



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 14

OCTOBER 1957

NO. 2



The above cachet had been picked for our cover design because it was part of the collection of Brother Gerald D. Bliss to be auctioned on October 24-26; see inside page. It represents the first Air Service from the Canal Zone (where Bro. Bliss was Postmaster from 1905-1934) to Washington, D.C. and it is significant to note "Aviator encountered impossible weather conditions nearing Jamaica, compelling return. Mail re-dispatched by steamer." At the time, Bro. Bliss was Potentate of Abou Saad Temple. During the period of correspondence to obtain this cachet and others, Brother Bliss was summoned by the Grand

Architect and his passing is a great loss to Masonry and philately.

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BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

By this time most of us have dusted off our albums and have resumed our philatelic activities. However, your officers have not remained idle during the past few months regarding the future activities of the club. The Lafayette Bicentennial Masonic Cachet has been taken in stride and as of today the cachet committee reports an avalanche of requests running into the thousands. This speaks well for the increased interest in Masonic Philately and brings me to the subject in hand: The formation of new chapters of the M. S. C. of New York.

The formation of the Geo. Washington Chapter #1, in Washington, D. C., last November was a milestone in the history of the club. There are other Masonic philatelic clubs in Milwaukee, Denver and Los Angeles which are now

MEETINGS

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th St., N. Y. C.

PLEASE NOTE: An exception on the above usual meeting night. The October meeting will be held on Friday, October 11.

PLEASE ATTEND ! !

IN MEMORIUM

We mourn the loss of two of our outstanding members
GERALD DeLEO BLISS
HARRY O. HENNEMAN
May their souls find eternal rest

functioning but are in no way affiliated with the Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. To these groups and other areas where a group of at least five members can assemble we extend this opportunity to set-up a chapter. Thousands of Masons with philatelic interests are scattered throughout our land. The immediate plan is to try to establish contact with as many of these brothers and to develop our respective mutual philatelic interests.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York as the parent body with almost 25 years background, will be very happy to help to establish and promote other chapters.

Section 11—By-Laws of the M. S. C. of New York. "Chapters of the M. S. C. of N. Y. may be formed upon written application to the Board of Governors by five (5) or more members in good standing. No chapter may be formed in the Metropolitan New York area (New York, Westchester, and Nassau Counties).

"Chapters may write their own by-laws subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. Only members of the Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. may be members of, or hold office in any chapter. Chapters may collect such dues as their by-laws permit, but such dues shall be in addition to the dues of each member to the Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y.

"Chapters may be dissolved at their own request, or, after due notice, by the Board of Governors for cause, or because the membership in the chapter has become less than five members."

Individuals or groups so interested may obtain further information by writing to our Secretary.

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, President.

WELCOME ! !

Greetings to our new members:

- RAYMOND W. ADEY
210 Expense St., Rome, N. Y.
Roman Lodge # 223, Rome
- HARRY E. DEWEY
2024 Washington St., Alton, Ill.
Franklin Lodge #25, Alton
- ELMER EDENS
1640 W. Lombard St., Davenport, Ia.
Roosevelt #626, Davenport
- JOHN MORTON HEAPS
Box 448, Ocean Falls, B.C., Canada
Mt. Caro Marion #140, Ocean Falls
- LOWELL V. HOLMES
1501 29th St., Des Moines, Iowa
Fervent #513, Collins, Iowa
- CHARLES F. JOHANNESSEN
2104 9½ St., Rock Island, Ill.
Rock Island Lodge #658
- RICHARD B. KIMBALL
176 Elm St., No. Reading, Mass.
Sagamore Lodge, W. Medford, Mass.
- NORMAN HENRY LEE
5263 Cobb Drive, Dayton, Ohio
Cornerstone Lodge # 367, N. Y.
- LOUIS A. MORRIS
2163 Ridgedale Rd. N.E., Atlanta, Ga.
Kirkwood # 548, Atlanta
- MORGAN B. MOUNT
30 Engle St., Tenafly, New Jersey
Tenakill #266, Tenafly
- JAMES H. RATCLIFFE
8731 77th St., Woodhaven, N. Y.
Kilwinning #825, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- MARVIN O. OLSON
5414 Camellia Ave., Sacramento, Cal.
Golden Empire #733, Sacramento
- CHARLES EDISON REISMAN
2135 N. Division St., Davenport, Iowa
Fraternity #221, Davenport
- JAMES WM. JOSEPH STEDMAN
2745 29th St. N.W., Washington, D.C.
Destiny #197, Tacoma, Wash.
- DR. BENJAMIN H. STEINBERG
Box 351, Hancock, New York
Hancock # 552.
- EDWARD WEINER
Rt. 2, Box 335, Ft. Pierce, Fla.
Dirigo Lodge #30, N. Y.

(Of special note is the new membership of Norman Henry Lee, an officer in the U. S. Air Force. He is the grandson of our past president, and ever active "Uncle Jake" Glaser.)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1957-1958

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Emmanuel Reggel
- MEMBERSHIPCarl Pelander
- CACHETE. Milnor Peck
Sam Brooks
Herman Kerstein
- DINNERSidney Barrett
Jacob S. Glaser
- ROSTERHerman Kerstein
Alvin D. Lurch
- EXHIBITIONDr. George Camnitzer
Dr. Benj. Grossman
- RITUALCarl Pihl
Arthur Heim
- SILVER ANNIVERSARY(To be announced)

TWO INVITATIONS

In our September issue, we wrote about the fine work done by our octogenarian Brother Harold Gunter in the field of weaving, and now we are especially pleased to announce a showing of the works of both Mrs. Gunter and Brother Harold, covering their 40 years in this art. On exhibition from October 5-19, at the Queens Borough Public Library, 89-14 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, Long Island, sponsored by the Weavers Guild. If at all possible for you to see this exhibit, do so, for it is well worth while.

On the fourth Thursday of each month, the Aero-Philatelists meet at the Hotel Vanderbilt, 34th Street and Park Ave., NYC, where they hold interesting discussions and the members "trade" stamps. A warm and cordial invitation has been extended by its president, Henry Kramer, to the members of the MSC of NY to attend their next meeting on October 25, and we would like to see many of our members attend.

A. S. D. A. NATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP SHOW NOVEMBER 22-24

For the ninth consecutive year, a national philatelic exhibition will be sponsored by the American Stamp Dealers Association. The place: 71st Infantry Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 34th Street, New York City. The theme of this year's exhibition has not yet been announced.

Meet Your Officers

CARL H. PIHL, TREASURER

Born New York City, Oct. 6, 1909. N.Y.C. Public Schools, De Witt Clinton High School. B.S. Alabama Polytech. Inst., 1935.

Occupation: Sec'y Copper & Brass Research Assoc., a national trade association; in charge of advertising and public relations.

Was on track and cross country teams. Southeastern Conference and Southeastern A.A.U. Mile Champion 1933-1934. Capt. Track Team, 1935.

Veteran W. W. II, currently holds commission as Lt. Col. of Artillery, Army Reserve. Commands 809th Field Art. Battalion (8 inch howitzer) with hdqrs. at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn.

Sec'y The Society of the Silurians, an organization of veteran NYC newspapermen.



CARL H. PIHL

Pres. Masonic Stamp Club 1953-1955.
Pres. Scandinavian Collectors Club, 1947-1948.

Editor: The Posthorn, Journal of the Scandinavian Coll. 1949-55.

Vice-Chairman FIPEX, charge public relations.

Member: Pi Kappa Phi, Fraternity, Kings County Lodge #511, Admen's Post 209, Amer. Legion, Reserve Officers Assoc. of U.S., Public Relations Soc. of Amer.

Collects: U.S., Norway & Sweden, and Masonic Philately.

ALVIN D. LURCH, SECRETARY

Born New York City, May 31, 1896. Stuyvesant H. S., Columbia U. (2 yrs.),

Pace & Pace School Acct'g (2 yrs).

Occupation: Review Section Staff, Dunn & Bradstreet. Editor of stamp column "THE STAMP POST" appearing in Dun's Bulletin.



ALVIN D. LURCH

Collects: Topicals (Maps, etc.); U.S. Mint postage and Air Mail.

Member: Ivanhoe Lodge #610, N. Y. (Master, 1937; Present Treasurer.)



EMANUEL M. REGGEL

EMANUEL M. REGGEL, 1st V. P.

Born Birmingham, England, where he attended schools. Came to U.S. in 1926. Took active part in CIPEX, 1947 and FIPEX 1956.

Member: Royal Philatelic Soc., London. Charter member, British Empire Study Group. City Lodge #408, N.Y.

Hobbies: Fishing, photography.

Collects: G. B. and Brit. Colonies.

HERMAN S. KERSTEIN, EDITOR

Born, Boston, Mass., March 3, 1898.
Boston English High, Boston University, 1923, B.B.A. Degree.

Orig. and 1st Editor B. U. "BEAN-POT." Editor: "EPSILONIAN" of Tau Delta Phi Fraternity. Tennis, baseball and debating teams.

**HERMAN S. KERSTEIN**

Occupation: Importer and Exporter Rubber Shoe Products.

Veteran W. W. I. Served with U. S. Engineers (Civilian) in Costa Rica, W. W. II. Formerly national Treasurer, Tau Delta Phi Fraternity. Dual Member La Luz Lodge #2, San Jose, Costa Rica and Shakespeare Lodge #750, N. Y. Zerubbabel Chapter R. A. M.

Collects: Costa Rica; U.S. Revenues, U.S. P. Blocks.

**BRO. ROBERT E. FELLERS
RETIRES SEPT. 30**

From the Information Service of the Post Office Department, we received a cold, formal newspaper release covering the voluntary retirement of Brother "Bob" Fellers as Director of the Division of Philately. Because we appreciate the warm treatment given this important notice by the Western Stamp Collector, we have secured permission to reprint the following article:

Robert E. Fellers, who for more than a quarter century has been closely identified with most of the Post Office Department's philatelic activities, has announced in Washington that he is retiring Sept. 30.

In philatelic circles Mr. Fellers is probably the best known of U.S. postal officials for he has represented the Post Office Department at innumerable first day sales, exhibitions and

conventions of the major philatelic organizations.

He entered the federal service in 1914 after education from Columbia College in Hagerstown, Md., Wood's College in Washington, D. C., and Southeastern University in Washington. He became eligible for retirement early this year when he reached the age of 65, but elected to remain in the postal service a bit longer.

One of the career men in the postal service, Mr. Fellers became superintendent of the Division of Stamps in the 1930s and began to be known in philatelic circles. One of the activities of the Division of Stamps is the operation of Philatelic Agency and it, until recently, managed details of first day sales. Mr. Fellers quickly became known as a friend to the stamp collector patrons of the postal service through his acute appreciation of their special interests.

When the Post Office Department decided to recognize the philatelic aspects of modern postal service by creating a Division of Philately in its Bureau of Finance in 1953, Mr. Fellers was named Director. He held this post until a reorganization in the postal service about a month ago abolished the Division of Philately and placed its function under the direction of the Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

Mr. Fellers has received numerous philatelic honors. The Bureau Issues Association, American Stamp Dealers Association and Society of Philatelic Americans have elected him to honorary life membership. In 1953 he received the National Philatelic Museum award for distinguished philatelic services. The American Air Mail Society recently awarded him a gold medal for his services to aerophilately. He has been active in the **Masonic Stamp Club** and has served as president of its Washington chapter.

Mr. Fellers, when announcing that he planned to retire Sept. 30, did not reveal his plans for the future.

Our best wishes and congratulations go to Brother John V. Shelse, who has been elected president of the International Stamp Club, of Brooklyn, New York.

Bro. Gerald De Leo Bliss, Sr.

It is our sad task to report the passing of an illustrious member, and enthusiastic philatelist and a revered Mason. Bro. Bliss died of lung cancer on August 8, 1957 at the age of 75, after a long illness.

So much could be written about his fine collection of air mail covers, the many pioneer flights that began at the Canal Zone, where he was postmaster from 1905 to 1934, that we were in correspondence with him, shortly after he left the hospital in Miami, seeking some interesting stories and anecdotes centering around his personal contacts with Bro. Admiral Byrd, Bro. Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart and others.



GERALD DE LEO BLISS, SR.

When we learned that his collection was to be auctioned on October 24-25-26 at Clearwater, Florida by Allan M. Thatcher, we asked permission to re-print some of the items to be sold. It was then we learned that Bro. Bliss was called by the Great Architect. Of Masonic interest is the cover design of this issue, for it was sent by Bro. Bliss, from the Canal Zone on the First Air Dispatch to the U.S.A. but even so, the weather conditions prevented the air delivery. At the time, as the envelope shows, Bro. Bliss was Potentate of the Abou Saad Temple, at Cristobal, Canal Zone.

Philatelically, Bro. Bliss found collecting a source of unending pleasure, especially after he retired in 1934 to live in Miami, Florida. He was a member of the A.P.S. and a long time member of the Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.

Masonically, he was honored more times than we could find space on this page, and while we have a complete list of his many affiliations, we should like to mention a few: Foundation and Charter Member Canal Zone Lodges, 1914; Charter High Priest Cristobal Chapter No. 2 R.A.M.; Foundation and Charter Member, and Charter Master Canal Zone Council No. 1 1913-1914; Commander Knights Templar 1915-1916; Sovereign Grand Inspector General and Honorary Member 33 Ancient and Scottish Rite; Potentate, Ancient and Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and ever so many others, including Honorary Member of the following:

Aad, Duluth, Minn.
 Abou Ben Adhem, Springfield.
 Akdar, Tulsa, Okla.
 Aladdin, Columbus, Ohio.
 Aleppo, Boston, Mass.
 Aloha, Honolulu, T. H.
 Anezeh, Mexico City.
 Arab, Topeka, Kans.
 Damascus, Rochester, N. Y.
 Elf Khurafeh, Saginaw, Mich.
 El Zaribah, Phoenix, Ariz.
 Hadi, Evansville, Ind.
 Ismailia, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Kora, Lewiston, Me.
 Maskat, Wichita Falls, Tex.
 Mohammed, Peoria, Ill.
 Moslem, Detroit, Mich.
 Osman, St. Paul, Minn.
 Saladin, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Syria, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Tripoli, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Za-Ga-Zig, Des Moines, Iowa.
 Zem Zem, Erie, Pa.
 Zuhrah, Minneapolis, Minn.

In 1954, Bro. Bliss and Mrs. Bliss celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and on December 11, 1954, Bro. Bliss became a 50 year member of Olive Lodge #575, Sherman, N. Y.

He is survived by his widow, two sons and three daughters. May his soul rest in eternal peace. We recognize our loss in his passing, but give grateful expression for his character and his good works. Our sincerest sympathies are expressed to his dear wife and family.

—H.S.K. 3

GERALD BLISS AUCTION

We wish to call specific attention to the auction of the collection of our late Bro. Gerald Bliss, for among the items are many excellent air mail covers. For example: we have seen Lot #819, which includes 3 covers, each a first flight, with name of the pilot and the Postmaster Gerald Bliss signed on each; one to Mexico City; one to Buenos Aires and the other to Cozumel Island, all sent from Cristobal, Canal Zone.

Then there is an envelope First Trip Submarine Mail Atlantic-Pacific. The cover shown on our March issue of the MASONIC PHILATELIST is in lot 824 and the cover of this issue from lot 799. Those interested please contact Allan M. Thatcher, 1703 Harbor Drive, Clearwater, Florida, and ask for a catalog. To show our appreciation of the cooperation of Mr. Thatcher, we would like to have you mention our publication when requesting the catalog.

PITCAIRN POSTAL HISTORY

In an article* "THE POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS OF PITCAIRN ISLANDS" by Edward J. Garrard, mention of our late departed Brother Member Gerald D. Bliss is of extreme importance to the student of postal

history and of these historic remote islands. The mail arrangement prior to 1920 were haphazard and were left to occasional passing vessels that came to pick up letters and the payment of postage left to the passengers or officers of each vessel. The following concerns these factors:

"The method of Mr. Christian's appointment as Postmaster is worth recalling.

"Soon after the Panama Canal was opened (1915), a bag of mail came to Pitcairn Island from **Mr. Gerald D. Bliss**, U.S. Postmaster in the Canal Zone. In the bag was a letter addressed to "Whoever opens the bag," Edgar Christian, being the island's official Secretary at the time, opened the bag and so claimed the letter. In the letter, Mr. Bliss explained that from then on, his postoffice at the Canal Zone would be the central office for Pitcairn Island mail, and asked whoever would be responsible for mails when they arrived at Pitcairn Island. A correspondence was at once carried on between the two (Mr. Bliss and Edgar Christian) and until he died in 1940, Edgar Christian was the recognized Postmaster at Pitcairn."

*The New South Wales Philatelic Annual, 1955.

LAFAYETTE CACHETS

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR SET OR SETS? Our most optimistic estimate has been far exceeded by the returns for these beautiful first day covers, and we urge you to send for yours today. Three covers to a set, each with a different first day cancellation, and each set containing a story of the beautiful Masonic apron embroidered by Madam Lafayette, and presented by Brother General Lafayette to Brother General Washington.

A set of three\$1.00

6 sets of 3 covers (18)\$5.00

Send them to your Masonic friends, who will deeply appreciate them, whether they be philatelists or not.

Make checks payable to MASONIC CACHETS or send cash to

MASONIC CACHETS, PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK



Youth Finds Note of 'G. Washington'

YOUTH FINDS NOTE OF 'G. WASHINGTON'

The following item appeared in the **NEW YORK TIMES**, Sunday, August 4, 1957, and is of special interest to us, philatelically and Masonically:

SYRACUSE, Aug. 3—A Syracuse University student is striving to establish the authenticity of a letter dated Dec. 28, 1796, and bearing the signature, G. Washington.

He found it hidden behind a picture in his father's barn at Hinsdale, N.Y., seventy-four miles south of Buffalo. It was part of a family art collection, three generations or more old, which had been given his parents.

The possessor of what he hopes is a rare, historic document is Ronald Lee Slawson of Slocum Heights, a third year student in the School of Speech and Dramatic Art at Syracuse University.

Mr. Slawson said that collectors here, who appear to be well informed on the subject, have told him that the letter, if an original, might be worth up to \$150,000.

Mr. Slawson found the letter last Sunday. He said he has shown it to history and chemistry staff members at Syracuse University and to faculty members of the State University College of Forestry here.

Could Be Original

They have cautiously conceded it could be an original, he said. But, they also told him that exhaustive tests would be necessary to decide on its authenticity.

Mr. Slawson said a third person had sent a reproduced copy of the letter to a handwriting expert in New York.

Mr. Slawson said that chemistry department officials at Syracuse University had told him they were not equipped to test the ink on the letter without ruining it. They suggested he send it to Chicago for ink tests.

The date of the letter indicates it was written about three months after Washington delivered his Farewell Address, in which he declined to serve again as President. The letter appears to be an acknowledgment of appreciation for comments on that address, apparently directed to the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge of Masons.

Writing Still Clear

The writing is exceptionally clear. The ink is not badly faded. The paper is well preserved. Mr. Slawson attributes the good condition of the letter to the fact it was shielded by the glass and wood frame of the picture.

The text of the letter follows:

Fellow Citizens and brothers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania:

I have received your address with all the feelings of brotherly affection mingled with those sentiments for the society which it was calculated to excite.

To have been, in any degree, an instrument in the hands of Providence to promote order and union and erect upon a solid foundation the true principles of government, is only to have shared with many others in a labour, the result of which let us hope, will prove through all ages, a sanctuary for brothers and a lodge for the virtues.

Permit me to reciprocate your prayers for my temporal happiness and to supplicate that we may all meet thereafter in that eternal temple whose builder is the great architect of the Universe.

G. Washington

BUSCH-HERST

Brother Herman Herst, Jr., of Shrub Oak, N.Y., long time member of the MSC of NY, was married on June 24 to Mrs. Ida Siegel Busch at Temple Beth El, Chappaqua, New York. The couple plan a honeymoon trip to Tampa, Florida, late in August, at the time of the A.P.S. convention, after which they will reside in Shrub Oak. Congratulations and best wishes.

Stamps of Great Britain overprinted **MOROCCO AGENCIES** were issued for the use of British post offices in the Sultanate of Morocco.

The King of Nepal, whose realm lies high in Himalayas between India and Tibet, is the world's only Hindu monarch.

In the early days bisects were approved but in 1853 the P.O.D. put an end to this practice. Later covers, however, show occasional usage. Several European countries permitted bisects in the early days of stamps.