



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 16

OCTOBER 1959

NO. 2

SWAP NIGHT ACTIVITY



Some of the club members who attended Swap Night on September 25th.
L-R seated Brothers: Bruder, Osterlund, Rosenbaum, Gunter, Yarry, Solomon.
Standing L-R Brothers: Ehrig, Ferola, Sehlmeier, Thomsen, Reggel, Brooks,
Sanna, Shelse.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

OCTOBER 1959

VOL. 16 NO. 2

M. S. C. Silver Anniversary



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



OFFICERS

President Emanuel M. Reggel
1st V. Pres. Dr. S. Duffield Swan
2nd V. Pres. Joseph A. Ferola
Secretary Fred J. Gommo
37-20 75th St., Jackson Hts. 72, N. Y.
Treasurer Joseph Munk
1010 Sherman Ave., Bronx 56, N. Y.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Charles C. Sanna 3 years
E. Milnor Peck 2 years
Herman S. Kerstein 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.
Member of the
National Federation of Stamp Clubs

BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of our Brothers at the first meeting of the season. It was most encouraging to see such an excellent turn out.

Our members enjoyed a lively evening. Some showed and discussed stamps. Others related their summer experiences.

Bro. Dr. Swan, our 1st V. P. and Chairman of the Program Committee, announced the program of meetings for 1959-60, which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Bro. Shelton Osterlund was appointed "Curator" of donated collections and of other club properties.

We hope for a successful club year. To achieve this, we need the support of all our Brother members.

Make a note of the dates of our

MEETINGS

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

IN MEMORIUM

BRO. ALEXANDER P. WATTS

May his soul rest in peace.

meetings and make every effort to attend them.

We also want to hear from our "Out-of-Town" members. Send us articles and news items. **This is your club!**

All for one, and one for all.

—Emanuel M. Reggel.

PROGRAM

1959 - 1960

Oct. 9—Herman Herst, Jr., and his "Pat" Topics.

Nov. 6—Masonic Philately. All members are invited to bring their Masonic Philatelic items to show to the brothers.

Dec. 4—British Empire Study Group will visit us.

It is suggested in December an evening at the Vanderbilt Hotel or other suitable place will be arranged as a "get together" to wind up the 25th Year celebration.

Jan. 8, 1960—Member's Exhibition.

Feb. 5—Movies on Masonry, supplied by Bro. Mirt and shown by Bro. Herman Kerstein.

Mar. 4—Past President's Night, M.C.'d by Bros. Jacob Glaser and Carl H. Phil.

Apr. 1—Disquisition on "My Favorite Stamp." Five minutes will be allotted to each member to tell what and why.

May 6—Annual Dinner.

June 3—Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Masonic Cancellations

By BRO. S. DUFFIELD SWAN



1



1a



2



2a



2b

A very interesting series of letters came to our attention a few years ago and we were able to secure a few copies and the complete record of those bearing a Masonic Cancellation.

It appeared that a Mr. C. B. Travis of Quincy, Mass. was connected with the School Board. The earliest correspondence invited a Miss Julia P. Cole to become a candidate teacher in Quincy. There were interviews and many letters, and from "Dear Miss Cole" the salutation became "Dear Julia," so the end of the story was a happy one.

Four of the five illustrated cancellations were found in this correspondence. The dates of usage, combined with our record were as follows:

Type I 1867—March 8th and Aug. 31st.

Type Ia 1867—June 26th and July 14th.

Type 2 1867—March 28th, April 10th and May 14th.

Type 2a 1867—Feb. 2nd, Apr. 1st, Apr. 28th, June 6th, June 13th, June 25th, July 4th, July 10th, July 17th.

Type 2b 1867 — October 6th, and many other dates. This is the most common Quincy Masonic and there are many off cover copies. It would be an interesting research to study the progressive decomposition of this canceller.

The Postmaster of this period was John B. Bass, who was a Mason. The following biography was copied from the "Bass Family Records:"

John Benjamin Bass, born Quincy, Mass., Aug. 3rd, 1827. In his youth he joined Co. K of the old "4th Mass. Regiment." When war broke out he was in Chicago. Aided by a friend, he raised a company of volunteers in that city, but as the Illinois quota was full, the company was ordered to St. Louis and was attached to the 9th Missouri. Subsequently, through Gov. Yates, the company was transferred to the quota for Illinois and became Co. K, 59th Illinois Infantry.

At the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., Mar. 7th, 1862, a rifle bullet passed through his left leg. The engagement had been hot and he fell, making one of a stragglng pile of dead and wounded men. As he lay upon the field, he accidentally made what he afterwards learned to have been the Masonic Signal of Distress. It was seen by a Rebel Officer, who made up to him at the risk of his own life and interrogated him briefly. As a result the officer ordered his men, who at that time had an unpleasant habit of bayoneting wounded Yankees, to pass by him and those lying near him without molestation. After 12 hours exposure he was removed from the field, his wound was pronounced mortal. His subsequent experiences were of the most thrilling description. Despite the opinion of the surgeons, after great suffering, he became able to go about on crutches, and regained his health to a gratifying extent.

He was appointed Postmaster of Quincy, Mass., in 1867, which position he held for nearly 20 years, being removed in April 1886 to make way for a Democratic candidate.

The Rev. D. M. Wilson has written of him—"Sorely maimed he returned to the duties of ordinary life. Here, though the odds were against him, he did not suffer defeat. He kept his place in the ranks of the active and industrious. He held on with a courage, sometimes grim because of pain, but always manly. He was as honest as he was brave.

He died Feb. 18th, 1889, aged 62 years. Services over his remains were held in the First Church, and were largely attended by members of the G.A.R. Post to which he belonged, and by other organizations of which he was an honored member. He was a member of St. Stephens Royal Arch Chapter of Masons, Knights of Honor, Knights and Ladies of Honor, and Paul Revere Post, G.A.R.

Another Successful 'Swap' Night



Another Successful 'Swap' Night

On Friday evening, Sept. 25th, we held the season's first "Swap" night at the German Masonic Temple (East 15th St.).

Upon arrival there, Bro. Joe Ferola, our Second Vice President and Chairman of this activity, was on hand to greet each Brother.

Bro. Charlie Sanna showed up with a huge cheese which was sliced up and placed on the dinner table. (It was delicious!) After a good meal we adjourned to a meeting room, where trading and purchasing of stamps took place. There was plenty of action! Bro. Sanna set himself up at a table and seemed to be in opposition with the Post Office! He had so many U. S. Plate Blocks and was good naturedly selling them at face. (Pick 'em where and how you like!) Bro. Sanna seemed to be having great fun by doing this.

Bro. Eliot Nordheim took some pictures of the evening, trying out his new camera, the photo on the cover and others in the M. P. is by his generosity. Thanks to Bro. Nordheim.

IN AND AROUND THE CLUB

The meeting of September 11th was opened by our President Bro. Emanuel Reggel. Bro. Sam Brooks gave the invocation, followed by one minute of silent prayer for Bro. Alexander P. Watts. Announcement was made of the official appointment of Bro. Fred J. Gommo as secretary at the last Board of Governors meeting. Bro. Reggel read the report on the audit of the Treasurer's books made by Bro. Charles Brooks; thanks and appreciation was offered by the club to Bro. Charles Brooks for the job so well done.

Bro. Yarry stated that certificates for all brothers who had exhibited at the 25th anniversary exhibit who had not received them as yet would be forthcoming shortly. Bro. Dr. Swan, Chairman of the Program Committee, called on members present to tell about their summer, or show what they had to exhibit.

Bro. Dr. Yarry exhibited an album of Great Britain postal stationery explaining the various covers. Bro. Kerstein spoke about his trips to Cuba, Haiti and Canada. Bro. Uncle Jake Glaser about fishing for bluefish on a 6 lb. line. Bro. Dr. George Camnitzer skipped stamps and did some travelling to Florida and other places. Bro. War-

ren Ehrig visited the Veterans Hospital at Bath, N.Y., giving stamps to patients. Bro. Sam Brooks showed the start of a very interesting collection of commercially used covers explaining the use of commemorative stamps at the period they are in use or on sale.

Bro. Harold Gunter (one of our younger brothers 28 years backwards) spent the summer gardening and enjoyed it. Bro. Elliot Nordheim made a trip to Key West. Bro. John Shelse and a few others spent a very quiet summer. Bro. Ben Grossman reported the passing of his mother to which the club offers and extends its sympathy to him and his family. Bro. Bruder is collecting Masonic Medals, (says they are hard to come by), he also worked with Bro. Fred Hill at the Topical Society show they helped so much to make it a success. Bro. Charles Sanna spoke about a new type of mouse trap he had invented.

Bro. Shelton Osterlund skipped his stamps and spent his time on Masonic Affairs. Bro. Joseph Munk reported the sudden passing of his brother-in-law. The club extends its sympathy to Joe and his family. Bro. Reggel had a letter and photos from Bro. Phil Wilde in Wales showing his daughter's (Pat) wedding at Llandaff Cathedral. The pictures were passed around for the brothers to see. Bro. Reggel spent his summer at Murray Bay, Canada, and showed some Canadian cancels he picked up the hard way. Bro. Dr. Swan worked and golfed, he also wrote a few articles, but he avoided telling us his golf score (but it's below the 90's, as he modestly stated his name is on a couple of trophies).

Birthday Greetings—Congratulations to Bro. Harold Gunter, 83 years young this week. He is a trojan worker and sends out all our meeting notices for the metropolitan area. He writes them by hand and said (he loves doing it). He also looks after our back number issues of the M. P. He has hardly missed a meeting in all the years. We wish him good health and many more happy years.

NOTICE ON DUES

At a special meeting held on July 27, 1959, the Board of Governors of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York voted to increase the annual dues for members by one dollar—from two dollars to three dollars.

The Board took this action reluc-

tantly but in the face of the fact that income from members has not been sufficient to defray the operating expenses of the club for the past two years. Increasing costs of publishing and mailing (including increased postage) The Masonic Philatelist is one of the principal items but, as we all know only too well, costs are rising in every area.

Of course, your Board could have trimmed the budget for our splendid journal but this thought was rejected immediately and unanimously. Through the years The Masonic Philatelist has continuously grown in stature and quality until today it is recognized as one of the outstanding publications of its kind. During the past year Eidtor Bro. Herman S. Kerstein has continued to uphold the splendid record of previous editors.

It should not be overlooked that Van Dahl Publications of Albany, Oregon, who print and mail our publication, including maintenance of mailing lists, are continuing the policy initiated by the late, beloved Bro. Al Van Dahl in publishing and distributing The Masonic Philatelist at less than cost. However, despite this generous assistance, the club has been operating in the red.

We hope that all brethren will appreciate that this action was not taken lightly, but only after long and thoughtful consideration.

—Carl H. Pihl.

LORD HORATIO NELSON (1758-1805)
(Barbados #102)

The famous Admiral of the British Navy, was a member of Union Lodge, York #331.

JAMES I (1566-1625)
(Newfoundland #87)

He ascended the English throne as King on March 24, 1603. He is said to have been a member of a Lodge at Perth, Scotland.

FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN (1732-1809)
(Austria #350)

He was made a Mason in 1785 in the Lodge Zum Wahren Ein Tracht, in Vienna. Mozart was present when Haydn received his E.A. degree.

CHRISTIAN X OF DENMARK
(Denmark #97-#131)

He was made a Mason in 1889. He was Vicar of Solomon.

MASONIC PHILATELY

By Sam Brooks

"Famous Masons on Stamps"

This is the most popular grouping in the "Masonic Philately" series. More has been written on this aspect of the subject, and much material is available.

Here, again, it is suggested that you give some thought to your collecting and try to get away from just a stereotyped collection. And above all, try to do a little independent research and aim for accuracy. You'll get a big kick out of reading about your "famous Mason" and making your own write-up on each stamp.

Getting the stamps is easy. Some books are available and from time to time, various stamp magazines have articles on the subject.

It is not our intention to compile a list of Famous Masons on Stamps, except that we suggest you start with the 13 Masonic Presidents. These are Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Harding, F. D. Roosevelt and Truman.

From that point, you can go almost anywhere.

Here are some suggestions: First about the stamp: The reason for its issuance, the source of the subject matter with names of the artist, and some technical information, such as where, when first issued, number printed and by whom.

Next about the subject: Place and date of birth, place and date of death. Masonic history, such as dates of E.A., F.C. and M.M. Name of Lodge—positions held and other degrees. Then you can give a short biographical sketch. If this is for your collection, be brief. If you're writing an article, expand it in any way you see fit.

Make this your own Collection. Don't copy any material word for word. Spend a little time looking up your subject. This is where you get the biggest kick out of your own efforts to make a real Masonic Collection.

And when you have completed even part of it, show it. In your Lodge, to your friends, and to others who may be interested.

Make of yourself a real Masonic Philatelist.

THANKS BRO. KERSTEIN

Bro. Herman S. Kerstein resigned as editor of The Masonic Philatelist on September 22. We thank him for his work and efforts during his tenure as editor. Any **articles, news items or material** for publishing in current issues may be sent to: Masonic Stamp Club of New York, 22 East 35th St., New York 16, N.Y.

Welcome, New Members!

- Donald G. Boddy—Acacia #477
20631 Wedgewood Dr., Detroit, Mich.
Grosse Point 36, Mich.
- Alan E. Coatoam—Ellbrook #634
4469 South Hills Dr., Cleveland, Ohio
Cleveland 9, Ohio
- Maurice M. Dixon—Spruce Falls #648
100 Riverside Drive
Kapuskesing, Ontario, Canada
- George H. Hauslein—Meudell #695
2001 Locust Ravine,
Bakersfield, Calif.
- E. R. Lambertson, M.D.—Euclid #519
727 West 7th Street,
Los Angeles 17, Calif.
- Edwin F. Ludke—Gideon #84
Route 1, Box 413
Plaiastow, New Hampshire
- William R. Morris—Frankford #292
3219 Disston Street,
Philadelphia 49, Penna.
- Charles G. Motley—Richmond #10
5424 Dorchester Road,
Richmond 25, Virginia
- Robert V. Osborne—Racine #18
423 10th Street,
Racine, Wisconsin
- Richard Albert Peak—Simon W. Robinson
22 Ewell Avenue,
Lexington, Mass.
- Fred E. Porter—Olive #575
1100 Gribble, Apt. #3, Sherman, N.Y.
Richland, Washington
- Keith E. Powers—Rice Lake #234
Box 409,
Rice Lake, Wisconsin
- Eugene E. Raffety, Sr.—Northeast #435
3690 Sherwood Drive,
Baton Rouge 5, La.
- Robert P. Runyan—Rocky River #703
18500 Edgewood Drive,
Rocky River 16, Ohio
- William F. Saars—Union #31
New London, Conn.
Manwaring Road, Niantic 2, Conn.
- Alan G. Smith—Shekinah #246
Philadelphia, Pa.
140 Cricket Avenue
Ardmore, Penna.

JULES FERRY STAMP HONORS

A MASON

A 15-franc stamp of France honors Jules Ferry, who was active in the establishment of the Republic. It also pays homage to a Mason, because Ferry was a member of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, which was installed at Paris in September 1872 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient. Born at Saint Die, in the Vosges, in 1832, he was admitted to the bar in 1851. He immediately took an interest in politics, becoming an active opponent of the party of Louis Napoleon. Although he was opposed to the war with Germany, Ferry as central prefect of Paris performed outstanding service during the siege of Paris. He gained fame for himself while serving as minister of public instruction. Through his efforts, the rule of the Jesuits was broken in 1879, and in 1882 he was instrumental in the passage of a law which made primary education free, compulsory and non-clerical.



It also is as an empire builder that he is remembered today. He was Prime Minister in 1880 and in 1883-5, during which time he directed the acquisition of colonies in Africa and Asia, which today make up the bulk of the French territorial empire. His name is inscribed on the Colonial Exposition commemorative stamps issued by 25 colonies in 1931. He was a candidate for the presidency in 1893, the year of his death.

Postal history enthusiasts also will find in the Ferry stamp an excellent addition to their collection. He was serving as prefect during the Franco-Prussian War when the famous balloon post covers were flown out of Paris, the first regular air mail flights. Another attempt to get the mail through involved the use of hollow iron balls. Filled with mail, these were allowed to roll along the river bottom to be picked up downstream. The project was a failure. — John A. Mirt, Chicago.



MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK Our 25th Silver Anniversary SPECIAL

Our 25th Silver Anniversary Special—and Special they are these three Beautiful Masonic Covers—each depicting a Masonic subject of interest to all Masons.

Brother Andrew Jackson was one of the great Masons of his time. His Masonic career was as colorful and dramatic as his military and political life.

Brother Peary, a member of Kane Lodge #454, F. & A. M. New York, was one of the Famous members of that old lodge of explorers.

The Masonic monument erected on Bunker Hill is a memorial to the many Masons who fell in that history making battle.

Each cover is cancelled on the "First Day of Issue" for the special stamp relative to the particular cover.

It is the opinion of many that the covers being put out by "OUR CLUB" will in the near future become "Collectors Items." The number cancelled are, of course, quite limited.

The price of these three covers, **Our 25th Silver Anniversary SPECIAL** is ONLY \$1.00 for the three covers — 6 sets of 3 covers for \$5.00.

Don't miss getting them — Order . . . TODAY.
Please place your order now while they are available.

MASONIC CACHETS, Box 244, Pleasantville, New York

More Beautiful Engraved Designs Sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York