

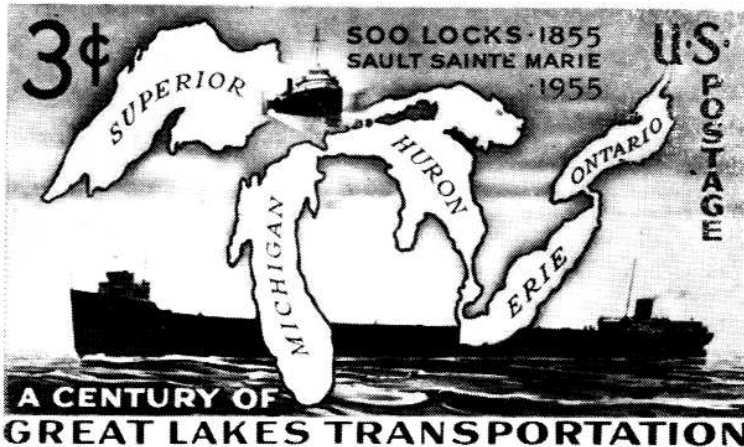


The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 11

JUNE 1955

NO. 9



A moving spirit in the construction of the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the centennial of which is to be commemorated in a 3¢ stamp to be issued June 28, was Gen. Lewis Cass, a Past Grand Master of Ohio and of the Territory of Michigan.

The first settlement of what is now Michigan was by the French in 1668 at Sault Ste. Marie. The area came into the Northwest Territory when that was established in 1787 and developed under the leadership of Masons (see Vol. 3, page 6). In 1813, Michigan Territory was set up and Cass was appointed territorial governor, a position he held until 1831. He became a leading factor in the development of Michigan.

Having heard that St. Mary's river in upper Michigan, which marks the boundary between the United States and Canada, could become an import-

ant waterway, Cass in 1827 went to Sault Ste. Marie on the "Henry Clay" (named after a Past Grand Master of Kentucky), the first steamboat on the Great Lakes to reach as far north as the Soo. He was convinced, and in his later political life in Congress he sponsored legislation for the development of the waterway.

Ground for the Canal was broken in 1853 and the waterway formally opened two years later. Only 1.6 miles long and constructed at a cost of \$17,500,000, including subsequent improvements, the canal connects Lakes Superior and Huron. It carries about one billion dollars of freight annually. The steel industry, every user of steel and agriculture in particular, have been tremendously benefited by the cheap transportation provided by the Soo Canal.

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In and Around the Club —

Letters from some members were received by the Dinner Committee, regretting their inability to be with us at our 21st annual dinner.

Bro. Henry W. Holcombe of New York City sent his warmest regards and felicitations to all present.

Bro. C. Biehl of Morristown, Pa. extends wishes for our continued success. Bro. Lt. Col. A. W. Hodges of Lexington, Missouri, who is currently head of the Military Department of Wentworth Military Academy, sends best wishes and greetings to all brothers, and hopes some day he will be stationed near New York and able to take a more active part in the activities of the club. Here's hoping!

Bro. W. Frank Davis of Kingston, N. Y. writes he would enjoy being at our 21st annual dinner but he is 83 years old and does not get around so much, without help. He is 50 years a Mason, and took the Master of Philately degree in 1947. Has been col-

In Memoriam

BRO. J. DONALD MYERS
May his soul find eternal rest.

lecting stamps since 1884 and has two books of Masonic stamps. (We all wish Bro. Davis many more years of health and pleasant hours with his stamps).

Bro. Louis Bobel, 194 Munn Ave., Irvington 11, N. J. writes he was unable to attend the dinner because of a heart attack he suffered in May, 1954; his doctor forbade any dinners or banquets. He is making recovery slowly. He said once in a while he plays hooky and goes out and gives a talk on Philatelic Oddities and said this helps him grow old graciously. He also has a collection of over 40,000 cigar bands (collecting over fifty years) and is still looking for more. He asks if anybody has cigar bands that they do not need he will be glad to receive them. (Let's see if we can add to his collection).

Bro. Burleigh E. Jacobs regretted exceedingly that he would miss our annual dinner by two days as he and Mrs. Jacobs sailed May 18 on the Queen Elizabeth for Europe. They are visiting Norway and Sweden. (Happy sailing!).

Bro. Theodore R. Lockwood, Brick House, Jaffrey, New Hampshire, wrote that he would be unable to be in New York for the anniversary dinner, writing: "I am a new member in the club, and have been much interested in the literature and appreciative of the first day covers sent to me. My life has been spent in Newton, Mass., but my business caused me to travel much abroad as well as in this country, a very busy life, the later years in public office. Retired as mayor of my home city the end of 1953, so determined to live comfortably a few years and resume my stamp collecting. Whenever any of you fraters travel near the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire, which is a beautiful section and old rest area of mine, be assured that he will find the Square and Compasses on the inside of the front door, and a warm welcome at all times." (Thanks Bro. Lockwood for your fine, cordial letter).

Bro. L. Van Buskirk, 4065 So. Washington street, Englewood, Colo., informs us that his Masonic stamps rated a gold cup at the Sixth Annual Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition. (Awarded for the best Topical.) CONGRATULATIONS!

SOO CANAL ISSUE

—Continued—

Lewis Cass was born in Exeter, N. H., October 9, 1792. He moved to Marietta, Ohio, in 1799, where he studied law. He entered public life in 1804, serving nobly in local, state or national offices for 56 years. He became a member of American Union Lodge (now No. 1), Marietta in 1804 and dimitted the same year to Amity Lodge (now No. 5), Zanesville, Ohio, to become its first Master. He helped organize the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1808 and served as Grand Master 1810-1813. When he moved to Detroit, he affiliated with Zion Lodge (now No. 1). In 1826, he helped to organize the Grand Lodge of Michigan Territory, becoming its first Grand Master and serving two terms. He died June 17, 1866, and was buried with Masonic honors.—Mirt's Masonry on Stamps.

OUR ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Our 21st annual dinner of May 20th, held at the Masonic Club, 71 West 23rd St., New York City, was a success. Credit must be given to Bro. Sidney F. Barrett and his dinner committee for the time and effort which they so diligently put forth.

Bro. Thomas Phillips was master of ceremonies and introduced the speaker for the evening. He was none other than our own Bro. Richard S. Bohn. He told several amusing stories and then spoke enthusiastically about FIPEX (Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition), which will be held in the new Coliseum March 3 to 11, 1956. He spoke in detail about the show, saying how colossal it will be. The building itself is a \$35,000,000 structure. We who belong to Philately, have been selected and given the coveted privilege to be the first exhibitors. No greater compliment was ever paid Philately, no greater importance ever attributed to our hobby. Bro. Bohn went on to say that FIPEX will occupy two floors 143,000 square feet of display.

The opening, to inaugurate this magnificent structure also is being planned. There will be a two mile long parade, floats representative of many important industries of the nation (including of course a FIPEX float). The Governor of the State of New York, the Mayor of New York City and other civic leaders are expected to lead the parade. Efforts are being made to have the President of the United States take part in the inauguration ceremonies, also. Over eighty-two na-

tions have been asked to show and forty governments have already committed themselves.

The United States Post Office will show activities that go into the production of a commemorative stamp, a miniature sheet, a stamped envelope and a postal card are among the things anticipated.

Bro. Bohn is president of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions Inc., and chairman of FIPEX.

MASTER OF PHILATELY

The degree of master of philately was conferred upon Brothers Benjamin Grossman, Alvin D. Lurch and Dr. S. Duffield Swan, on May 6, 1955.

U. S. POSTAL CARD CATALOG

It may interest some of you Brothers to know that our publishers have just printed a catalogue on United States Postal Cards which sells at \$2.50. For further information, contact Van Dahl Publications, Inc., Albany, Oregon.

WORKING FOR FIPEX

Many organizations tried to get the new Coliseum for the opening day, but the FIPEX sponsors convinced the Coliseum officials that an International Stamp Exhibition would give them international publicity, so, we were chosen to open the 35 million dollar landmark on March 3, 1956.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was the first organization to contract for a lounge at this show, and was awarded a choice location. This lounge is located in the Study Group Section and we were permitted to arrange for a special Masonic display of stamps and covers. In addition to the two Masonic Philatelic lodges of Australia and New Zealand we have nine frames spoken for and several out of town Masonic philatelists have indicated their willingness to enter exhibits. If we can get about 24 frames or more we may interest some one to write up this material in book form for future reference.

For information, contact Jacob S. Glaser, 845 E. 13th street, Brooklyn 30, N. Y. While the cost of frames is not established, they will not cost more than \$10.00 for a frame of 36" by 48" large enough for 16 pages.

Another country has honored the Cuban liberator and Mason, Jose Marti. Colombia on January 28 issued a 5¢ stamp bearing his portrait and signature.

The Editor is going fishing, and won't be back until September 2 when our meetings will be resumed. However, let's hear of your activities, etc., in the meantime. Here's to a healthy, happy summer to all members and their families.

Working Tools From Jerusalem

Bro. A. Koomanoff recently presented to W. Jerome Korn, Master of Bethel Lodge No. 733, a set of working tools on behalf of his son, Bro. Frederick Koomanoff who is at present located in Germany. While touring in the West Zone, Bro. Koomanoff purchased the working tools. The case and handles are fashioned of olive wood and the head of the gavel is made of stone from the quarries that provided stone for King Solomon's Temple.

THE MASONIC COLLECTION

Wor. Bro. Douglas Murison of Argentina has prepared an interesting summarization of what kind of stamps can be included in a Masonic collection. It is presented herewith particularly for the benefit of collectors who are just entering into the field.

It would not be thought that the stamp album or catalog would be places to find references to an esoteric science such as Freemasonry, yet the stamp collector who wishes to build up a thematic collection will find plenty of material. Let us, therefore, examine some of these gummed, colored pieces of paper, for which purpose we will classify them in three groups: (1) portraits; (2) symbolisms, and (3) miscellaneous.

The portrait group constitutes by far the greatest field and includes kings, presidents, statesmen, soldiers, sailors, aviators, scientists, humanitarians, poets, authors, composers, artists, inventors and others. The fight for freedom and independence has been well sponsored by Masons and recognition is found on postage stamps which honor Washington, Bolivar, San Martin, Garibaldi, Rizal, Marti, to mention a few. The arts are fully represented by Mozart, Haydn, Goethe, Lessing, Schiller and Mark Twain, among others. So the list could be continued ad infinitum to include every nationality, creed and race, and embrace every activity in which humanity is lawfully employed.

It is in the symbolism group that the greatest interest undoubtedly lies,

particularly when stamps bearing Masonic symbols were never issued as such, with perhaps the exception of Honduras stamps picturing an exterior and an interior view of a Temple. The Bible, Square, Compasses, Trowel, Triangle, Plumb, Rule, Dove, Cable-tow, emblems of Life and Mortality, Ashler, Gavel, Pillars, Sword and many other symbolisms all find their place. Holland, Great Britain and Switzerland have produced stamps with wonderful Masonic lessons read from their design, although such was not the original intention. A most interesting page of stamps could be laid out depicting a Lodge with all its paraphernalia.

Under the miscellaneous group would fall all other stamps, those portraying buildings, places and events with Masonic connection. It is instructive and interesting delving into the backgrounds of stamps and finding a Masonic story hidden therein.

Thus, it will be seen that undoubtedly Masonic stamps must constitute the largest thematic collection possible. However, a vast amount of information, Masonic and otherwise, must be at the collector's command if he is to get the best from his hobby. —From Mirt's "Masonry On Postage Stamps."

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