air mail stamp of the world. According to Lissiu's "The Historical Air Mail Catalogue," the first experimental flights of Italy were made in May, 1917 by the Italian government, between Turin-Rome and between Naples-Palermo, but no regular lines were instituted although the experimental flights were most successful. In connection with these two flights, Italy issued two air stamps. Special delivery stamps of 1903 were sur-

charged, and not more than ten copies were sold to an individual to prevent speculation. This made Italy the first country to issue an official airmail stamp. The catalogue gives the date of the Turin-Rome flight as May 22, 1917, but the cover illustrated bears the date of May 20, 1917, and is cancelled Roma-Torino. The surcharge on the stamp reads "Esperimento Posta Area / Maggio 1917 / Torino : Roma . Roma : Torino. Photo by Bro. Arthur Heim; cover courtesy Bro. Robert Pech.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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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 Idyiwild Dr., Lincoln, Neb.

### OFFICERS

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545 Fifth Avenue	New York 17, N. Y.
Harold E. Gunter	Back numbers Masonic
	Philatelist
141-06 Glassboro Ave.	Jamaica 4, N. Y.



## By the Sign of the GAVEL

The excellent turn out at the first meeting of MSC September 10th was very gratifying. Nearly everyone brought an interesting item for the entertainment of the members, providing a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It is to be hoped that this enthusiasm, exhibited at the initial meeting, will continue throughout the year as your Program Committee has arranged an outstanding schedule of programs of great interest and variety.

This season the club has inaugurated a series of "nights" that are designed to provide each and every member an opportunity to exhibit his stamps. There are some members who hardly ever bring to the meetings a part of their collection. All members are urged to participate. And certainly every member should plan to participate in the Annual Members' Exhibition which will be held on May 6, 1955. With such advance notice, no one should offer as an excuse the fact that he did

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

**November 5**—Excerpts from Herst's "Outbursts"—Herman Herst.

**December 3** — Africa Night — arranged by George Camnitzer.

**January 7, 1955** — China Night — China Stamp Society.

not have sufficient time to prepare for the annual showing. So get busy now, during these long winter evenings, and surprise your fellow members next May. You may surprise yourself, too, and walk off with a prize.

Your officers and Board of Governors are anxious to receive any comments or suggestions from the members regarding any phase of the club's activity—meetings, program, exchange circuit, The Masonic Philatelist, the degree work, the annual dinner or anything else. Constructive suggestions are always welcome.

—Carl H. Pihl.

### NEWS NOTES

Do not forget that the A.S.D.A National Stamp Show is at the 71st Regiment Armory, Park Ave. and 34th Street, N. Y. C., from November 19 to 21, 1954. Always a good show.

Bro. Mirt has given the Illinois Orphans Home the sum of \$735, the extra funds left over in three years of publishing "Masonry on Postage Stamps." Always room for more subscribers.

According to P.M.G. Order 55744, October 4, 1954, postage due stamps, for philatelic purposes only, may be purchased from the Philatelic Agency after October 15, 1954.

The new special delivery stamp release photograph shows a letter franked with the same stamp and one of the new 3 cent Liberty stamps. The letter is addressed to Mr. Doe, 1954 Liberty St., Anytown, U. S. A.

Under the new Post Office regional set-up, the Regional Operations Manager for Washington, D. C., will be Mr. Tobias R. Talbert. He was one of three postal experts sent to Turkey in 1949 to reorganize its postal service. He now resides in Washington and is a member of Miron M. Parker Lodge No. 37, A.F. & A.M.

In our Masonic studies the moment we forget that the whole and every part of Freemasonry is symbolic or allegoric, we begin to grope in the dark. Its ceremonies, signs, tokens, word, and lectures at once become meaningless or trivial. The study of no other aspect of Freemasonry is more important, yet the study of no aspect of it has become so much neglected.—The Conn. Compass.

### NEW RELEASES

The P. O. information release of September 24, 1954 states that one of the 20 cent 1954 design Special Delivery stamp plates was cancelled before the new stamp was issued. Plate number 25058, never certified, was cancelled on August 24, 1954, with no impressions. Plate numbers 25059 and 25060 are the other numbers assigned to the new stamp.

The new 2 cent regular postage stamp featuring the portrait of Jefferson, is listed as "New Gauge." This new gauge has electric eye plate markings the same as the Red Cross and the Lewis and Clark commemorative plates. The only difference in the commemorative plate being the distance between the plate number and the electric eye marking. The distance on the commemoratives being about 14 mm. and on the 2 cent Jefferson about ½ mm.

The 1 cent and the 3 cent 1954 regular series have the old electric eye markings. It will be of interest to see how the rest of the forthcoming values will be of the "New Gauge."

### SERVICE TO PHILATELY

Bro. H. L. Lindquist will be one of six to receive the Collectors Club medal this month. The medal is for long and devoted service to the club. Bro. Lindquist has been president of the club and at one time the editor of the Collectors Club Philatelist.

At the American Philatelic Society's 68th annual convention in San Francisco in September, the late Brother Al Van Dahl was one of three elected to the A.P.S. Hall of Fame. At present 39 names of outstanding philatelists comprise this Hall of Fame. Two of our late members of the Masonic Stamp Club beside Bro. Van Dahl are on the list, Bros. Ralph A. Barry and Walter R. McCoy.

Bro. Sol Glass was one of two to receive the Luff Award at the A.P.S. convention. This is given to living philatelists. Bro. Glass gets his for his

book on U. S. commemoratives published this year. Other members of the Masonic Stamp Club who have received the Luff Award in the past are Bros. Clarence W. Brazer, Chester Smeltzer and Harry L. Lindquist.

### TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR BRO. L. H. BARKHAUSEN

September 15, 1954, 26 collectors attended a dinner held at the New York Athletic Club of New York City on the invitation of Prescott H. Thorp to celebrate the issuance of the Century Edition of the "Thorp-Bartels Catalogue of Envelope Stamps." The guest of honor was L. H. Barkhausen through whose cooperation the catalogue was made possible.

Of the 26 attending, many were members of the Masonic Stamp Club, namely: Bro. L. H. Barkhausen, Bro. Richard Bohn, the president of the Association For Stamp Exhibitions, Inc.; Bro. Jacob S. Glaser, director of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs; Bro. Sidney F. Barrett, treasurer of the Association For Stamp Exhibitions, etc.; Bro. H. L. Lindquist, publisher of Stamps; Bro. Marcus White, prominent envelope authority and collector, and F. L. Ellis, co-editors of the catalogue.

Presentation copies of the catalogue were given the attending collectors. A handsome volume, specially bound, with his name in gold on the cover, was presented to Bro. Barkhausen, whose portrait is on one of the fly leaves. The co-editors were given specially bound volumes in light green cloth, with their names in gold on the cover and the others present received the regular volume in dark red cloth.

Other Bro. Masons, not at the dinner, who had some part in the compiling of the catalogue were George C. Slawson and A. G. Chapman. John Fox, Harry Konwiser and the late Al Van Dahl were given credit for help.

### CLAUSEN ALBUMS

Bro. C. O. Clausen, 748 46th avenue, San Francisco, Calif., presented his Masonic Stamp Albums to our club. These printed albums are suitable for beginning a collection of Masonic personalities and events as depicted on stamps. One volume is for U. S. stamps and the other for foreign. The flexible plastic covers are embossed with square and compass and are well illustrated.

The albums were passed around for members' comments and will be offered as a prize at our next members' exhibi-



bition. Thank you, Bro. Clausen, we believe you have made a good start toward helping many who have wondered just how to go about planning a Masonic collection.

To the more advanced, who seek cancellations, franks, corner cards, etc., these albums may not fill the need but for the collector who wants a compact collection of stamps, these albums are basic.

#### ASIA NIGHT OCT. 1, 1954

With Bro. Russell B. Roane program chairman various members showed from their respective collections.

Harold E. Gunter, Siam from 1883, first issues to date.

Robert M. Pech, Asian coins.

Sam Brooks, Asian U.P.U.s.

Carl H. Pihl, India Centenary Brochure.

Forrest Ellis, the Fourth Centenary of Printing with movable type on Japan and Mongolia.

Irwin M. Yarry, Honk Kong, seapost cancels.

George B. Wray and Russell B. Roane, Philippines "Victory" issues and others.

#### SLOGAN SLANTS & ODDITIES

By MOE LUFF

Chicago, Ill. is now using a Slogan Type Special Service Marking—Universal machine No. 71—reading MISSENT / TO / CHICAGO, ILL. It is affixed to the lower left hand corner of the envelope similar to the RETURN TO WRITER UNCLAIMED markings.

Two different dies are in use in Omaha, Nebr. for the OMAHA CENTENNIAL ALL THE YEAR slogan. The first has the R in YEAR under the first EN in CENTENNIAL and in the other, the R is under the first N only. ATLANTIC CITY CENTENNIAL in use with two different dater circles; one shows NJ. (no period after N) and the other N.J. (period after N).

100TH ANNIVERSARY LAWRENCE, KANSAS was used at Lawrence, Kans. \* Int'l machine while also in use from University Station Universal machine.

1654-1954 300TH ANNIVERSARY NORTHAMPTON, MASS. was used on both Int'l. and Universal machines. The Int'l. die has one dash between 1654-1954 and the Universal has 3 dashes, 1654--1954.

VISIT SUPERIOR CENTENNIAL JULY 17-24, 1954, Superior, Wisc. \* -

Int'l. machine; Station B - Int'l. HD (hand driven).

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY 200TH ANNIVERSARY 1754-1954 in use with New York, N. Y. \* (GPO), 1 (GPO3, 7 (Church St. Sta.), 17 (Grand Central Sta.), and 51 (Bronx Central Sta.).

BI-CENTENNIAL YEAR GREAT MACE OF NORFOLK 1754 1954 NORFOLK, VA. in use on 3 machines, No. 3, 4, 5.

Pelham, N. Y. post office is using the P. O. meter with .00 postage to cancel envelopes with red ink and bearing a slogan, TERCENTENNIAL 1654-1954 PELHAM, N. Y. OCTOBER 15, 16, 17 CELEBRATION with illustrations of an Indian with Tomahawk and a Pilgrim Couple (Man holding a Musket).

In 1953, Benton Harbor, Mich. also used a meter with .00 postage and slogan to cancel mail. The serial number of the meter (304057) seems to indicate that it was not a P. O. meter but that of a private firm that was used to cancel the mail. The slogan reads 1953 BLOSSOM FESTIVAL MAY 2-9 BENTON HARBOR-ST. JOSEPH MICH with Blossoms illustrated.

From June 28 to July 4, 1953, Keene, New Hamp. cancelled the mail with an ordinary 7 wave line cancellation and also affixed a meter slogan and Dater circle (without the postage indicia). The slogan reads CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF PROGRESS JUNE 28--JULY 4 with an illustration of some sort of seal or insignia.

On July 17, 18, 19, 1953 - Hillsboro, New Hamp. affixed a hand Dater Circle and cancelled the stamps with a rubber stamp slogan reading 100TH ANNIVERSARY INAUGURAL OF PRES. FRANKLIN PIERCE JULY 17, 18, 19.

#### NOTES

Persons interested in special slogan cancellations may obtain the following by sending self-addressed stamped envelopes to the appropriate postmaster with the request that the cancellation be applied:

WENTWORTH MILITARY / ACADEMY & JR. COLLEGE / 75th ANNIVERSARY (Lexington, Missouri). From July 1 through December 31, 1954.

100 YEARS OF LIVING / CRESCENT CITY, CALIF. / 1854 - CENTENNIAL - 1954 (Crescent City, California). Upon receipt for a period not to exceed six months.