

The Masonic Philatelist



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NO. 8

Canadian Masonic Cancellations



Illustrated above is a Canadian Masonic Cancellation, from the collection of Dr. K. M. Day, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. See article within by Dr. S. Duffield Swan.

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By the sign of the Gavel

Very poor weather held down the attendance at our March regular meeting, but the valiant ones who were present were treated to a most enjoyable evening. Mr. Malcolm O'Reilly spoke on and displayed many frames relating to the Postal History of Ireland. He is an active and popular member of the Collectors Club, and proved to be a most entertaining speaker.

For our April Meeting, please bring one of your favorite pages from your collection, and speak briefly concerning it.

Don't forget May 24, 1963, the date set for our Annual Dinner affair. Your hard-working committee, consisting of Brothers Yarry, Reggel and Salomon, promise that this will be one of the

★ MEETINGS ★
First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th Street, N. Y. C.
Eighth Meeting Apr. 5, 1963
"My Favorite Page Night"
(Bring a page to show)

best which our Club has ever held. As speaker of the evening, we have been promised the presence of David Clements, Chief, United Nations Postal Administration. This should make our gathering a real outstanding one.

—Shelton W. Osterlund.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee, headed by Past President Emanuel M. Reggel, has put forth the following slate, to be voted upon at our Annual Meeting to be held on June 7, 1963.

President Norman H. Sehlmeier
First Vice-Pres. Stanley A. Salomon
Second Vice-Pres. Joseph Munk
Secretary Stanley A. Salomon
Treasurer Joseph Munk
3 Year Governor E. Milnor Pe

Other nominations may, of course, be made from the floor at the time for election of officers at the Annual Meeting.

OUR TWENTY NINTH ANNUAL DINNER

The highlight of our Club Year is scheduled for Friday evening, May 24th, 1963, namely our Annual Dinner.

This will be held at the Masonic Club, Masonic Temple, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, N.Y., starting at 6:30 p.m.

Price: Five (\$5.00) Dollars per person.

Dress: Informal, Guests are invited.

Speaker: Your Dinner Committee is very happy to announce that we shall be honored by the presence, as guest speaker, of Mr. D. T. Clements, Chief of United Nations Postal Administration. The beautiful array of postage stamps which have come from United Nations to fill our albums partly due to the efforts of our prominent philatelic guest, who will grace our dais.

Since facilities are limited, please make reservations or phone at once to

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, Chairman
31-12 54th Street
Woodside 77, New York
Phone: AS 8-2710

Jose Abel Castillo

Mason and Champion of Human Rights

By Marshall S. Loke



In 1955 Ecuador issued stamps #594-5 in two denominations with a portrait of Jose Abel Castillo; also a set of airmails #C282-86 in two designs, one with Castillo and map of Ecuador, the other with Castillo and the airplane "Telegrafo 1."

Jose Abel Castillo y Albornoz was born in Ambato, Ecuador, on November 23, 1854, of Spanish-Jewish ancestry. His grandfather, Colonel Mariano Castillo, was an early member of the famous "Lautaro" Lodge. His parents died in an epidemic of typhoid fever, and he grew to manhood in the home of his uncle, Xavier Castillo.

"He became very friendly with another distinguished patriot of similar ancestry, the great liberator General Eloy Alfaro i Delgado. Their friendship flourished when both joined a Masonic Lodge, the only place where young men of Jewish ancestry could express in deed ideals contrary to those of the ruling Catholic Church. There was no organized Jewish community in Ecuador and no opportunity to profess Judaism outside the framework of the Masonic Lodge."

Jose Abel Castillo was publisher of the newspaper "El Telegrafo." He served in the Liberal Army and was promoted to the rank of colonel. After being wounded in a bayonet charge, he retired from military service and continued to fight for the Liberal cause through the pages of his great paper.

With his own funds in 1920 he purchased an airplane named "Telegrafo I" and established the first airmail service on the west coast of South America. The first flight by pilot Elia Liut is

recorded as one of the great achievements in the history of Latin America.

Throughout his life he fought against inequality and injustice, for freedom of thought and speech, and for helping humanity. When his health became seriously affected, he went too late to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota for surgery. He returned to Guayaquil, where he died June 22, 1940. He had requested and was given a Masonic burial fully in accord with the ritual of the Old Testament.

NOTE: The foregoing data is condensed from an excellent article in JUDAICA POST, the Journal of Philatelic Judaica, 19769 Steel Avenue, Detroit 35, Michigan, Eli Grad, Editor.

Jose Abel Castillo was initiated in the Lodge "Luz del Guayas," Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1880, and continued to be a member for the rest of his life. In 1921, he was one of the founders of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. Jean Molinari was the first Grand Master, and Brother Castillo became its first Deputy Grand Master. Before his death he had attained the 33rd degree, Scottish Rite.

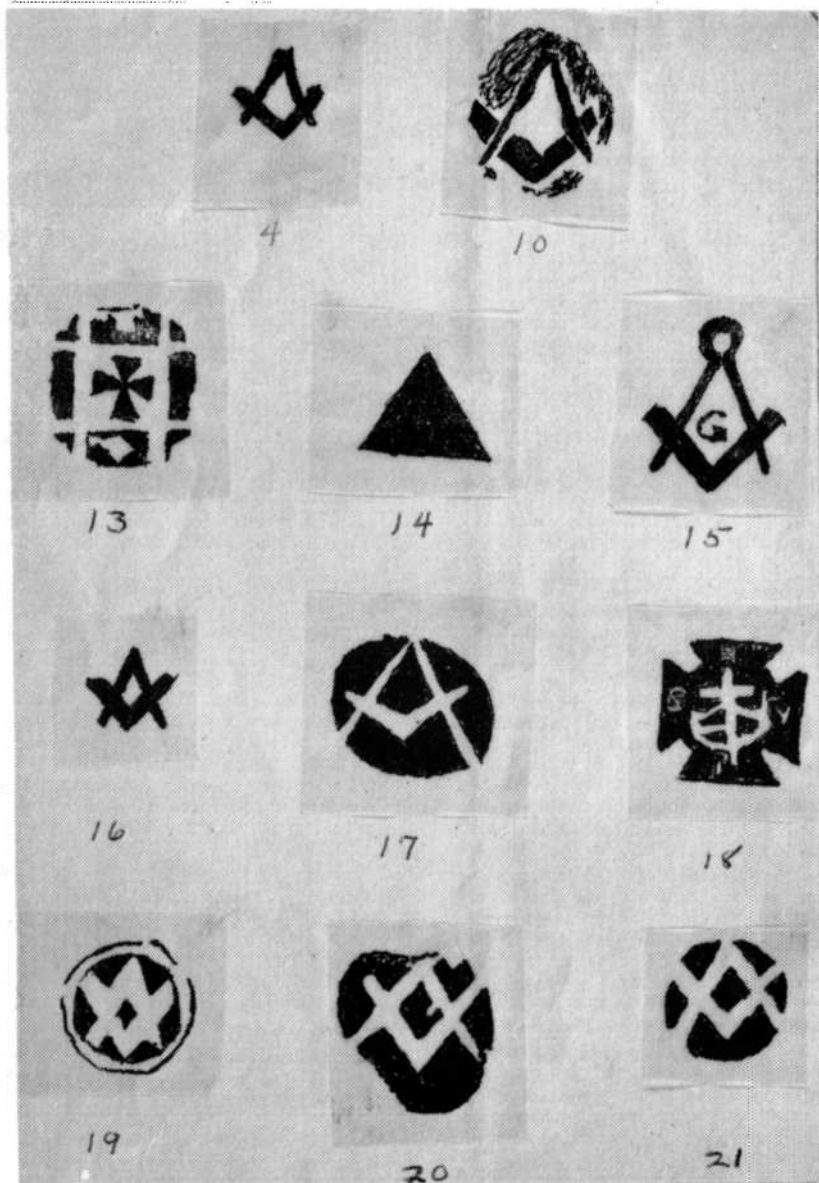
From 1882 he was director of "Sociedad Filantropica del Guayas," giving poor people an education and teaching them different trades. It is now one of the largest trade schools in the country, financed by the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. In 1905 he formed the Sociedad Protectora de la Infancia" which became Children's Hospital "Leon Becerra" under the protection of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. Jose Abel Castillo surely deserves a place in Masonic Philately.

Canadian Masonic Cancellations

By. Dr. S. Duffield Swan

Our article in the April 1962 "Masonic Philatelist" about Canadian Masonic cancellations has certainly aroused much interest, and brought a wealth of information from many collectors from

all over the world. We are now submitting herein eleven additional cancellations of some Masonic import, including nine which are identified as to towns.



Of these cancels which are illustrated here, the Waterloo and Kingston tracings are most interesting. The Waterloo Knights Templar Cross, with the crown and cross in negative, also has the I-H-S-V initials, as is usual with the English Knights Templar, depicting of the "In Hoc Signo Vinces" motto.

Kingston was a very active Masonic area in the early 1870's. The Royal Arch Chapter there bears the number 2. The first Scottish Rite Valley in Upper Canada also was located there. The import of the cancellations seems to indicate a desire to represent the insignia of these two bodies.

The Blyth cancel (#4) is one of the three reported to exist, but I have not received the tracings of the other ones for comparison and this one is not too distinct. This cancel was reported in the April and May 1962 articles, but no tracing was then available. This is also true of the Toronto cancel shown in the chart, which we present now as #10, together with information on the Postmaster's Masonic connection. There is only one of these cancels of record, and it is in the collection of our new member, Bro. J. Ronald McMurrich of Gananoque, Ontario Canada.

Descriptions of the cancellations illustrated are as follows:

Cancel No.	Town	Postmaster	Affiliation
4	Blyth, Ontario	Donald B. McKinnon	M
10	Toronto, Ontario	Thomas C. Patterson	M
13 & 14	Kingston, Ont.	Robert Deacon	?
15	Preston, Ontario	Conrad Nispel	?
16	St. Barnabe, Que.	Francis X. Bellemare	?
17	Stayner, Ontario	William W. B. Sanders	M
		Edgar B. Sanders	M
18	Waterloo, Ontario	Christian Kumpf	M
19	Yarmouth, N. S.	A. J. Hood	M
20	Off-cover 3¢	Jubilee	
21	Off-cover 3¢	1870	

The Postmaster of Stayner, Edgar B. Sanders (a solicitor) was a member of Northern Light Lodge #266 in Stayner. He was Postmaster from October 1, 1887 to July 5, 1895. His predecessor was Wm. W. B. Sanders, his brother, who also was a member of the Fraternity.

The Postmaster of Waterloo, Christian Kumpf (a clerk) was initiated a member of Blenheim Lodge #108, Princeton, and later became a charter member of Grand River Lodge #151 in Kitchener.

The Postmaster of Toronto, Thomas Patterson (a clerk) was initiated a member of Kerr Lodge #230, Barrie. He later affiliated with Stanley Lodge

#426, Toronto, as a charter member.

Alexander J. Hood, Postmaster at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, likewise was a Mason. He joined Hiram Lodge, now #12, at Yarmouth, prior to 1870, at which time he was of record a Past Master. This information was furnished by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia through our good brother W. A. G. Huxsel.

The other Postmasters of the towns illustrated may have been members of the Fraternity, but no official record has been found. Of course, it is possible they had an active Mason as a friend who provided them with the inspiration for the cancel.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Brother E. G. Dixon, for his splendid cooperation in digging out the details which we are able to report here. Without his help we would have had little information of value.

We also wish to thank John Kitchen, Bro. Robert Thomsen, Bro. J. Ronald McMurrich, Dr. K. M. Day and E. A. Smythies, who have been instrumental in furnishing us with the material illustrated, and Bro. W. A. G. Huxsel who has cooperated in our report.

WELCOME

We welcome our new members!

LEO L. ALTENHOFER, SR.
4225 Exeter Avenue
Shresbury 19, Missouri

HAROLD R. FLEMMING
73 Dunlop Street
Orilla, Ontario, Canada

MAX G. FUERST
48 Pioneer Boulevard
Huntington Station, New York
Jephtha Lodge #494

DAVID ROBERT KNISKERN
1 Quarry Street
Cobleskill, New York

C. F. PATTON
Rt. 2, Box 168
Redlands, California

JOHN C. SMITH
129 Shanley Street
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
Twin City Lodge #509

HENRY B. WALL
2145 N. Greenleaf Street
Santa Ana, California

HENRY WEIDMANN
R.F.D. #1
Canaan, Connecticut

MUSINGS OF AN "OLD HAS BEEN"

Article No. 6

The start of a Masonic Cancellation collection occurred at the time when the Parke Bernet Galleries attempted to break into the U.S. Stamp Auction Field. Prior to that time, I had accidentally picked up a couple of covers and some stamps with square and compasses on them which I had put in my U.S. collection. At this auction, I went with the particular purpose in mind of getting a number of covers which I thought were particularly fine.

I did obtain a number of them, but at a high-pressured sales price. The attitude of those who ran this auction was so different from that which prevailed at other auctions which I had visited, and the attendance was so much larger, that I did not bid on half of the items which I had viewed and marked on my check-list. Needless to state, their attitude drove the stamp customers away, and they did not last very long in this field. I understand that they sustained a loss on this venture.

Another auction which proved to be most interesting was the F.D.R. group. These were heavily attended, and by so many who were not then collectors. It was truly amazing to hear the bids and prices that items were sold at, only because they were on sheets saying that they belonged to F.D.R.

Since then I have seen so many of these on resale sold at more realistic prices. The audience was carried away with enthusiasm and their admiration for the man. These two auctions did more harm than good to the hobby.

A contrasting auction was the sale of Charles Gramm's Masonic Cancellation Collection. This was a "sedate" affair at which representatives from all over the country were present to buy Masonic material. The prices attained were for the most part reasonable and not obtained under the "hard sell" tactics of the previously mentioned auctions. This is shown by the fact that since then many of the items have been resold, at an advanced figure.

My experience is that auctions conducted by stamp dealers for the most part are a good indication of desirability and price value of philatelic items.

If you have never attended a stamp auction, try to arrange your schedule so that you can come to New York, and we'll help you get initiated.

OUR MARCH MEETING

Bro. Reggel reported that Bro. Harold Gunter is doing well at the Oxford Nursing Home at 144 So. Oxford Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Bro. Yarry reported that Bro. "Jake" Glaser is also feeling much better and hopes to attend our next meeting. Bro. Sam Brooks called on the telephone and spoke to President Osterlund who conveyed the message that Sam would be unable to attend in view of the very inclement weather.

Bro. Swan acted as Chaplain in the absence of Bro. Brooks.

Pres. Osterlund reported the resignation of Bro. Pelander as Chairman of the Membership Committee and announced that the vacancy would be filled by Bro. Peter I. Lee of 1235 Grand Concourse, Bronx 52, New York.

Bro. Sehlmeier introduced the guest of the evening, Mr. Malcom O'Reilly who proceeded to give a most informative and enjoyable presentation on the Postal History of Ireland. He had over 100 pages of wonderful material in the frames around the meeting room, and in describing this material he painted a very educational and entertaining picture.

Bro. Reggel presented to Mr. O'Reilly, a certificate of appreciation for showing and describing his splendid collection. Bro. Yarry also expressed appreciation of the Club for this presentation and extended an invitation to Mr. O'Reilly to visit us at any time.

Bro. Sehlmeier suggested that Messrs. O'Reilly, Myer and Goodkind (the speakers at our last three meetings) should be invited as guests to our annual dinner to be held in May.

Dr. Yarry was appointed Chairman of the Dinner Committee and stated that full details would be forthcoming shortly. The date has been set for May 24, 1963 at the Masonic Club, Masonic Temple, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, N. Y. Most of the members who were present at the meeting expressed their intention of attending this affair.

—Stanley A. Salomon, Secty.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF MISSOURI

We welcome and extend our heartiest congratulations to a newcomer in the field of Masonic Philately. Bro. Carl H. Pihl, Chairman of our Committee on Chapters, has received the following communication from Bro. Gregory R. Lucy, President of Masonic Stamp Club of Missouri.

"Dear Brother Pihl: Thanks to the advice and encouragement offered by

you and other officers of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, a small group of Missouri Freemasons met on January 11th and organized the Masonic Stamp Club of Missouri. Your suggestion that we petition your Board

Governors for Chapter privileges was discussed at our first meeting. Your kind offer was most appreciated, but it was the consensus of opinion that we 'stand alone.'

Our Club, like yours back in 1934, has the distinction of having the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge as a Charter member. We are also fortunate in having with us John Vrooman, editor of The Philathea, the Missouri Freemason, and the Scottish Rite magazine as well as the new Potentate of Moolah Temple Shrine.

Our meetings are scheduled at the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel on the first Friday evening of every month (except July and August). It would be a real pleasure to extend the hand of fellowship to any of your officers or other members at one of these meetings."

Needless to say, we likewise shall be glad to greet any member of this newly formed group who may have occasion to visit New York City.

SHIPS FLYING THE MASONIC EMBLEM

Bro. Stanley Salomon submits the following notes which were used by Senior Warden Lew Bornstein of Mount Neboh Lodge No. 257 for a lecture given recently at that Lodge.

The "Oregon Mason" carried an article describing the recent occasion when Gus Westerdale, former captain of the lumber schooner "Caroline," launched in 1902, presented to Aurora Lodge #59 of Gardner, Oregon, the house flag of the schooner. It appears that the newly launched vessel had no house flag to fly from its masthead. Capt. Westerdale, then a member of San Pedro Lodge #332, San Pedro, California, insisted that the ship should have a flag and ordered one bearing the Masonic emblem. This flag, 6 ft. by 8 ft., was of deep blue color with square and compasses in appropriate colors, and was flown at the masthead several years.

Flags with Masonic emblems on them have been flown on ships by their masters on a number of occasions. As far back as 1842, a Prussian barque, the "Hiram" had a figurehead representing that distinguished legendary Mason, as well as the impress of the compass, square, level and trowel on her head boards. It was one of two

ships which belonged to Memphis Lodge at Memel, Prussia.

While the following incident is not in point, it tells of the use of an improvised Masonic flag used by a sea captain to save himself and crew. Alexander Montgomery, a member of Pacific Lodge of San Francisco, California, who died in 1894, related that in 1849, while a passenger on a ship coming to anchor in the harbor, he saw a small white flag with the Masonic emblem on it moving up and down the side of another vessel, as if giving a distress signal. Investigation by the captain of the passenger ship, who was a Mason, disclosed that a madman had broken an arm of the captain of the other vessel, who was a Mason, struck the mate unconscious and driven the rest of the crew below deck. The maniac was overpowered and order was restored.

In April 1861, the merchant ship "Trenton," with Captain Wilson in charge, lay at anchor in Hampton Roads on the day of the famous fight between the "monitor" and the "Merrimac." The "Merrimac" on the previous day had sunk two Union fighting vessels and other craft. On this day the "Merrimac" was wrecking boats everywhere in its course toward the "Monitor." The destruction of the "Trenton" seemed imminent and inevitable. Why the "Merrimac" did not destroy the "Trenton" appears not of record but this fact is believed to be the reason: Captain Wilson, a Knight Templar, flew at the masthead of his vessel the Masonic emblem. Lt. Franklyn Buchanan, the young Confederate in command of the "Merrimac," was also a Mason.

In 1863 the Grand Lodges of Continental Europe considered the propriety of flying a Masonic flag on all sea-going vessels by all nations as a means of friendly recognition in cases of distress and for closer fraternal communication of all peoples of the world.

It would appear that nearly all, if not all, the Arctic explorers were enthusiastic Masons. They include Elisha Kent Kane, who painted the square and compass on the foresail of his Arctic ship, and General Adolphus W. Greeley, who at Cape Sabins made a Masonic flag which he unfurled at the highest northern point of his expedition to the Arctic.

The latest ship to display a Masonic flag of which we have a record was the "Wilhelmina," a Matson liner. Aboard this ship, starting on an official visit to the lodges on the Hawaiian Islands, was C. A. Adams, Grand Mas-

ter of the Grand Lodge of California. The ship's captain, Charles W. Peterson, a member of Balder Lodge #393 of San Francisco, hoisted the flag in honor of the Grand Master.

It has now become the custom of the ships of the Matson Line to fly the flag of the Grand Master of that Grand Lodge when he is on board in leaving from San Francisco and arriving at Honolulu, and when leaving the latter and arriving at the former port.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Bro. HERMAN HERST, JR. is scheduled to give a talk on Masonic Philately at the May 2nd meeting of Jehosaphat Lodge, New York City.

Bro. SAM BROOKS will deliver the Middle Chamber lecture on May 6th at Vigiantia Lodge No. 1108. Sam was one of the original founders of that Lodge and was greatly instrumental in obtaining their Charter.

Bro. LOUIS BOBEL, who attended our last meeting, recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary, as well as having consummated 50 years of membership in Ironworkers of America Union (Lodge #11), and is still going strong.

Bro. MORTON MOONEY (Box 444, Jesup, Georgia) writes to Bro. Reggel, "I met you before the meeting of the Stamp Club last night. We got tied up in Westchester traffic and I did not

get back to New York in time to attend, which I regret very much. If I am back in New York City next summer for the World's Fair, I'll try to get the degree of Master of Philately at that time. Best wishes to all the members!"

Bro. AMOS C. BOSS (326 Earl Avenue, Oneida, New York) writes, "I wish to thank The Masonic Stamp Club, Van Dahl Publications and/or the party responsible for using the very nice Dag Hammarskjold stamp (Error) with the right side, wide margin, showing the invert yellow ink exceptionally well, plus about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the circle cancellation on the stamp. A very nice and greatly appreciated addition to my stamp collection. It was very thoughtful of some one along the line."

Summer Outing

Bro. E. MILNOR PECK has extended a cordial invitation to our members to attend a steak luncheon and out-door party at his home, Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York, on June 15, 1963. Our President, Br. Osterlund, has appointed Bro. Robert M. Pech as Chairman of the Outing Committee. Please let him know as soon as possible whether or not you plan to attend. His address is: 2324 Morris Avenue, New York 68, N.Y.

Bob has handled similar parties for us in the past, and they are lots of fun. Local members are urged to attend. Further details at our next meeting.
