



# *The Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 14

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

NO. 3, 4



# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

NOVEMBER-DEC. 1957  
VOL. 14 NO. 3, 4



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



### EDITOR

Herman S. Kerstein  
410 Pearl Street  
New York 38, New York

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

John A. Mirt R. M. Needham

### OFFICERS

President — Dr. Irwin M. Yarry  
1st V. Pres. — Emanuel M. Reggel  
2nd V. Pres. — Dr. S. Duffield Swan  
Alvin D. Lurch, Secretary  
701 W. 179th St., New York 33, N.Y.  
Carl H. Phil. Treasurer  
77 Amherst Road, Albertson, N.Y.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Herman S. Kerstein 3 years  
Dr. Benjamin Grossman 2 years  
Charles A. Lott 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.

### BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

**"By their fruits you shall know them."**

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York has at its disposal an asset which few clubs possess—The Ralph Barry-Al Van Dahl Publication Fund. This fund is the medium through which we are able to publish the Masonic Philatelist, to encourage philatelic research or any other projects of a similar nature.

The printed word is one of the means for preserving the vast storehouse of knowledge that man possesses. Our club members have an obligation to themselves and to posterity since we are endeavoring to promote Masonic philately by helping "to seek more light" in this new field. The publication of a "Handbook of Masonic Philately" is not too far away for the need of such a book is quite evident. Most philatelic handbooks are the

### MEETINGS

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

Members living within local area receive advance reminders of each meeting. Please attend whenever possible.

### IN MEMORIUM

HORACE L. WOODRUFF

May his soul find eternal rest.

labor of one person and a poor financial return, as even the most popular ones seldom make any money. It is for this purpose that the publication fund is available.

Our editor, Brother Kerstein, has a provoking task to perform when material that is promised is not forthcoming. Are we letting these opportunities lapse? The article that I meant to write, is not written; the notes and the discoveries that I noted are destroyed when my collection is sold; the knowledge that I acquired by the study of my stamps is buried with me. This is what I am trying to impart to you. Don't let it wait—get it to the editor and if it has anything of value it will be published.

There are two immediate projects for any member to work up. Through the years a storehouse of information has accumulated in the back issues of the Masonic Philatelist which should be indexed for easy reference. It would be both educational and relaxing for any member who would volunteer for this job. It could be the first step in outlining the future handbook. Another project that is now almost ready is the club membership roster which needs final proof-reading and typing. The Roster Committee needs a few workers to complete this job, plus a few more of the blue forms from members who have not sent them in.

Again let me stress the fact that our publication fund will be available for endowing a Masonic Philatelic Handbook; for the Masonic Philatelist to continue to record the fruits of our labor, for our mutual enjoyment — "From Labor to Refreshment."—I.M.Y.

**THE COVER**

We regret that we cannot present an interesting story that belongs to the cover of this issue. As you can see, George Washington is wearing the apron presented to him by Bro. Gen. LaFayette, and about which we wrote in the "LaFayette Issue" Aug.-Sept. 1957. This picture was given to Bro. E. Milnor Peck by Dr. David Weiss who is a retired physician and who told Bro. Peck that this picture hung on the wall of his office for almost 50 years. Perhaps in our next issue we will have the full story.

**WELCOME ! !****Greetings to our new members:**

- MARION M. ALEXANDER**  
4710 Beach Drive, Seattle 6, Wash.  
Ravenna Lodge #275, Seattle.
- VERRILL F. BURGIN**  
3122 Muirfield Rd., Toledo 14, Ohio.  
Triad Lodge #708, Toledo.
- GEORGE F. BURGOYNE**  
18 Ledgerwood Dr., Morningdale,  
Mass. Athelstan Lodge, Worcester,  
Mass.
- MYER A. EMERSON**  
P. O. Box 35026, Preuss Sta., Los  
Angeles, Calif. Columbine #147,  
Denver, Colo.
- VICTOR J. FENSTERMAKER**  
510 N.W. First St., Washington, Ind.  
Charity Lodge #30, Washington, Ind.
- D. MALCOM FLEMING**  
98 Plymouth Rd., Rockville Ctr., N.Y.  
Altair Lodge #601, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- CLAUDE H. GLASE**  
1406 E. Wyomissing Blvd., Reading,  
Pa. Chandler Lodge #227, Reading,  
Pa.
- ALFRED C. HORN**  
82 E. Brown St., West Haven 16,  
Conn. Tyrian Lodge #618, Brooklyn,  
N. Y.
- CHARLES MALY**  
37-02 31st Ave., Long Island City,  
N.Y. Geo. Washington Lodge #285,  
N. Y.
- HAROLD E. MARR**  
3 Herrick St., Winchester, Mass.  
Fraternity Lodge, Newtonville, Mass.
- P. W. MILLER**  
1322 21st Ave. W., Bradenton, Fla.  
Braidentown #99, Bradenton, Fla.
- MARVIN O. OLSON**  
5414 Camelia Ave., Sacramento 19,  
Calif. Golden Empire Lodge #733,  
California.
- WALTER E. PIERCE**  
2144 Manning Ave., Los Angeles 25,

Cal. Harding Lodge #584, Los Angeles, Cal.

**VERNON N. PRILLER**

2401 W. Forrest Hill, Peoria, Illinois.  
Illinois Lodge #263, Peoria.

**RAYMOND H. RUNT**

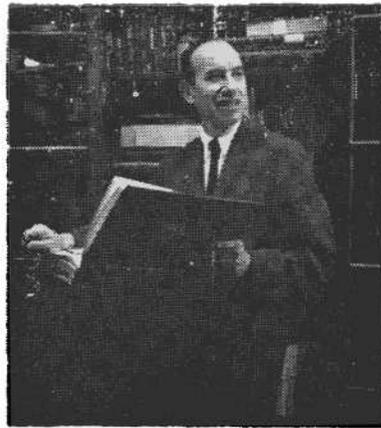
9619 Rosewood Ave., Cleveland 5,  
Ohio. Euclid #599, Cleveland, Ohio.

**HENRY TEPPER**

81-21 Langdale St., New Hyde Park,  
N.Y. Courland Lodge #885, N.Y.

**IRVING P. WOLFE**

2224 Chamberlayne Ave., Richmond  
22, Va. Obad Lodge #984, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

**MEET YOUR PRESIDENT****Dr. Irwin M. Yarry**

Born: Brooklyn, N.Y., 1905. Attended N.Y.C. Public Schools; Boy's H. S. Brooklyn and New York University. D.D.S. Degree NYU.

Profession: Dentist.

Dr. Yarry has been our hard working secretary from 1942-1957 and finds the office of president most relaxing by comparison.

A member of the Collectors Club of N.Y.; Hong Kong Study Circle; Philatelic Research Society; The S.P.A.; Society of Australasian Philatelists; Kappa Phi Sigma Fraternity and a Life Member of Mt. Scopus Lodge #1075.

Bro. Yarry is a busy philatelist, having won major awards at CAPEX and FIPEX with his fine Hong Kong collection. During CIPEX he lectured in Public Schools on philately and at FIPEX he was a Junior Judge.

Dr. Yarry has a son attending Centre College, in Danville, Ky.; and a daughter.

ter at the High School of Performing Arts.

Collects: (Guess what?) Hong Kong; Br. Colonial Postal History; B. W. I. and Fiji.

### OCTOBER 11, MEETING NIGHT

At a well attended meeting, the members were treated to some interesting, but short, exhibits in answer to Pres. Yarry's request that each member present an unusual item. While we will briefly describe some of these showings, we expect to elaborate on some of these in future issues and request non-attending members to send in any requests for more information, which we will try to supply in detail.

**BRO. JACOB S. GLASER:** Presented a Colombian First Day cover with first Colombia stamp. This cover won a Silver medal in the Israel exhibition.

**BRO. SAM BROOKS:** Had some very interesting Free China First Day Covers; some New Zealand miniatures and Health stamps.

**BRO. RUSSELL ROANE:** Showed a cover with "Postal Zone 45," and questioned the members if they knew where it was located. No such zone exists and is used by the Federal Reserve only, he explained. (There is also a non-existent Postal Zone 46, used for contest answers of various kinds and is located at the Church St. Sta., New York City. Ed.)

**BRO. BENJ. GROSSMAN:** Covers with Los Angeles, Israel to Los Angeles, California, was his contribution.

**BRO. WARREN EHRIG:** Presented "Beautiful Pages By An Amateur" that would put many a pro to shame. One of our new members, Bro. Ehrig is taking his batting practice with the old pros and is holding his own.

**BRO. JOSEPH MUNK:** What appeared to be the most interesting item is herewith illustrated:



**THERESIENSTADT PARCEL  
TAX STAMP**

This stamp was obligatory on all parcels sent to the Jewish inmates of this particular concentration camp. Upon permission from the German Gestapo, the Post Office clerk affixed this stamp to the parcels. The charge was 1000 Kr.

The reason for the high cost was twofold: First, to extort the sum from relatives of the inmates and second, to prevent many packages from entering the concentration camp. Upon arrival of the packages in the camp, the wrappings were removed and destroyed, therefore the stamps in used and undamaged condition are very rare. Bro. Munk told us that this stamp was given to him by an inmate of the camp.

**BRO. EMANUEL REGGEL:** Had a number of Tangier errors that had a few members drooling.

**BRO. IRWIN YARRY:** Our president wound up an interesting meeting by showing one of his prize items: A Hong Kong cover dated 3/2/62.

From the widow of an old friend who resided in the Netherlands, your editor has received word that she was left a complete collection of U.P.U., which she now desires to sell in its entirety. The list of the stamps in the collection has been received and as far as we can determine the collection is complete with the Aden and Nicaraguan rarities, among others. If any of our readers, or their friends, are interested further, please write to the editor MP.

To Bro. Amos C. Boss: Many thanks for your interesting and kind letter regarding a visit to the Masonic Home at Utica, New York and the visit paid to Bro. Harry Konwiser. Because Bro. Boss resides not too far from Utica, he has made the unusual and unanimous offer of his services to members of the MSC, should they wish his services for anything he might do for them at the Masonic Home, but more especially regarding Brother Harry. At the same time, Bro. Boss tells us that Harry is in the hospital section and is now sitting up, looks well and has the usual twinkle in his eyes. If you haven't done so lately, be sure to drop a line to Harry, and contact Bro. Boss if you wish his services, in any way.

## One Stamp - Two Masons



### STEPHEN DECATUR, II

Bro. Decatur was born Jan. 5, 1779, at Sinnepuxent, Md., the son of Stephen Decatur (who was also a Mason of Baltimore Lodge #16 and who dimitted to Pa. Lodge #3) and was a captain in the U.S. Navy from its birth; commanded the sloop-of-war Delaware, and later was in command of the Frigate Philadelphia, until the close of the differences with France. The younger Decatur was appointed a midshipman in 1798, and served with distinction under Captains Barry, Bainbridge and Dale. While under the command of Capt. Morris, Lt. Decatur became active against the Barbary pirates. That war was terminated in 1805, and Bro. Decatur was inactive until 1812, when he commanded a frigate and captured the Macedonian in a desperate fight. He also captured the Hornet. He commanded a fleet of three ships in the Mediterranean when he got into a fight with the Algerian frigate Mashouda, taking the Algerian Admiral Rais Hammida and nearly 100 of his officers and men, plus 400 other prisoners. He was known as the "Hero of Tripoli." Bro. Decatur in 1815 was appointed Navy Commissioner which office he held until his death, which occurred in a duel with Commodore Barron in 1820. He was initiated into St. John's Lodge # 1 at Newport, R. I., on Oct. 12, 1799.

—R.M.N.

The Grand Commandery 115th Grand Conclave Knights Templar was held on October 11 and 12 at Toledo, Ohio, and every commandery in Ohio was represented. In the big parade held on the 12th, our associate editor, Dick Needham (32 K.T.) was Sword Bearer of the Lancaster Commandery.

### THOMAS MACDONOUGH

Bro. Macdonough was born in Delaware, Dec. 23, 1783, and at 17 joined the American Navy. He served in the war against Tripoli in 1803 on the U.S.S. Philadelphia, but being placed in command of a Moorish prize, escaped the fate of that vessel when she grounded and was captured in the Tripoli harbor. The following year he was one of Decatur's party which burned the U.S.S. Philadelphia. During the war of 1812, he was assigned as 1st Lt. on the U.S.S. Constitution, (Oid Ironsides), and later placed in command of the American fleet on Lake Champlain, where by his great victory over the British fleet, Sept. 11, 1814, he prevented the invasion of New York and Vermont by the British. For this he was promoted to Captain. He died at sea, on board the U.S.S. Constitution, of which he was Commander, Nov. 13, 1825. One source states he was made a Mason on the island of Malta, while he was on Naval duty in the Mediterranean. Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Delaware (1851) states he was a Delaware Mason, affiliation unavailable.—R.M.N.

A considerable amount of momentum has been generated in the past few weeks toward the ASDA National Postage Stamp Show to be held in New York November 22-24. We learn daily of new exhibits and developments but it certainly will be one of the most outstanding shows ASDA has held. We hope to meet many members of the MSC and will report on this in our next issue. The theme of this convention will be "Wildlife of America" with the Whooping Crane as the subject of the ASDA poster; we learn that all booths and lounges have been reserved; and that one million dollars worth of U.S. Postal gems will be featured. The Smithsonian will have a fine exhibit, as usual. Try to attend.

### Help Fight TB



Buy Christmas Seals

## 'He Banked America'

This is the title given to a short item appearing in the Masonic Inspiration, telling about Chayim Solomon, a Polish Jew who came to America in 1740. Were it not for this courageous Mason the American Revolution might have fizzled out, but he advanced his fortune to George Washington, so that the Revolutionary Army could buy vital munitions and supplies. A Hebrew immigrant who saw liberty glisten more than his fortune. But to Brother Walter R. Harbeson of Columbus, Ohio, we are indeed indebted for further light on this subject, for Bro. Harbeson writes us that in March, 1955, Rev. J. Hoffman Cohn, then editor of the "Chosen People," a magazine issued by the American Mission to the Jews, had an article on this same, Chayim Solomon. We print below the part of the article that is of interest to Masonic Philatelists, for if you will closely inspect the Valley Forge stamp (Scott #645) look to the left of the trees, you will see a man near a clump of bushes. His horse is to the right. Now, if you will, here is the story:

**"HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH"**  
"But now I want to tell you a little story—just one little speck, as it were, as to what the Jews did in the early part of our American history. I will refer to just one Jew. Perhaps you have heard his name—Chayim Solomon. He was a banker in Philadelphia.

At the time of the Revolutionary War, this Jew was riding on horseback, one cold winter day, down one of the roads in Valley Forge; and as he was cantering his way through the snow he looked across the field, and in the distance he saw a figure encased in a long, white, woolen cape, kneeling down in the snow by a tree; evidently in prayer. This sort of challenged Mr. Solomon, and he got off his horse and tied the horse to a post. He jumped over the fence and trudged through the snow, away across that field until he came to a clump of trees. He could see more clearly this kneeling figure. He discerned that it was none other than George Washington. He stopped in great reverence. He heard George Washington cry to God, "Oh God, we must have money or this Revolutionary War is lost."

The next day he went to his bank in Philadelphia where he kept his ac-



count with the banking house of Robert Morris, and there he drew out all he had, a very large sum in those days. It was \$600,000. With that check he went back to Valley Forge and into Washington's tent and said, "Here General Washington is money to help you win the war, and God bless you." Then he told Washington how he had sneaked up on him the day before and heard him pray to God for that money. Washington was overcome. That money helped to turn the tide of the Revolutionary War so that our people won that war.

To the present day, you will find in Philadelphia a monument raised to the memory of Robert Morris; and it is told on the monument that it was he who saved our country in the Revolutionary War. But that is not true, I'm sorry to say. Robert Morris was only the banker for the Revolutionary hero, just the way the Morgenthau were the bankers for our own American government during the first World War. Robert Morris did the financing, but it was Chayim Solomon who gave the money.

Many years passed by. One day someone in Congress in Washington (a senator) had a bad night. He tossed about restlessly during the night. He picked up something to read, and suddenly he came across this remarkable record of Mr. Solomon. Next day he came to Congress, and inquired if that debt had ever been paid and the answer was "No." So for many years they struggled in Congress to pass

some kind of an act that would enable them to pay the debt because of course that Mr. Chayim Solomon had died many, many years before; but he had a last remaining great, great, grandson living in Baltimore. They did not think of paying interest. If they had paid interest from 1776, it would have swamped our country. A messenger was dispatched to Baltimore with a check for \$600,000. He came to the house; rang the bell. The door opened and there stood an aged Jew, with a long gray beard. He said, "I have come from the Congress of the United States, and I have a check for you for \$600,000." The old Jew said, "I'm sorry, this is Friday night, our Sabbath, and I couldn't take this check." Come back on Sunday morning and I will take it." The messenger said, "I could not come back on Sunday as that would be illegal. That is our Christian Sabbath. I will come back on Monday." Monday the messenger came, rang the bell, and found Chayim Solomon had died. The check went back to Congress. Back into the treasury. Later on it was found this Chayim Solomon had left three sons.

The Congressional Record shows that the amount due was divided among the three sons.

Thanks to Bro. Harbeson for this excellent story. Bro. Chayim Solomon was a member of York Lodge #2, now extinct. A thank you to Bro. Charlie Van Cott of Masonic inspiration for his story about Chayim Solomon.

## IMPORTANT

See information provided on the following page as to the the article on Solomon.

Bro. Ralph Huntington of Baltimore sent us a most interesting item clipped from the Wilmington, Delaware, Morning News: A bank teller in Jersey City, N.J., shouted a Masonic signal and thereby thwarted an attempted holdup of the bank in which he was employed. Daniel Breneisen, the teller, was handed a note which threatened Breneisen's wife and son if \$6,000 was not turned over, but he had presence of mind to call out a word recognized by the bank's vice-president, Erick Korman, also a Mason. The desperado was captured a short distance from the bank.

Bro. Porter L. Ranck of Berwick, Penna., calls attention to an obvious error on Page 8 of the Aug.-Sept. issue of the MP, wherein we printed the name of Prince William I of Netherlands under "MASONRY ON STAMPS." The Scott number should be #197 and not #196, but Bro. Ranck points out, he could not have been "King of England 1869," since Queen Victoria was Queen of England from 1837-1901. We are checking to find out the correct answer or if this was a typographical error. In the meantime, we would appreciate some enlightenment on this, from some of our collectors and compilers of Masonry on Stamps.



## ADDED PAGE

The person being referred to in this article is HAYM SALOMON (or Chaim Salomon or Solomon) and his history is well-documented. Very little stated in this article is correct according to this documentation. It is obviously a fabrication.

Nevertheless, the person looking at Washington in prayer on the postage stamp is said to be either Haym Salomon or Isaac Potts, the owner of the land at Valley Forge. It is therefore possible this experience prompted Salomon to help in the financing of the American Revolution.

Primarily he did this by converting French loans into ready cash by selling bills of exchange for Robert Morris, the Superintendent of Finance. Salomon also provided his

own private wealth. From the period of 1781–84, records show Salomon's fund raising and personal lending helped provide over \$650,000 for the American cause.

There is a legend that during the design process of the Great Seal, Washington asked what compensation Salomon wanted in return for his financial contributions to the American Revolutionary War. He replied that "he wanted nothing for himself but that he wanted something for his people." As a result, the 13 stars representing the colonies on the seal were arranged in the shape of the Star of David.

There is no record I can find of Solomon being repaid \$600,000 as stated in the article. CLM



A US postage stamp was issued in 1975 honoring Salomon (USA #1564). That the stars above the eagle's head on the Great Seal were arranged to represent the Star of David is either true or contrived after the seal was created. Generally speaking, the design had to start and end with one star, and the arrangement of the other stars in the center would even out in the way shown.

# Speaking of Cachets . . .

October 28, 1958, marks the centennial of the birth of one of our great presidents and a brother Mason, Theodore Roosevelt. Aside from the 30¢ stamp in the Presidential series of 1938, no stamp has been issued in his honor. The Sagamore Hill stamp really commemorated a national shrine and not the president. Several groups and many persons are advocating the issuance of a "Teddy" Roosevelt stamp next year and since it is not in the agenda of the Post Office Department, we strongly urge those who wish such a stamp to be issued to write to the P. O. Dept.; or to your Congressman. Bro. Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1858; was raised in 1901 in Matinecock Lodge #806, Oyster Bay, New York; and died at Oyster Bay in 1919. What more fitting than to have the Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y. sponsor a commemorative for this famous New Yorker?

## AND WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF CACHETS . . .

We have a few more cachets honoring the 175th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, with the First Day cancellations at the specially arranged "MASONIC HALL STATION, N. Y." Three different designs on covers for \$1.00.

The demand for the LaFayette cachets continues and we urge those who have not yet sent for their set of three (having three different First Day issue points) to do so at once. With each set is the printed story about the beautifully embroidered apron given to Bro. Geo. Washington by Bro. Gen. LaFayette.

HONORING  
175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
**GRAND LODGE**  
F. & A. M. - STATE OF NEW YORK

1781  1956



MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY  
UTICA, NEW YORK



SPONSORED BY MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N. Y.

200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Birth of  
**MARQUIS  
DE LAFAYETTE**



WASHINGTON'S MASONIC APRON  
PRESENTED BY  
BROTHER MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE  
MOUNT VERNON . . . . AUGUST - 1784

SPONSORED BY  
THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N. Y.  
[First Day Cover]