



The Masonic Philatelist

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NO. 8



Our President, Brother Carl H. Pihl, is chairman of the publicity committee for the 5th International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in New York March 3-11, 1956, when the New York Coliseum opens its doors for the first time. This design theme for FIPEX expresses "Freedom Over the World," and was created by the artist Franc Ritter. The frame reminds of perforations on a stamp. Collectors are invited to participate by joining The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., according to Secretary Edwin E. Elkins, 22 East 35th St., New York 16, N. Y.

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By the Sign of the GAVEL

First, I would like to congratulate Bro. Emanuel M. Reggel, the new editor of The Masonic Philatelist, for the fine job that he did on the April issue, despite the short notice. If you agree, drop Bro. Reggel a line and tell him so. Better yet, send him a news item of philatelic or Masonic interest from your local group. A short article describing an interesting phase of your collecting activities, or some experiences you have had as a collector, would be of interest to all fellow members. Photographs of interesting items or events are also desired.

Unless you have been an editor, it is difficult to realize the problems involved in getting out a publication like The Masonic Philatelist if the co-operation of members is not forthcoming. Get behind your editor and help him to keep up the high standards of our paper. If each member would send one short paragraph twice a year, Bro. Reggel's worries would be

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th street

June 3, 1955—Annual Meeting and
Election of Officers.

over. And those that have the ability should send him at least one article each year. These words are addressed to YOU.

21st Annual Dinner

A treat is in store for the members at the 21st annual dinner Friday evening, May 20, 1955 at The Masonic Club in the Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd street, New York, N. Y. Bro. Richard S. Bohn, president of The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc. and Chairman of FIPEX, the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, will be the speaker at this blue ribbon event. Besides being an accomplished and entertaining speaker—with a good repertoire of amusing stories, Bro. Bonn undoubtedly can be persuaded to tell us something about plans for FIPEX and the fabulous New York Coliseum, which will open the structure on March 3, 1956.

So make your reservation now for the 21st Annual Dinner. Send your check for \$4.00 to Sidney F. Barrett, 87 Nassau street, New York 38, N. Y.

—Carl H. Pihl.

Bro. Harry O. Henneman from Denver, Colorado, wishes he could be at our Annual Dinner, that not being so he sends greetings to all our Brothers. Bro. Henneman when he lived in New York was always helpful in arranging entertainment for our dinner. To Bro. Harry best wishes and we will be thinking of you.

In and Around the Club

Word has come to us that Bro. F. T. Anderson has not been in the best of health lately. It got to a point where his doctor advised him to retire from work and go to live in a milder climate which he did. Bro. Anderson has moved from Lincoln, Neb. to 772 So. 2nd street, Apt. E., San Jose, Cal. We, the Masonic Stamp Club wish you a speedy recovery and hope that you enjoy your new home and surroundings, also spending many pleasant hours with your stamp collection.

WHY I COLLECT BELGIAN CONGO

By Arthur I. Heim

At the April meeting there was a discussion as to why some of us collect what we do, and the proposal was made to write up our ideas for the Philatelist. Obviously almost everyone either collects U. S. in some form or at least dabbles in these stamps. Another large group collects the stamps of some foreign country because their national origin goes back to that country. The general collector may have no other reason than general interest and the topical collector goes to the other extreme with a very specific interest. That leaves a smaller group who specialize in one or more countries. It is in this group that there might be a story.

I collect the stamps of Belgian Congo, a fact that has been known to bring out a snicker or two on occasion (of course only from the uninformed). For the stamps of Congo offer great opportunity for philatelic research.

Some years ago, when I was not collecting stamps at all, I had a job that involved a lot of correspondence with an important mining operation, the Union Miniere du Haut Katanga at Likasi, now Jadotville. The stamps fascinated me enough so that I clipped all I could get my hands on, to give away. There was plenty of demand for them. I kept a few for myself, but found when I set out to mount them that they were few indeed. So I had to go begging to the office manager to pick through what was left for myself. This gave me the rudiments of a one-of-a-kind collection, to which it soon became apparent it was difficult to add to. Stamps that cataloged for two cents then were next to impossible to find. I chased one for six years.

At that stage I joined the Masonic Stamp Club and my association with the many well-informed philatelists stimulated me to try to improve the collection. One thing became quickly apparent. There are many medium priced stamps that appear on the market only once in a blue moon. There is only one Congo stamp that is really high priced (Scott No. 30a, 10 fr. yellow green & black, center inverted, cat. \$500) and this stamp cannot be bought at full catalog even in damaged condition.

The real fascination of Congo becomes apparent when a specialized catalog is studied. All the first 87 numbers can be plated, and most of the plate varieties are of the major

order. Among the overprints, the "CONGO BELGE" overprint listed by Scott as typographed and hand-stamped actually appears in two different typographed overprints and no less than sixteen different handstamps. There are numerous perforation varieties, some of which are very hard to find. There is even a watermark, on a stamp listed as unwatermarked. Of course there are overprint errors, most of which are authentic, even though some have a faint odor to them. One thing is certain, in listing the major varieties of Congo, it is one of the most neglected countries in the Scott catalog.

Getting away from the stamps, there is the interesting field of postmarks. There are 12 major types of cancellations and about 300 towns, many of which are no longer in existence. Perhaps 1000 varieties are possible, but no complete collection exists because for some varieties only single copies are known.

So I collect Congo because (1) of the great philatelic interest, (2) the designs themselves are colorful and interesting, (3) an attempt at a good showing is a genuine challenge, and (4) there are enough stamps available to permit of making a representative showing even though, at the same time, many are quite rare.

LODGE, FULTON COUNTY, KY.

Is the Lodge, Ky. circular mark, reading "LODGE / Fulton C. / Ky." a Masonic marking? This town mark, used in the "after 1851" period has some claim to being Masonic, as is noted by S. B. Ashbrook, in the Issue No. 22, The 3c. '51-57 Chronicle, as neatly edited by J. W. Simpson, Berkeley, Calif.

The significance of the post office name is indicated by the printing on the reverse side of the envelope, reading:

THE UNIVERSAL MASONIC LIBRARY

The Literary Temple of the Nineteenth Century built up by the united and free co-operation of the zealous hearted of the Masonic Institution. Recommended by the Grand Lodges and official brethren throughout the United States.

Lodge was quite an active city in 1857, but there is no definite information as to the Masonic connection. Who can supply the complete answer?

FOR OUR READERS

Brother Stanley Golwen has a fine collection showing Masonic symbols on stamps, I wish you all could see it but that being difficult we shall try and endeavor to bring it to you by monthly articles. All numbers referred to are Scott's catalogue. When his album is open at a given page the comment and quotes appear on the left page and the stamps themselves on the right page. He uses three different colors in writing up the collection: Red for biblical quotes, a light blue for Masonic ritual quotes, and a dark blue for comments.

By Bro. Stanley J. Golwen

Tertullian and Origen in the second and third centuries of our era stressed the allegoric interpretation of the old testament.

King Hiram answered . . . I will send thee . . . the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan. . . (Hiram in the Phoenician lists reigned 969-936 B. C.).

An eagle and a serpent were on the standard of the tribe of Dan.

"And the carcasses . . . shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth." — Jeremiah 7, 33; 16, 4; 19, 7.

Elijah cried unto the Lord . . . "O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow . . . by slaying her son."

—1 Kings 17, 20-21.

Stamps: Italian East Africa 2, C13; Italy 233; Germany B289; Greece N157.

The beehive is an emblem . . .

Priestesses of Demeter were alluded to as bees. Demeter was given a temple in Rome 493 B. C.

The bee formed a prominent feature of the Mithra cult. The throne of St. Peter still shows the emblems of Mithra.

The three stripes of Vishnu are full of honey.

Stamps: Hungary 827, C139; Bulgaria 401, 402; Romania 677; Italy 623; Vatican City, new issue showing Pius XI with papal tiara.

Poseidon's temple stood in Pine Grove, on the Isthmus of Corinth. Here was to be seen the Argo, the ship of the Argonauts.

The Ram with the golden fleece was his offspring.

Phrixus sacrificed the Ram and hung up its fleece in the Grove of

Ares, where it was guarded by a sleepless dragon.

Jason, one sandaled, launched his ship to the music of Orpheus.

Stamps: Tunis 190; Denmark 265; Greece C30; Hungary C89; Italy 359.

"More ancient than the Golden Fleece . . ."

Philip the Good gave "Feast of the Pheasant" at Lille, France, in 1454 before the Assembly of the Knights of the Golden Fleece.

The Pheasant was particularly cherished by the Order of the Golden Fleece because of its supposed introduction into Europe by the Argonauts.

The collar of the Order was of alternate flintstones, steels and flames between the horns of the fleece. The motto on the embroidered velvet hood is that of the House of Burgundy, "Ante Ferit Quam Micat"—First strike and then the flame will shine; perhaps the oldest way of expressing, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you, seek and you shall find."

Stamps: Belgium B298; North Borneo 83; Japan C11.

The 4f plus 1f stamp of the recent Belgium tuberculosis set is of Masonic interest. The painting, by Antoinette Carte, was inspired by a fable by Jean Pierre de Florian (1755-1794), French fabulist and Mason. The proposed new French famous person series also will include a stamp honoring Florian.

A 250pr stamp issued in January by Israel to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Teachers' Association, shows an ancient style oil lamp with a burning flame—an excellent symbolism example for "Let there be Light." The stamp is dark blue, a Masonic color.

Gerhard van Swieten (1700-1772), Dutch-born physician shown on an Austrian stamp (No. B156) a 5g plus 5g issue of 1937, was a Mason. Dr. van Swieten was called to Vienna University in 1745. He fought against superstition in medicine and helped to modernize the profession. He served as physician to Queen Maria Theresa. —Mirt.

Eastern Germany in May will issue a 20pf. stamp for the 150th anniversary of the death of Johann Schiller (1759-1805), poet and philosopher, who was a Mason.