



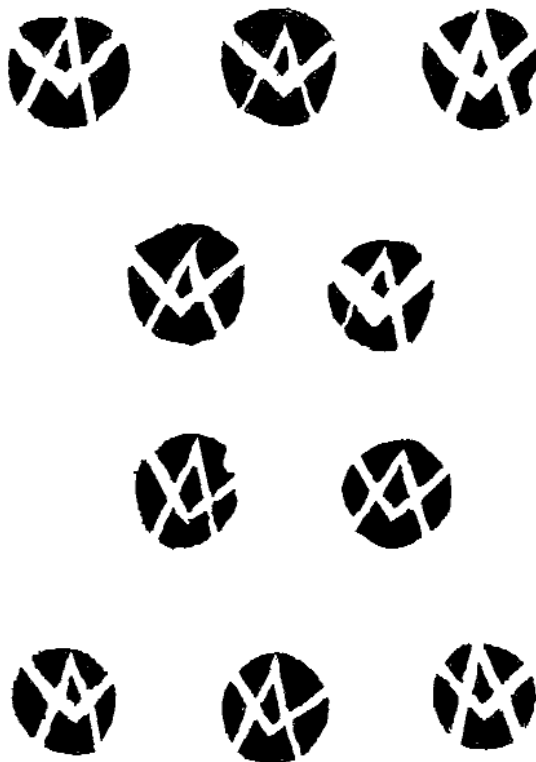
# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 19

JANUARY 1963

NO. 5

## *The Nashua, N. H., Masonic Cancellations*



The first five cancellations illustrated occur on the 1861 U.S. issue, principally on Scott's #65. The second group of five were found on the 1869 issue, all Scott's #114, altho #113 and envelope were also found with these cancellations. See article within by Dr. S. Duffield Swan.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 19 NO. 5  
JANUARY 1963

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Published by  
The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl  
PUBLICATION FUND  
of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York  
22 East 35th St., New York 16, N. Y.

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## *By the sign of the Gavel*

Those of you who did not attend the December meeting certainly missed a most interesting, entertaining and educational talk and display by Mr. Henry Goodkind. My thanks to him.

They say "it pays to advertise." Well, we did not advertise but we did have a lounge at the recent ASDA Show. Among the many thousands who attended the Show, numerous members of the Craft stopped at our lounge to chat and extend fraternal greetings many of the brothers having come from distant points. To those who were in-

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

terested we explained the accomplishments, aims and purposes of our Club. This led to requests for application blanks, and it is gratifying to note the many new members welcomed in this issue, most of whom joined as a result of this contact. My thanks go to the many members of our Club who kept the lounge fully manned for the full three days of the Exhibit, extending the fraternal hand of goodfellowship to all who visited us.

While extending thanks, let me also include Dr. Swan for the continuation of his scholarly articles on Masonic cancellations. I understand that Dr. Yarry has submitted for publication in our next issue an article continuing his series relating to Arctic explorations. If these busy professionals can find time to prepare articles for our publication, how about letting our Editor hear from a number of our other members.

—Shelton W. Osterlund.

### CORRECTION

The blue folder which was included with the first issue at the beginning of the season contained several errors in the dates. Please note that the correct dates of meetings for the fiscal year are as follows:

- January 4—Annual Exhibit by Members.
- February 1—Professor John N. Myer's prize winning collection of Columbia, to be exhibited with slides and an interesting talk.
- March 1—Malcolm O'Reilly, Vice President of the Collectors Club and Chairman of the Library Committee, will speak on the Postal History of Ireland.
- April 5—"My Favorite Page Night."
- May 3—Dr. Harold B. Eiber will display and talk on his famous collection of "Medicine on Stamps."
- June 7—Annual Meeting—Election of Officers.

# NASHUA (NEW HAMPSHIRE) MASONIC CANCELLATIONS

By Dr. S. Duffield Swan

At the recent ASDA Show, I was interested in seeing two covers from Nashua, N. H., which a certain dealer priced at \$30.00 each. They showed two distinct different Masonic square and compasses. This reminded me of the fact that I had made tracings of several Nashua covers which had passed through my hands, so I started checking them, with the result that I found ten distinct cancellations, as illustrated on our cover page for this issue. These represent more than twenty covers and separate stamps.

This information led to a speculation on my part as to how many different cancellations could possibly exist and why? From the stamp occurrence it seems probable that these ten cancellations were used in 1868-1869. The actual dates of usage spread over eight months, but as no year dates were recorded for most of them, we can only project the year of usage.

The Nashua postmaster of this period was George W. Swain, who according to history was a member of the Fraternity.

The cancelling devices used in this period were referred to as "hammers." Ordinarily one hammer was used for the town canceller and a second one for the obliteration of the stamp. The sale of these cancellers became quite a business for a period of time. The salesmen had a considerable variety and supply, which they carried from town to town, making direct sales. However, most of these hammers were wholly made of metal and did not include fraternal insignia. The artistic and enthusiastic fraternal man substituted a carved head containing some emblem of import to him. A few made metal heads, others hard wood (broom handle) but the most prevalent were carved from corks.

The commonest Masonic canceller is the one using a square and compasses. These can be either negative or positive. The Nashua type are negative corks. The positive type show the square and compasses in black or color. Other insignia used frequently were—the trowel, the cane with two dots, the square, the blazing G and several others, especially for the higher degrees. At least twenty varieties have been identified.

It is probable that Postmaster Swain used a cork on his mail until it de-

teriorated, and then carved a new one approximating the one worn out. Each new one apparently showed variations from the old one, although they all approach each other in general appearance. We have never had a single source of letters from Nashua that would give us a succession of cancellers, such as was found for Quincy a few years ago, but we always live in hope for such a find.

A natural question arises—could some of these cancellations be "Fakes"? By this we mean produced by some unprincipled character to improve the market. It is possible, but in the cases I have had tested the ink showed up as being over 60 years old and the paper of the covers was judged to be well over that age. (I didn't tell the laboratory of the age I hoped them to be—but they picked the 60 year figure themselves.)

As a check up on other towns that had furnished us with quite a number of covers with Masonic cancellations, I compiled the following list which is derived from covers which I have personally had in my possession and from which I have made tracings.

Town	Cancellers	Type	Covers of
			Record
Boston, Mass.	3	cork	11
Brattleboro, Vt.	2	wood	10
Charleston, N. H.	2	metal	14
Chicopee, Mass.	2	metal	9
Copake Iron Works, N. Y.	3	wood	6
*Greenfield, Mass.	2	cork	16
Little Falls, N. Y.	2	cork	5
Mitteneague, Mass.	1	metal	11
Nashua, N. H.	10	cork	18
*New York, N. Y.	4	cork	8
*North Conway, N.H.	2	cork	11
Peterborough, N. H.	2	cork	4
Quincy, Mass.	5	cork	12
*Rutland, Vt.	6	cork	8
*Salem, Mass.	3	cork	8
*Sharon, Pa. (1928)	4	cork	7

\*Most of the cancellers here were square and compasses or some modification. The towns with the asterisk varied from this, giving other insignia. This is especially true of Rutland, Vt., where all six of my tracings are of lesser insignia. Charles Gramm informed me years ago that he had heard that Postmaster and Brother John B. Kilburn, of Rutland, had made and used 11 Masonic cancellers. I have not been able to verify this to date.



## THE A.S.D.A. SHOW



Our participation in the American Stamp Dealers' Association National Postage Stamp Show in New York November 16-18, 1962 was an outstanding success. Our lounge was dignified and tastefully decorated; our president had donated to the Club a moving electric sign which attracted much favorable comment. On the wall were displayed the drawings for a number of our Masonic Cachets which had been issued over the years. There was a record attendance at the show of about 72,000. This was in spite of the fact that for the first time in its fourteen year history, the annual event was not awarded a first day sale of a stamp by the Post Office Dept.

Our lounge was continuously manned by a number of your officers and other members who had volunteered their services. Hundreds of visiting members of the Craft, from far and near, including a number of our own members, stopped at our lounge to exchange fraternal greetings. Many inquired about our Club, and numerous application blanks were requested. All of us who participated had a most enjoyable time, and your Committee extends its thanks to all who assisted.

Our location was favorable and on the opening day, the New York Post Office Band was seated directly in front of us. The opening ceremonies were quite interesting. The excitement usually engendered by the sale of a new stamp was missing, but was offset by the presence throughout of Leonard Sherman, whose "find" of a complete pane of 50 of the Hammar skjold inverts was nullified as to windfall financial value by the Post Office having flooded the market with deliberate misprint-

ings. The first day sale of the reprints in Washington was held on Nov. 16th which was the opening day of the Show. Mr. Sherman, who was a personable and agreeable gentleman, chatted with many of our members, and had on display his complete error sheet. In order to distinguish the original error printing from the subsequent deliberate misprints, eleven prominent philatelists who were present at the Show were asked sign the sheet by way of authentication, which they did. Included among these signers were two of our own members, Bro. Sol Glass, former President of Bureau Issues Association, and our peripatetic past President Emanuel M. Reggel. The latter is illustrated above in the act of signing, with Leonard Sherman the very interested observer.

Space limitations preclude the listing of the names of the hundreds of visiting members of the Craft who signed our Register, or of showing additional photos. Among those illustrated herein are Sol Altman, Adrien Boutrelle and Norman Serphos, friends from the Collectors Club. On the distaff side are shown Mrs. Violet Porte and Mrs. Irwin Yarry, examining a Project Mercury capsule, which was one of the features of the Show. Among the brothers pictured are Stanley Salomon, Emanuel Reggel, Joseph Munk, Shelton Osterlund, Duffield Swan, Charles Brooks, Ben Grossman, Jose Rueff, George Richards, Charles Willets, Albert Greck, Carl Pelander and Harry Lindquist. Included in the lower right corner are friends from the neighboring booth of American First Day Cover Society, consisting of their officers, Frank Aufrecht, Stanley Fryczynski, Jr., and Ben Parell. This is the Society in which our own Norman Lee has been so active. Mr. Fryczynski had a large supply of the invert reprints on cover with Nov. 16th cancellations sent to him by special messenger from Washington, and they were giving one free to every new applicant. We understand that this promotional stunt gained several hundred new members for them during the course of the show.

### MUSINGS OF AN "OLD HAS BEEN" Article No. 3

Are you a "selfish" stamp collector? I mean one who has developed an introvert's attitude about his stamps. They are good enough only for your own edification, interest and perusal. This selfish attitude restricts your collection in many ways. You may have the most expensive collection of its kind, but what good is it doing locked

up in a closet in your home only to be sneaked out in the stilly night and glanced at or poured over only by you?

Join a club — take your collection along and let some one else enjoy seeing what you have. You too will look at "Jim's" collection and perhaps something he has done will ring a bell on how to improve your own display. In other words, do not be a sponge, absorbing things only for yourself, and you will then reap the benefits of admiration, education, interest and improvement. You might even learn how to win a prize at an important stamp show.

### OUR DECEMBER MEETING

It was reported that Bro. Jacob Glaser had suffered a heart attack and was resting at home. A prayer was offered for his speedy recovery.

A visitor, Bro. Alfred E. Farrant made application for membership, which was accepted. One of our new members, Bro. Ed Chappel was present, it being his first meeting.

Past president Bro. Swan donated to our archives and library a frame of Match and Medicine stamps having Masonic symbols in their designs.

Also donated by Bro. J. Ronald McMurtich was a section of an old newspaper showing Washington's apron presented to him by the Lafayettes. This was the apron that was hand made by Madam Lafayette.

A third donation, consisting of some Kossuth money, was made by Bro. Micklin.

Bro. Reggel then introduced Mr. Henry Goodkind, Editor of the Collectors Club "Philatelist" and internationally known philatelist. Mr. Goodkind spoke in great detail about his outstanding collection of the 24¢ airmail, first issue airmail of United States, which was tastefully displayed in the frames. The large audience present seemed fascinated by his knowledge of details and facts concerning this issue. Included in the comprehensive display of material was the prized 24¢ invert. After his regular talk, Mr. Goodkind answered numerous questions asked by some of the members, regarding various phases of philately.

—Stanley A. Salomon.

### DECEMBER MEETING OF LAKE ERIE CHAPTER #2

The regular third Wed. of the month meeting of the Stamp Club was held on the 19th of Dec. 1962.

Bro. Pahl reported that shipments of stamps were being prepared for all the

Shriners Crippled Children's Hospitals in time for Christmas delivery.

Bro. Daykin spoke on the desirability of having a record of the Philatelic activity of our members in other organizations. He also suggested that Club have the Masonic History of of its members.

New officers were installed as follows:

- President, Bro. Gordon J. Cole, Sr.
- Secretary, Bro. Lou B. Brown.
- First Vice., James R. Lambert.
- Second Vice., Bro. Laddie J. Pesck.
- Treas., Bro. Edgar W. Kroehle 33.
- Corresp. Secy., Bro. Harry A. Pahl.
- Trustee for 3 years, Bro. L. W. Christenson.

Bro. Ray Runt was reappointed to the task of keeping the various publications informed of our activities. His work along this line in the past year was very outstanding. Bro. Kittinger and Bro. Klein are both recuperating from recent illnesses at home.

On Jan. 16th, at our regular meeting, Bro. Mark Snow 33 will entertain us with a show and talk on his "Proofs and Essays of the Czech #1 and #2 Issues." This collection won a medal at the Garfield Perry Exhibit.

Considerable comedy was introduced into the regular successful auction conducted by Bro. James Lambert and Bro. Ray Runt.

Bro. Lambert then took over the floor and spoke to us on the facts that Washington reports that no significant change in public interest in stamps has taken place in the last 41 years.

The main speaker of the evening, Bro. Ralph Johnson, of Garfield Perry, then took over and presented his collection of fine Early France Stamps and Covers.

The programs of the evening were enjoyed very much by all present.

—Harry A. Pahl.

Corresponding Secy.

Bro. C. Malcolm Nichols, 321 Weeks Street, Jamestown, N. Y., has published a book, edition limited to 400 copies, entitled "Early Post Offices of Chautauqua County, N. Y." A review appearing in the "American Philatelist" stated, "A book that traces a regional postal history from its early founding. We became captivated by the tremendous research accomplished to make this presentation, complete with illustrative material, early postal markings and nostalgic photographs of Chautauqua landmarks of bygone years . . . If you enjoy reading postal history, this book provides interesting reading, regardless of where you reside." If you

are interested in this type of philatelic literature, you may order a copy from Bro. Nichols at \$3.95 postpaid.

### MASONS ON STAMPS

#### LELAND STANFORD (1824-1893)

By Marshall S. Loke



U.S. No. 922

Leland Stanford, capitalist and philanthropist, is known as the founder of Leland Stanford Junior University at Palo Alto, California. He was born March 9, 1824, at Watervliet, New York, received a common school education, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1849.

Soon afterward he removed to Port Washington, Wisconsin, where he practiced law. He was raised in Prometheus Lodge No. 17 (now Ozuakee Lodge) in March 1850. On moving to California in 1852, he demitted and became a charter member and first Senior Deacon of Michigan City (Calif.) Lodge.

In California, Stanford entered into business and politics. He was a delegate to the convention in Chicago which nominated Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency. He was elected Governor of California in 1861 and in his inaugural address urged the importance of building the Pacific Railroad. He became president of a company formed for that purpose and superintended the construction of the railroad across the mountains, spending personally \$20,000,000 on one stretch of 100 miles.

The completion of the project was the occasion of a great ceremony on May 10, 1869, when Leland Stanford drove the Golden Spike that linked the Central Pacific Railroad with the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific lines at Promontory Point, near Ogden, Utah, forming the first transcontinental railroad. The event is pictured on a 3¢ postage stamp (U.S. #922) issued May 10, 1944.

The Leland Stanford Junior University was founded in 1885 by Leland Stanford and his wife in memory of

their only child who died in 1844. Stanford was elected to the U.S. Senate for the term 1885-1891. He died June 21, 1893, and is buried on the University grounds.

### GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER

#### NO. 1

The second stated meeting of the Chapter was held on November 7, 1962 at the home of Bro. W. A. Salomon in Takoma Park, Maryland. The president reported satisfactory progress for the Chapter and pointed out that with several applications on file, it might be useful to begin thinking about holding a Master of Philately degree conferral in June and the need to get a team ready. He also stated that there has already been several offers of meeting places for the next stated meeting in April 1963.

Under new business, the Chairman reported that no word has been received from the main Club regarding the whereabouts of the archives of the Chapter when it went dark. Therefore for the good of the Chapter, it should publish a history, the Chapter's By-laws and a roster of the current membership. The membership approved this action and suggested that a committee be appointed to study the preparation of these documents with the proviso that the new By-laws embody all changes made in the old laws and any other proposed changes, and report back at the next meeting. Several applications of new members were referred to the main Club.

The President announced that since the Chapter will remain a small, informal group, its members are invited to arrange informal gatherings at their homes or any other place. Families and friends are cordially invited to attend.

—L. W. Christenson, Secretary.

Bro. Richard M. Necdham, 708 N. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Lancaster, Ohio, writes, "For the benefit of any of the members of the Club, I will imprint my Masonic cachet for the 5¢ Washington regular series of 1963 stamp on any non-cacheted FDC's of that stamp at a fee of 20¢ each, which will pay for my ink, postage to return them, and wear and tear on my press."

**WELCOME**

**We welcome our new members!**

**ROBERT H. BEKER**  
Fox Meadow Lane  
Wayland, Mass.

**J. RONALD McMURRICH**  
114 First Street  
Gananoque, Ontario, Canada

**EDWARD NELSON CHAPPELL**  
36 Lembeck Avenue  
Jersey City 5, N. J.

**RONALD MATTHEWS**  
Lourenkill Road  
Ellenville, N. Y.

**GEORGE L. EILERT, JR.**  
20-27 125th Street  
College Point 56, N. Y.

**ALEX MOLNAR**  
1729 West 12th Street  
Lorain, Ohio  
Sheffield Lodge #628

**HAROLD EPSTEIN**  
491 East 45th Street  
Brooklyn 3, N. Y.  
Adytum Lodge #640

**C. MALCOLM NICHOLS**  
321 Weeks Street  
Jamestown, N. Y.  
Mt. Moriah Lodge #145

**ALFRED E. FARRANT**  
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240 East Palisade Ave.  
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811 Newport  
Webster Groves 19, Mo.

**GEORGE H. WETTACH**  
17-20 Well Drive  
Fair Lawn, N. J.  
Fidelity Lodge #113