



the Masonic Philatelist

Vol. 12

NOVEMBER 1955

No. 3



This design theme for FIPEX expresses "Freedom Over the World" the new date line April 28 - May 6, 1956 has been added, which is now the official date of the International Philatelic Exhibition. This should be a date that all Brothers should make an effort to visit New York and see this fabulous show.

The Club hopes to see you at its booth at "FIPEX."

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

NOVEMBER 1955

VOL. 12

NO. 3



Published by
The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl
Publication Fund
of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York



EDITOR

Emanuel M. Reggel
690 Fort Washington Ave.
New York 40, N. Y.

ASSOCIATED EDITORS

John A. Mirt, 644 Melrose St., Chicago 13, Ill.
R. M. Needham
708 N. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Lancaster, Ohio

OFFICERS

President — Thomas Philllps
1st Vice-Pres.—George B. Wray
2nd Vice-Pres.—Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry Secretary
31-12 54 Street Woodside, N. Y.
Russell B. Roane Treasurer
126 Tenth Avenue New York 11, N. Y.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Charles Lott 3 years
Emanuel M. Reggel 2 years
Fred Hill 1 year

Treasurer Emeritus
Harry M. Konwiser

Membership—Carl E. Pelander
545 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

Back Numbers Masonic
Philatelist—Harold E. Gunter
141-06 Glassboro Ave., Jamaica 4, N. Y.



In and Around the Club

It is gratifying to report that our last meeting of October 7th, was well attended, interesting and educational. Bro. S. Duffield Swan showed his collection of Masonic cancellations. He spoke at length on the subject. I think it was of such interest to so many members that I have prevailed upon Bro. Swan to write an article, which will appear in our Masonic Philatelist, monthly. His collection is unique and outstanding and is probably the finest of its kind in existence today. He has done a great deal of research work and is passing his information on to you in his coming articles.

Bro. Harry M. Konwiser was reported a little under the weather. We all missed him at our meeting. Bro. Harry is a stalwart member, one of

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

Nov. 4th—Bro. Herman Herst. The
Balloon Posts Siege of Paris
1871.

the founders of our club. We all wish him well and hope to see him at our next meeting.

Addresses Collectors' Club

Bro. Robert E. Fellers, who is Director of the Department's Division of Philately, told the Collectors' Club of N. Y. when he spoke at a meeting last month the following:

Studies which the Post Office Department made during 1953 revealed that profits on first day sales more than reimburse the postal service for the costs of bringing out new issues, Robert E. Fellers, director of the Department's Division of Philately told the Collectors Club of New York when he spoke at a meeting early this month.

During 1953, Director Fellers reported, 5,427,603 covers were cancelled at first day sales. Total receipts at these first day sales amounted to \$434,712.49.

The cost to the Post Office Department of handling these covers amounted to approximately \$55,000, Director Fellers revealed. "You can readily see," he told the Collectors Club, "there is a substantial profit on the first day sale of new stamps."

Excess Postage

The postal service estimates that approximately 1,356,900 of the nearly 5½ million covers cancelled at the 1953 first day sales carried blocks of four, or at least 12¢ in postage on each cover, according to the postal official. This makes the excess postage on each cover come to some \$122,121.

The excess postage collected on first day covers bearing blocks of four more than reimburses the Post Office Department for the costs of bringing out new stamps, Mrs. Fellers said.

Sales through the Philatelic Agency, which average some \$2 million a year, represent further income from collectors, Director Fellers told the Collectors Club.

Sales In Cities

It is also well known that many collectors make extensive purchases from

their local post offices. A recent survey, Director Fellers reported, indicates that philatelic sales for a 12-months-period in New York City amount to \$1,164,000. Estimated annual philatelic receipts in other large cities are Boston, \$64,332; Los Angeles, \$120,000; Brooklyn, \$480,000; San Francisco \$25,000 and Seattle \$48,000.

The Post Office Department estimates that collectors of United States stamps spend approximately \$25 million per year on the purchase of commemorative, air mail and ordinary postage stamps from the Philatelic Agency and post offices. Philatelic sales, according to the director of the Post Office Department's Division of Philately are increasing each year and constitute a significant item in postal revenue.

MASONIC CANCELLATIONS ON EARLY U. S. STAMPS

By Dr. S. Duffield Swan
Part I.

Philately is one of the most interesting forms of the study of history. There are so many interesting points to be developed when one starts delving into the reasons and methods of our ancestors. Little do we realize that the minor things we pass over lightly today, at some future date will be the center of interest and research by our descendants who are looking for the "Whys and Wherefores." At present we are indulging in a study of Masonry in Philately and more particularly with the cancellations of postage stamps with Masonic insignia. While the cancelled stamps are very interesting, these same stamps on cover start us on our historical journey as they give us a handle to work with and a point to start from.

This study will cover the period from 1857 through the 1880's and passing remarks about the 1928-1930 period of registry cancellations.

Subsequent to the introduction of postage stamps, some 40,000 local postmasters were permitted to use any form of cancellation that would indicate the fact the stamp had been used. A few inspired artistic men started to use their ingenuity in design of cancellers to advertise their town or themselves.

It was not until the 1857 issue had been in use some time, however, that members of the fraternal organizations awoke to the possibilities of displaying their brotherhood on the mail passing through their hands.

One of the first fraternal cancella-

tions found is that of Mittineague, Mass. where a metallic canceller consisting of a Square and Compasses in a circle was used. It is not sure whether Chicopee, Mass., Holderness, N. H., or Newport, Tenn. predated Mittineague, but inasmuch as the latter post office had gone to the trouble of having a metallic canceller made and the others were simply carved cork, it generally is the accredited first user of Masonic cancellations. This canceller was reproduced and used at frequent intervals over a period of at least five years from 1857 to 1862. Luke Bliss, the postmaster was in office from 1854 to 1885. It is possible that the earliest fraternal canceller was an Odd Fellows cancellation, from Canton, Miss. used early in 1857.

Following these early artists the idea spread over the country and various types of cancellers are found on the 1861 issue of stamps. The predominant types are those carved out of corks or broomsticks; metal and rubber are few, but usually give us the more beautiful types.

At the present time the author has on record identified cancellations from 157 post offices, of these eight are on the 1857-61 issue, 56 on the 1861-9 issues, 36 on the 1869 issue, 53 on the issues subsequent to 1870 and 4 registry cancellations of 1928. Additionally there are about 100 unidentified cancellations which are found on stamps off cover.

The earliest types were usually simple square and compasses either bold in outline or in negative corks. They varied in size and perfection of work. One of the prettiest is that of Cornish, Me., which apparently was made in metal. It is quite rare on or off cover.

An interesting group came from Quincy, Mass. where between April 10, 1867 and October 6, 1868 five distinct and different cancellations were found in one bundle of correspondence. Three were positive corks and two were negatives of the square and compasses.

(To be continued.)

MASONRY IN JAPAN

R. M. Needham sends us the following letter regarding Masonry in Japan which he believes is of interest:

Tamotsu Murayama, 32^o, a Noble of Nile Temple Shrine, first Japanese in Masonry during the occupation, is City Editor (I think?) of THE NIPPON TIMES, Tokyo, Japan. He's a collector specializing in Boy Scout stamps,

covers, insignia, etc. Also interested in Masonic stamps.

The first Japanese Lodge (Japanese language) was recently organized and petitioned for a dispensation under the name of the "Kanto Lodge U. D." Prince Eun Lee was named as WM and Murayama was named as SW. Prince Lee is a direct descendant of the Korean King, and his wife is a cousin of the Empress.

Incidentally, Premier Ichiro Hatoyama is the first Japanese Mason ever attaining such position in Japan. He was initiated in March, 1951—but suffered a stroke. His illness prevented him from continuing with the degrees. Meanwhile, he was pulled back into politics again to succeed Premier Yoshida.

He has courage to speak out the Masonic fundamental principles — he emphasized brotherly love and fraternal spirit in every speech. Although he is known in the U. S. A. as an "ultra-nationalist," he is probably more liberal-minded than Yoshida.

Murayama believes that Premier Hatoyama is a great Mason, although he was not raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. He is living with the Masonic spirit in his daily life.

FIPEX NEWS ITEMS

Bro. Carl H. Pihl, chairman of publicity for "Fipex" reports the possibility of an issue commemorating the 250th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth.

Bro. Pihl states if the stamp materializes, our club may furnish a cachet for this event. Another cachet contemplated, is in conjunction with the Grand Lodge of the state of N. Y., for May 1st, 1956—the 175th anniversary, of both the organization of the Grand Lodge of the state of N. Y., and the provincial warrant of the same.

Bro. "Jake" Glaser requests that members submit material for display at our booth at "FIPEX" this will not be for competition. Those having Masonic items suitable, please write to The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, % Collectors Club, attention Mr. J. Glaser, 22 East 35 St., New York 16, N. Y.

Robson Lowe of London reports the sale of the Penny Black on cover at \$150, while very fine used singles bring around \$10. British collectors too place a high value on old covers.

PUZZLERS FOR THE MONTH

Conducted by Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

1. If you put me on a letter like my teeth it would be better.
2. A workman whose dissatisfied resembles me when I arrived.
3. If you lick me I will stick, if you stick me I'll be licked.

Unscramble Words Found on Stamps

1. Aaccdeeeefn nnoorssttt (4 words). An issue current in 1862.
2. So open any ten peg (3 words). Very often seen on stamps.
3. Aabeginnor (2 words). An early Italian.

Double Acrostic

Word I. An eminent philatelist.
Word II His contribution to philately.

1. A stamp issuing country.
2. Found on a commemorative issue.
3. A province of a large Asiatic country.
4. A stamp issuing country.
5. A stamp issuing country.

Answers to Last Month's Puzzlers

1. When its paper is laid and design oval.
2. A forged stamp.
3. One is stamped with a die; the other dies with a stamp.

Unscrambled Words Found on Stamps.

1. Correo Oficial
2. Sverige öre
3. Colon centavos

Double Acrostic

MULREADY ENVELOPE

M elbourn E
U N
L i a k o V
R o m E
E p i n a L
A l a m O
D a m P
Y ellowston E

GERMAN HYMN

Bro. William H. Peters of Interlachen, Florida, sends in the following from the Sojourner of Oct., 1955:

Six hundred German Masons, whose organization was so violently persecuted by Hitler, met at Frankfurt recently for the first public gathering in more than 16 years. About 700 guests watched in silence as delegates joined hands in a circle and sang that old Masonic hymn: "Brother Give Me Thy Hand," by Brother Wolfgang Mozart. Of the 70,000 Masons that existed in Germany in pre-Hitler days, only 6,100 are now members of the Craft.

SEE
NOTE
BELOW

Premier Hatoyama was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 26, 1955. See MP Vol. 12 No. 4, December 1955, page 2 (information from John A. Mirt).