

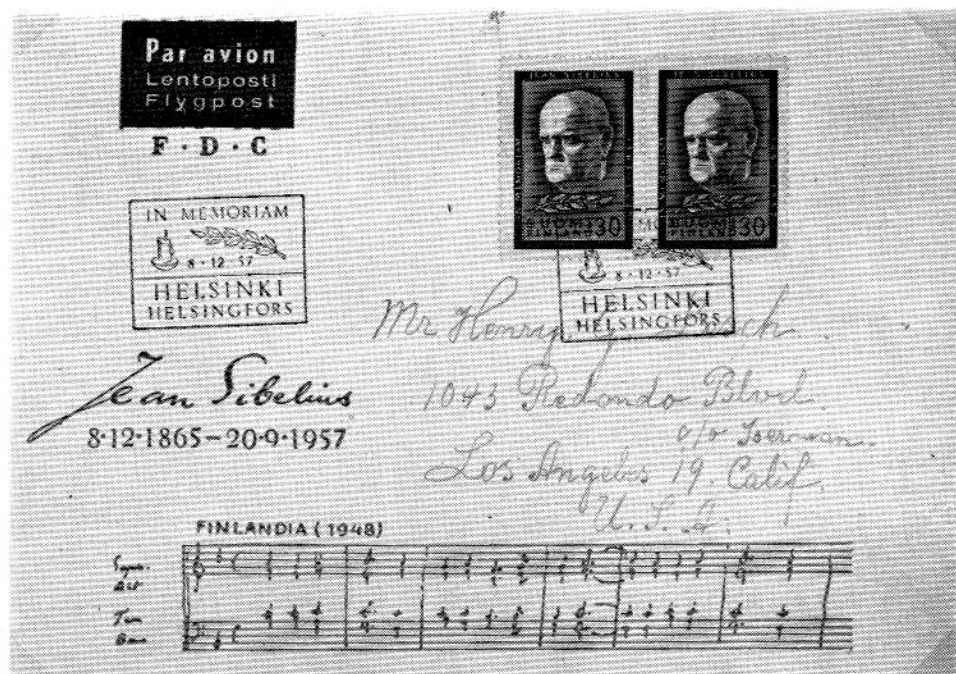


the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 15 (S/B 14)

FEBRUARY 1958

NO. 6



JAN SIBELIUS, SYMPHONIC POET LAUREATE OF MASONRY

"As Finland and the musical world mourns the death Sept. 20, 1957, of the distinguished Suomi musician, Jan Sibelius, the Masonic fraternity mourns the passing of a brother who ranks as the symphonic poet of Freemasonry." That is the way the Western Stamp Collector front-paged their story. See page 4 for story by Brother Carl Pelander.—Courtesy of Western Stamp Collector and Henry G. Lesch, Los Angeles.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

FEBRUARY 1958
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BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York is now approaching its 25th year with increasing vigor and enthusiasm. As stamp clubs go, the mortality rate is extremely high and a club that reaches its silver anniversary has attained an important milestone.

The plans for celebrating our Silver Anniversary are still in the formative stages; but I can assure each member that it will be most eventful. It is only fair that we remember the many outstanding members whom The Grand Architect in His Infinite Wisdom has taken from us. It is most fitting that our program will memorialize such worthy members as Brothers Charles H. Johnson, Arthur Deas, Ralph A. Barry, Al Van Dahl and others who have left their imprint upon our club.

MEETINGS

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

- Feb. 7 Past Presidents Night
- Mar. 7 Palestine-Postal History talk and showing by Bro. Oscar L. Winklestein.
- Apr. 4 Master of Philately Degree. (See announcement this issue). New Discoveries and Items of Masonic Philately by Members.
- May 2 Members Competition—One frame of 12 pages.
- May 16 ANNUAL DINNER — Hold this date; Franklin Bruns, M. C., Honored Guest: Robert Fellers. (See announcement this issue.)
- June 6 Annual Meeting. Reports of Committees and Election of Officers.

However, we cannot rest upon our past accomplishments since the future holds such vast possibilities.

Interest in Masonic philately during the last few years has reflected in the tremendous increase in our membership, which at present is around 500. It is not through any pressure that this increase has been accomplished, since each new member is carefully passed upon by our program chairman, Bro. Carl E. Pelander, as to being in good standing in his respective blue lodge. It is with a solemn obligation that one joins The Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. and because of this, cherishes it.

During our Silver Anniversary we expect several significant commemorative stamps to be issued. The recent announcement by the Post Office Dep't, regarding stamps honoring Bro. Paul Revere and Bro. James Monroe, should be welcomed with extreme enthusiasm by our fraternity. It is also our fond hope that the centenary of the birth of Bro. Theodore Roosevelt will receive similar recognition. Since the Post Office Department, Division of Philately, has definite rules regarding special stamps, the ruling regarding fraternal organizations is not within the qualification of such honor, it is through our other contacts and associations that one can help in promoting a commemorative stamp for Bro. Teddy Roosevelt.

—Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, Pres.

IN MEMORIAM

BROTHER HAROLD L. DECKER
BROTHER RUDOLPH HOLZ, M. D.

May they find peace everlasting.

MEETING, DEC. 6, 1957

The last meeting of the 1957 season was well attended. A feature of the business session of the meeting was the report on the LaFayette cachets and Bro. Milnor Peck was accorded a well deserved vote of thanks for the splendid work he has done. As a result, we were able to turn over a tidy sum to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York for some charitable work, as well as setting aside additional funds for what will now be considered a building fund. We hope our members will support just as enthusiastically, the cachets soon to be issued commemorating Bro. Paul Revere and Bro. James Monroe. A cachet, issued on Feb. 22, post-marked MASONIC MUSEUM, ALEXANDRIA, VA., will be sent free to MSC members, with the March issue of this paper.

The speaker of the evening was Bro. Edwin Trachsler, whose splendid presentation on "CONFEDERATE STATES STAMPS," was enjoyed immensely. Especially interesting were the Prisoner-Of-War-Covers, some from Rock Island (Ill.) Prison and others from the famous Libby Prison, Richmond, Va. The one pictured below had been put on board the Flag-Of-Truce boat, transported to Old Point Comfort and then send on to its destinations. Had we the space, we would like to print some of the very interesting letters sent by those prisoners, many of them asking for food packets from home.



MEETING, JANUARY 3, 1958

After a well attended cocktail party, that your editor had the pleasure of hosting, a spirited meeting (no pun intended) took place to start off the New Year. You will find an account of the earlier festivities elsewhere in this issue, since we were advised that we could neither edit nor blue-pencil the report . . . so be it.

But if the members enjoyed the party, which they all seemed to be doing, the meeting that followed was no let-down, for after the business sessions took place, we were to receive one of the best presentations this writer has yet to witness. Scheduled as "UNITED STATES-1845-1895," this modest title did not do the exhibit justice. From the first U.S. stamp issued, Brother Charles W. Brooks treated us with page after page of rare stamps, and with each issue the various shadings, source of material including bank notes, engravings of bonds, photos of paintings and ever so many other materials from which the designs emanated. There were proofs and essays and reconstruction of panes from earlier plates. We were shown stampless covers and private inter-city stamps, and even counterfeits.

A very interesting sidelight was the discussion of the 1893 Columbian Exposition 50¢ stamp (Recall of Columbus). The source material of this stamp was the painting by August Heaton, a relative of our own Ferrars Heaton Tows, past president of the MSC 1948-1949. The painting was later given to the Library of Congress. He was the same artist whose painting was the source material for the 1898 Trans Mississippi 10¢ stamp (Hardships of Emigration), but this painting, when found in a galvanized iron shed, was ruined. Brother Brooks' collection and presentation had the members on the edges of their chairs, none wishing to miss a single item. It was much too much to absorb in one evening and Bro. Brooks has been asked for a repeat performance, to which he has graciously consented.

Jan. 8 is a legal holiday in Louisiana in honor of Andrew Jackson for his defeat of the British at New Orleans in 1815.

Sibelius – The Mason

By CARL E. PELANDER



On September 20th, 1957, the world sustained a great loss in the death of R. W. Bro. Jean Sibelius, hailed by many as the greatest composer of symphonic music of modern time.

Johan Julius Sibelius or as he preferred to be called Jean Sibelius was born in Tavastehus, Finland, on December 8th, 1865, the first son of Dr. Christian Gustaf Sibelius and his wife Maria Charlotta, nee Borg. His musical education started in 1888 and later he studied in Berlin (1889-90) and Vienna (1891). His aptitude for composing started much earlier, because at the age of five he already enticed a series of tones from the mysterious system of keys and strings of the piano.

On June 10th, 1892, Jean Sibelius married Aino Jarnefelt, who at his death, just three months short of his 92nd birthday, survived him.

During his life-span, he composed seven great symphonies, plus many famous tone poems, the best known being the majestic "FINLANDIA," in addition his concerto in D-minor, etc., which are equally well known.

In 1922, when the Grand Lodge of the State of New York went to organize Free Masonry in Finland, which had been suppressed by the Russian Domination, Jean Sibelius was one of the candidates in the first class to be initiated, passed and raised in Suomi

Lodge No. 1, by our Grand Lodge Officers, among whom was one of the founders of the Masonic Stamp Club, namely M. W. Bro. Charles H. Johnson.

Bro. Sibelius was so impressed with the teachings and principles of Free Masonry, that he composed a folio of incidental music to accompany the three basic Symbolic Degrees. This he presented to the Grand Lodge of New York, which under the sponsorship of the American Lodge of Research has been edited and published by the Grand Lodge in a booklet, which can be obtained from the Committee on Lodge Sales, Masonic Hall, New York City.

Since his being raised a Master Mason, many Masonic honors have been bestowed on Sibelius. Upon the formation of the Grand Lodge of Finland, he was elected Grand Organist of that Body, which office he held until his death. Under the Grand Mastership of Jacob C. Klink, he received one of the earliest awards of the Grand Master's Medal, now known as the Distinguished Achievement Award. The citation, as read by M. W. Bro. Marshall R. Kernochan, said in part:

"You have preserved with peculiar power in these modern days of confusion and surrender to things transitory and tawdry, the true spirit of the bards of old who caught the echoes of eternal truth and sent them vibrating through the world on wings of musical sound."



Philately also knows of this great man and Mason, because on his 80th birthday, his native Finland issued in honor of this event a commemorative stamp and shortly following his death

a mourning stamp, symbolic of the love and esteem with which he was held by all who knew him.

Among his host of friends in America, was the late Theodore Steinway, a great Philatelist, who during his life time sent Sibelius as many boxes of cigars as that birthday indicated (Bro. Sibelius was a very heavy cigar smoker). Each year the author of this article had to translate for Mr. Steinway an appropriate sentiment in Finnish to accompany the gift.

Through his music and devotion to the Craft, Sibelius will always be remembered by future generations.

"UNCLE JAKE" GLASER HONORED



With an attendance, far exceeding the anticipated number, a testimonial dinner was tendered Brother Jacob Simon Glaser, better known to the members of the MSC at "Uncle Jake," by the Collectors Club of New York on the evening of January 15. The occasion was the presentation of an Honorary Life Membership by the Collectors Club to one of its most ardent workers; to one of their past presidents and a member of their Board of Governors for the past 17 years. Brother Jake, a past president of the Masonic Stamp Club, has been a tireless worker, serving the Collectors Club as a Trustee and as Chairman of the House Committee. Little wonder that such an overflowing crowd turned out at Victor's Restaurant to give him an ovation that he will always remember. Besides the members of the Collectors Club

there were groups from the Masonic Stamp Club, the Kiwanis and other organizations with which he is associated, all happy to be able to show how much they love and respect him.

NEW YEARS COCKTAIL PARTY

The trouble with a successful innovation is that it calls for a repeat performance, and as the brothers bade their adieux to Herman Kerstein and his wife following the party which he gave at his home prior to the January 3rd meeting, the consensus was that here was a custom that should not be allowed to pass.

About fifty members of the Club gathered and sipped not only of a wide choice of spirituous liquors, but also availed themselves of about as bountiful a laden table as ever graced any collation, with Mrs. Kerstein graciously acting as hostess.

The feature of the evening was a tremendous cake, arranged in the format of this publication, with the familiar triangle and symbol of the Masonic Stamp Club on the top, as well as New Years wishes to the brothers. So striking was the effect in the darkened room, lit only with a pair of candles on either side of the cake, that all that was lacking was a camera to record the scene.

Since our host is the capable editor of this magazine, it was deemed inappropriate for him to write up the affair, and the pleasant task was delegated to the writer, as was the happy joy of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Kerstein for their lovely evening.

And, as several asked as they left, where will it be held next year?

—Herman Herst, Jr.

PRIVATE DIE STAMPS

We learn through the WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP, that the series of articles written by Bro. Henry W. Holcombe, will be bound and presented to the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library. This is the first time that all 16 stories covering the private die medicine stamps of the Spanish-American War period have been published in one series.

To our past president (1939-1942), the members of the MSC extend their best wishes, for it has been their pleasure on several occasions, to listen to Bro. Holcombe, as he displayed much of his collection of "Match & Medicine."

MASONRY ON STAMPS

(From time to time, we shall print additional names and data, as received from our members). From Bro. Homer P. Rogers, Box 167, Pendleton, Oregon, we add the following:

*King Gustavus III was the founder of Swedish Freemasonry.

Maximo Gomez	Cuba #265	
Carl Schurz	Germany #690	Lawyer, Politician 1829-1906
Sir Edmund Barton	Australia #240	
Edward Hammond Hargraves	Australia #244	
Sultan Ibrahim	Johore #130 et. seq.	General & Viceroy
Capt. James Cook	Cook Islands #85	Navigator, Explorer
Thomas Masaryk	Czechoslovakia (Many)	1st President 1918-1935
Leopold I	Belgium #19 and others	King, 1831-1865
Haakon VII	Norway #00 and others	King, 1905-
*Gustavus III	Sweden #329	Reigned 1771-1792
Gustavus V (33rd)	Sweden (Many)	Reigned 1907-1950
Christian IX (33rd)	Denmark #65-#71	Reigned 1503-1559

WELL . . . NOW . . . SEE HERE!!

We admitted in our Nov/Dec issue that we had grossly erred in the Aug/Sept issue under "MASONRY ON STAMPS" when we listed Prince William I of Netherlands as "KING OF ENGLAND 1869." We have been deluged with letters of protest and correction and, believe it or not, we are happy about the whole thing. We now know that we have a great many members interested in MOS (a term that we will use in our roster for those interested in MASONRY ON STAMPS) and also we are appreciative that our members read the MP so carefully. Among the many corrections received, we quote one taken from the World Book Encyclopedia and sent in by Bro. Harold Gunter, including his comments: "To correct error on Page 8 of the Aug/Sept issue of MP, relative to Prince William of the Netherlands, these are the facts: Pr. William I, was of the House of Orange, Count of Nassau (1533-1584), was also known as 'Prince William the Silent.' He was never King of England . . . you have him confused with William III (1650-1702), also of the House of Orange, who gained the English throne, as co-ruler, with his wife Mary, daughter of James II, in the 'Glorious Revolution' in 1688." Brothers all, many thanks for your letters and if, as Bro. Gunter points out that I had someone confused with someone else, he has no conception of my present state of mind, after reading so many well-intentioned letters.

We are awaiting a new list of MOS from several members of the Quad-City

Stamp Club of Davenport, Iowa, who recently joined the MSC. Bro. Elmer Edens has promised us some very interesting additions and sidelights.

CACHETS—PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

With the March issue of the MASONIC PHILATELIST, you will find a FIRST DAY COVER (gratis) commemorating the birthday of Bro. George Washington. The cover will show the chair in which Bro. Washington sat in the East and printed by permission of the Masonic Museum at Alexandria, Va. There will be three 1¢ Washington stamps, cancelled MASONIC MUSEUM P. O. Alexandria, Va., a most unusual item, all through the efforts of Bro. Herman Lichty of the Geo. Washington Chapter of the MSC, in Washington, D.C.

The MSC is planning a fine cachet to honor that great Patriot and Mason, Paul Revere, as well as President Monroe, both of whom will appear on 1958 issues, though on different dates. We are planning a combination of two cachets, and even though the stamps will be of 15¢ and 25¢ denominations, we expect to be able to offer both cachets at \$1.00. Even at this early date, we should like to have members write to Bro. Milnor Peck, Masonic Cachets, Pleasantville, N.Y., and let him know that you will want a set or more reserved for you.

At the same time, if you need any additional cachets of Bro. Gen. LaFayette, there are some available, 3 for \$1.00 (with the three postal station cancellations).

FROM EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

It is the policy of the MP not to accept advertising, but we feel so indebted to various sources for what they have done to make the MP possible that we wish to mention them, not for advertising, but for appreciation. The splendid WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR is issued bi-weekly by the Van Dahl Publications who print and distribute our MP through the grace of the Van Dahl Publication Fund, an endowment left by our late Brother Al Van Dahl. The companion publication of this company is COVERS, a very fine monthly magazine, edited by that able and gracious lady, Mrs. Alma McLing, my Assistant Editor (without portfolio). We hope our members will avail themselves of these two splendid publications, both for what they are worth and for what they mean to us.

And there is the best weekly magazine on the market, STAMPS, edited and published by our own Harry Lindquist, from whom we receive a wealth of material and assistance.

Many members have written in for Back copies of the MASONIC PHILATELIST, and we refer them to Brother Harold Gunter, 141-06 Glassboro Ave., Jamaica 35, New York. There is a charge of 25¢ per copy, the proceeds of which are sent to Mrs. Van Dahl, our publisher, who turns it over to her pet charity, the Children's Hospital for Polio, supported by the Shriners, of which her husband, Bro. Al Van Dahl was a member.

For those of you who would like to correspond with a member in Canada, we introduce you to Brother G. W. Starling of 332 Cherry Street, Timmins, Ontario. Brother Starling is a semi-shut-in, due to a heart condition, and while he states that he has no stamps of "startling value" he gets much joy out of correspondence. He sends his best wishes for the New Year.

Brother Ralph Huntington has brought up the question of filing the MASONIC PHILATELIST and he has suggested that we ask our members how they file their copies. He asks if we can arrange for filing in a three ring binder, but we are advised that right now it is impractical. To our answer to him that we hope some day to issue an index to the various copies, he writes 1) Do the members want one; 2) How complete would they want it; 3) How useful would it be.

At the moment, taking into consideration the amount of work involved, it is our intention of indexing only MASONRY ON STAMPS. What say you?

Brother Frank E. Weber, c/o Fire Dept., 1301 Stolp Ave., Syracuse 4, New York, writes this touching note: "I am writing you this letter in behalf of a young boy here, who is totally crippled from cerebral palsy and who cannot write because of his very deformed hands. Recently he started to collect foreign stamps as a hobby, and I am trying to obtain some for his collection. Please, would you or your members kindly save and send some of these used foreign stamps for this unfortunate boy?"

COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 7 PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT—always a pleasant and informative evening when these "pros" get together.
- Apr. 4 MASTER OF PHILATELY DEGREE—many letters and calls asking how much does it cost and what are the requirements. Briefly, There is no cost and if you are a member of MSC, if you are an ardent philatelist and if you are present at this meeting, you are eligible for this degree. You must notify the secretary, in advance, that you will be at the meeting.

GET WELL SOON . . .

Brother Harry Konwiser is now confined to the hospital at the Masonic Home at Utica, N.Y., according to the note received from his nurse, who wrote to thank the members for remembering him at Christmas. He is most appreciative of any cards or letters sent to him.

Brother Alex Komanoff called to thank one and all for their kind wishes. He is still confined to his home, but even after these many months of confinement he is in a gay mood and is progressing nicely. Mail or cards would be greatly appreciated.

Brother Fred Barovick met with a serious accident in December resulting in the temporary loss of sight in one eye. We have learned that he is progressing rapidly. He has requested that no mail be sent nor telephone calls made.

To our other members who are sick, we wish you all a speedy recovery.

Welcome - Greetings to Our New Members

- DICKRAN M. BAKER
6469 S. Academy Ave., Parlier, Cal.
Morning Star Lodge, Worcester,
Mass.
- DAVID E. BIRCHARD
7570-46th Ave., No. St. Petersburg,
Fla. Doric Lodge #92, Seattle, Wash.
- JAMES W. BROWN
4211 Chester Dr., Youngstown 12,
Ohio. Western Star #21, Youngs-
town.
- THOMAS L. BYRNE
Pelham Biltmore, Pelham Manor,
N. Y. Mariner's #67, NYC.
- EDMUND A. CARUSO
37 Sylvan Ave., W. Hartford 7, Conn.
St. John's #4, Hartford.
- FAYETTE M. COFFEEN
247 Linden St., Fond du Lac, Wis-
consin. Fountain #26, Fond du Lac.
- DAVID S. CONNELL
43 Jessamine St., W. Hartford 7,
Conn. Wylls #99, West Hartford.
- EARL W. CRANDALL
38 Bishop St., Union, New Jersey.
Essex Lodge #49, Elizabeth, N.J.
- RUSSELL K. DAVID
P.O. Box 477, Paulina, Iowa.
Fulton #499, Paulina.
- HOWARD A. DODDS
3 Hanley Pl., E. Northport, L.I., N.Y.
Babylon #793, Babylon, N.Y.
- JOEL S. GOLDSMITH
P. O. Box 5308, Pawaa Sta., Honolulu,
T.H. Darcy Lodge #187, N.Y.
- OSCAR LEE HUMBERT
404 So. B St., Arkansas City, Kansas.
Crescent #133, Arkansas City.
- ABRAHAM B. LEVINE
Portland, Maine. Brotherhood #218,
Portland.
- FRANCISCO MACIAS F.
Cristina #92, Cienfuegas, Cuba.
Logia Asilo de la Virtud.
- ALEXIS A. MAHAN
710 Bay Road, Hamilton, Mass.
Cortlandville #470, Cortland, N.Y.
- LEWIS C. MEAD
420 Walberta Rd., Syracuse 4, N.Y.
ON - DA - WA #820, Mechanicville,
N. Y.
- CHESTER MOELLER
74 Pearsall Ave., Lynbrook, L.I., N.Y.
Ancient #724, NYC.
- MORTON E. MOONEY
Box 146, Jessup, Georgia.
Jessup Lodge #112.
- ROBERT ARTHUR OLSON
1123 S. Helen St., Sioux City 6, Iowa.
Triangle #643, Sioux City.
- LOUIS A. PEASE
25 Vine St., North East, Penna.
North East #399, Penna.
- MICHAEL J. PIERRO
P. O. Box 24, Waterbury, Conn.
Liberty #123, Waterbury.
- GERALD L. PLIMPTON
74 Wallace St., Malden 48, Mass.
Converse Lodge, Malden.
- JOHN L. RAYL
326 Pinney St., Worthington, Ohio.
New England #4, Worthington.
- HENRY C. REINHARDT, JR.
385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield, N.J.
William M. Daniels #269, Bergen-
field
- LEO S. ROBERTSON
P. O. Box 605, North Bend, Oregon.
North Bend Lodge #140.
- HERBERT N. SANDER
161 E. Highland Ave., Ravenna, Ohio.
Unity Lodge #12, Ravenna.
- MORRIS SHAPIRO
6930 Goodland Ave., N. Hollywood,
Cal. Home Lodge #721, N. Holly-
wood.
- ROYAL SMITHSON
1625 Claremont, Independence, Mo.
Independence Lodge #76.
- OLAFF S. SOLOMONSON
100 Brewster St., Stratford, Conn.
America Lodge #92, Stratford.
- ROBERT JESSE SPIEGEL
1975 42nd Ave., San Francisco 16,
Cal. Jonathan Lodge #545, San
Francisco.
- CHARLES W. W. ST. JOHN
619 Humboldt St., Richmond 9, Calif.
Harbor Lodge #502, Richmond.
- GEORGE W. STARLING
332 Cherry St., Timmins, Ont.,
Canada. Golden Beaver #528, Tim-
mins.
- ALVIN C. WEEKS
170 East Avenue, Hampton, Virginia.
St. Tammany #5, Hampton.
- RAYMOND PETER WELLENDOFF
1724 N. Lincoln Ave., Davenport,
Iowa. Davenport Lodge #37.