

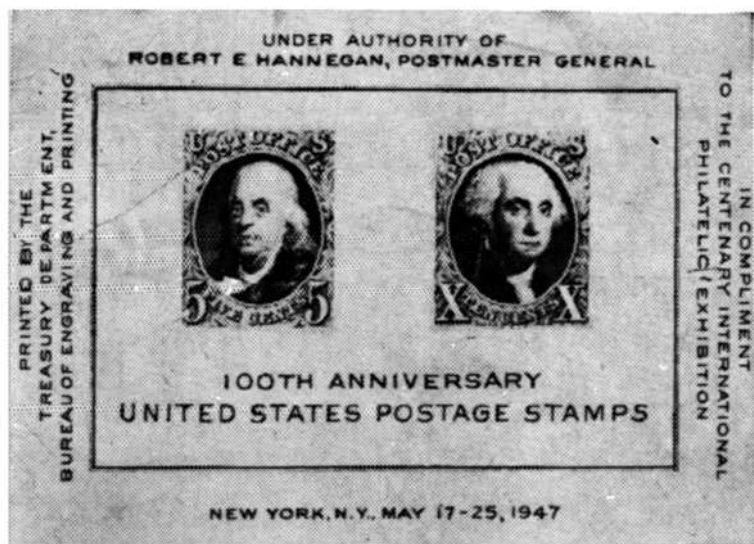


The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 24

MARCH 1968

NO. 7



The first U.S. stamps of 1847 are reproduced on the 1947 imperforate souvenir sheet issued for the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in New York City. The reproduced 5¢ Franklin Roosevelt is blue instead of red brown; the 10¢ George Washington red instead of black.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

MARCH 1968
VOL. 24 NO. 7

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Published by
The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl
PUBLICATION FUND

of Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.
22 East 35th St., New York, N. Y. 10016

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Editor

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By the sign of the Gavel

At our last meeting, instead of inviting an outside speaker, we asked some of our members to talk on their favorite collections. The evening was a huge success. Brothers Salomon, Lee, Reggel and Yarry gave us some very interesting short talks, and I am sure the Brethren enjoyed the evening. Unfortunately, the weather was not with us, but those who attended the meeting, enjoyed it thoroughly.

Please do not forget the next meeting which will be "Swap Night" on March 1st, and will be held in the

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

Masonic Temple, 71 West 23rd Street, Manhattan. We will enjoy a dinner at the Club on the 9th floor. Bring your duplicates, and let's have a good turnout.

Keep well, see you soon.
Joseph Munk

Novelist, Post Office Surveyor

ANTHONY TROLLOPE

"When I left Harrow I was all but nineteen, and I had first gone there at seven. During the whole twelve years no attempt had been made to teach me anything but Latin and Greek, and very little attempt to teach me those languages."

These words, incredibly, were written by Anthony Trollope, one of the most successful and prolific of English novelists, in his autobiography, a work considered by Mr. J. B. Priestley to be one of the best English autobiographies of the nineteenth century.

Trollope's life at school had not been happy. Never-ending penury brought neglect and ostracism by tutors and fellow-pupils alike and no doubt he was happy to escape from this misery in 1834 when he accompanied his father, a dying man seeking refuge from his creditors, to Belgium. In Brussels, Trollope obtained a teaching post but soon gave this up to return to England to take up a clerkship in the Secretary's Office at the G.P.O., obtained through his mother's influence with Sir Francis Freeling, then ruler of the Post Office; it carried with it a salary of £90 a year.

On his own admission, Trollope's first seven years in government service were not very successful.

"It was my duty to be present every morning at the office punctually at 10 a.m. I think I commenced my quarrel with the authority there by having in my possession a watch which was always ten minutes late. I know that I very soon achieved a character for irregularity, and came to be regarded as a black sheep by men around me who were not themselves, I think, very good Public Servants. From time to time rumours reached me that if I

did not take care I should be dismissed."

Trollope's autobiography gives an engaging picture of work in the Post Office in St. Martin's le Grand during this time, the early years of Queen Victoria's reign.

"The conduct of some of us was very bad. There was a comfortable sitting room upstairs, devoted to the use of someone of our number who in turn was required to remain on the place all night. Hither one or two of us would adjourn after lunch, and play *Ecarte* for an hour or two . . . and here we used to have suppers and card-parties at night—great symposiums, with much smoking of tobacco; for in one part of the building there lived a whole bevy of clerks. These were gentlemen whose duty it then was to make up and receive the foreign mails. I do not remember that they worked late or earlier than the other sorting clerks; but there was supposed to be something special in foreign letters, which required that the men who handled them should have their minds undistracted by the outer world. Their salaries, too, were higher than those of their more homely brethren; and they paid nothing for their lodgings. Consequently there was a somewhat fast set in those apartments, given to cards and to tobacco, who drank spirits and water in preference to tea. I was not one of them, but was a good deal with them."

In 1841, when he had been nearly seven years in the Secretary's Office, always hating his position there and yet always fearing that he should be dismissed from it, there came a chance to escape. A body of surveyors' clerks had recently been established by the Post Office and, at the age of twenty-six, head over heels in debt and at loggerheads with his superiors, Trollope, although only vaguely aware of the duties involved, applied to become one of their number. His application was successful and he journeyed to the West of Ireland to take up his new post.

From then on his fortunes improved. He enjoyed the work and travel called for by his duties, which were mainly the investigation of complaints about postal matters made by the public, he made the acquaintance of hunting, which stayed a passion for the rest of his life, his salary was good and the allowances liberal, and he met the girl who eventually became his wife. It was during this period that he commenced to write, although at first with

little success.

Trollope's duties, as surveyor's-clerk and subsequently Surveyor brought him back to England and he traveled over large parts of the country whilst establishing a letter-delivery service. His travels eventually took him to the cathedral town of Salisbury where he conceived the story "The Warden" from whence came the series of novels of which Barchester, with its bishops, deans and archdeacons, was the central site.

With his growing reputation as a novelist came increasing responsibility in his Post Office capacity. He traveled to Egypt, where he settled the terms of a Postal Treaty and inspected the post offices at Malta and Gibraltar on his way home. Such was his success that, in the autumn of 1858, he was asked to go to the West Indies:

"to cleanse the Augean stables of our Post Office there. Up to that time, and at that time, our Colonial Post Offices generally were managed from home and were subject to the British Postmaster General. Gentlemen were sent out from England to be postmasters, surveyors, and whatnot; and our West Indian Islands have never been regarded as being of themselves happily situated for residence, the gentlemen so sent were sometimes more conspicuous for want of income than for official zeal and ability. Hence the stables had become Augean. I was also instructed to carry out in some of the Islands a plan for giving up this postal authority to the Island Governor, and in others to propose some such plan. I was then to go on to Cuba, to make a Postal Treaty with the Spanish Authorities, and to Panama for the same purpose with the Government of New Grenada. All this work I performed to my satisfaction, and I hope to that of my masters in St. Martin's le Grand."

He wrote of his travels as he proceeded and published "The West Indies and the Spanish Main" when he returned to England.

Trollope continued to serve the Post Office as a Surveyor until 1867 when the combined weight of official duties and literary work became so heavy that he decided to resign rather than compromise his high standards by allowing his literary enterprises to interfere with his official work. He had served the Post Office for thirty-three years and that he was a loyal and successful government servant is shown in the following extract from the reply to his letter of resignation:

"You have for many years ranked among the most conspicuous servants of the Post Office, which, on several occasions when you have been employed on large and difficult matters, has reaped much benefit from the great abilities which you have been able to place at its disposal; and in mentioning this, I have been specially glad to record that, notwithstanding the many calls upon your time, you have never permitted your other avocations to interfere with your Post Office work, which has always been faithfully and indeed energetically performed."

The things Trollope tried to do whilst in the Post Office employment are best given in his own words.

"That the public in little villages should be enabled to buy postage stamps; that they should have their letters delivered free and at an early hour; that pillar letter-boxes should be put up for them (of which accommodation in the streets and ways of England I was the originator, having, however, got authority for the erection of the first at St. Heliers in Jersey); that the letter-carriers and sorters should not be over worked; that they should be adequately paid, and have some hours to themselves, especially on Sundays; above all, they should be made to earn their wages; and latterly that they should not be crushed by what I thought to be the damnable system of promotion by so-called merit;—these were the matters by which I was stirred."—Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin.

BRITISH NEW ISSUE

A letter from Worshipful Brother, Captain G. K. Gillberry of the British Army, stationed in Germany, to the members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York follows.

I have just seen from the G.P.O. Bulletin, that the British Post Office is to issue a stamp with Masonic connections on June 1, 1968. It will be a 1/9d (22¢ US) stamp to commemorate the Bicentenary of Capt. Cook's voyage of discovery.

I should be happy to send copies of this stamp to any brother of the club, or to service F.D.C.'s for them at cost price. The British Post Office will not service unaddressed covers so if any member would like this done, will they please write to me in time. I can only obtain the dated Forces Post Office cancellation, but will get clear impressions. (Members could, of course, get their covers serviced by the G.P.O.

Philatelic Bureau with a London or Edinburgh postmark, but a charge of 22 cents is usually levied by the G.P.O.)

I don't know if a Masonic envelope would be worth producing but the G.P.O. would produce an official F.D.C. for each issue at a cost of 6 or 7 cents and I could obtain these given adequate notice. I would in fact be happy to supply any current British stamps or service F.D.C.'s at cost to any member of the club, for that matter, West Germany too. I will enclose a list of this year's new issues with this letter.

I shall in fact be leaving Germany early in June '68 on posting to Winchester, England. I am not sure of the actual date or my address, so if you circulate this information to members you'd better say that as from June 2, 1968 my address will be:

75 Green Lane North
Childwall
Liverpool 16
England

And that my offer re. German stamps is withdrawn from that day.

I see in that same bulletin (G.P.O.) there is an article on Anthony Trollope, the English novelist and his connection with the Post Office. He was initiated in Banagher Lodge No. 3061C on 11/10/1841 and raised on 12/13/1841.

Captain Gillberry's address until June 1, 1968 is as follows.

Captain G. K. Gillberry
Ordnance Directorate
Headquarters B.A.O.R.
B.F.P.O.
via London, England.

It will be nice if members would make use of his offer.

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

There is little doubt that Thaddeus Kosciuszko was a Freemason, although it is still not known where he was initiated. It is possible that he was a mason when he first came to America but it is more likely that he was raised in one of the ten military lodges of the American Army. The records of all but one have been lost.

Lenhoff states that Kosciuszko became a Freemason during the American war for freedom in 1779. One argument in his favor is the fact that he was one of three foreign officers to be admitted to membership in the Order of the Cincinnati, for nearly all of the original members of that organization were masons, the other foreign officers being Lafayette and Steuben.

The likeness of the general on the

Continued on Page 7

Famed Masons On Stamps

By W. Joseph Nathan Kane
(King Solomon Lodge 279)
Courtesy Empire State Mason

Selecting the stamps for this issue reminds me of the little old lady who spent several minutes perusing a sheet of postage stamps and finally pointed to one. "I'll take this one," she said, pointing to the one directly in the center. (See our back page).

There are so many stamps with Masonic significance that it was necessary to make an arbitrary decision. In the first place, rare and valuable stamps have been omitted. Stamps worth only a few cents each have been illustrated to prove that a Masonic collection may be had at very little cost. Secondly, although many countries have depicted Masons on their stamps, this selection has been confined exclusively to Americans on postage stamps issued by the United States. Consequently, many Masonic stamps, other than those shown on the cover, have been omitted, notably the stamp issued in 1947 by Brazil with President Truman's picture which commemorated his visit to that country. President Truman, who was raised in Belton Lodge 450, Missouri, March 18, 1909, was a Grand Master of Masons in that state.

Other famous Masons on U.S. stamps were Casimir Pulaski, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Frederick von Steuben, Marquis de Lafayette, Winston Churchill, etc.

The first two postage stamps issued by the United States bore the profiles of two illustrious Masons, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. They were issued in 1847. In 1947, these two stamps were reproduced in a commemorative sheet to celebrate the 100th anniversary of United States stamps and were issued under authority of Robert E. Hannegan, Postmaster General. This sheet could be used for postage, and although twenty years have elapsed, an unused sheet may be purchased for about ten cents over face value.

George Washington, who was raised August 4, 1753 in the Lodge at Fredericksburg (now No. 4), Virginia, was elected Master of Alexandria Lodge (now Alexandria - Washington Lodge 22), on December 20, 1788 and was its Master when he was inaugurated the first President of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin, who was made a Mason on June 24, 1731 in St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia, Pa., was elected

Master in 1732 and Provincial Grand Master in June 1734.

A brief description of the stamps shown on the front cover follows:

The top stamp in the upper left hand corner of our array is the new 6¢ stamp of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, available at face value at most post offices. Roosevelt was raised November 28, 1911 at Holland Lodge 8, New York City and was Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

The stamp in the upper right hand corner is the 5¢ blue stamp of George Washington issued in 1965 which caused the Post Office to be swamped with complaints. It was claimed that Washington needed a shave and a face cleaning, and, on November 17, 1967, a new printing was made with a clean-faced Washington.

The stamp on the left of the top line, issued April 8, 1940, depicts Dr. Crawford Williamson Long, the first to use ether as an anesthetic in surgery (March 30, 1842). Dr. Long was a member of Mt. Vernon Lodge 22, Athens, Georgia.

To the right is a 10¢ stamp featuring "Mark Twain," Samuel Langhorne Clemens, issued February 13, 1940. He was raised in Polar Star Lodge 79, St. Louis, Mo. The center stamp honors Sam Houston, Texas' favorite son, who was raised in Cumberland Lodge 8, Nashville, Tennessee. To his right are stamps featuring John Philip Sousa, the famous band leader, and Samuel Gompers, First President of the American Federation of Labor. Sousa was a member of Hiram Lodge 10, Washington, D.C. and was raised September 2, 1881. Samuel Gompers was also made a Mason in Washington, D.C., being raised in Dawson Lodge 16, May 9, 1904.

The first seven stamps in the line directly above the commemorative sheet depicts Theodore Roosevelt, our 26th President, who was raised April 24, 1901 in Matinecock Lodge 806, Oyster Bay, Long Island. This issue was placed on sale on October 27, 1922, the 64th anniversary of his birth. The second stamp on that line is the 17¢ crimson showing Andrew Johnson, our 17th President, a member of Greeneville Lodge 119, Greeneville, Tenn. A likeness of our 25th President (McKinley) is on the 25¢ burgundy colored stamp to the right; he was raised May 3, 1865

in Hiram Lodge 21, Winchester, Virginia.

The large 2¢ carmine stamp in the center depicts President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Little White House at Warm Springs, Georgia.

The two stamps to the right honor Warren Harding, our 29th President, who was raised in Marion Lodge 70, Marion, Ohio on August 27, 1920. The 1½¢ stamp in brown ink was issued in 1930, a new likeness of the 2¢ black memorial stamp issued in 1923.

The stamp to the extreme right is a 12¢ maroon stamp issued in 1914 honoring Benjamin Franklin.

The four stamps to the left of the commemorative sheet are the 8¢ khaki color stamp of General John J. Pershing, the 10¢ yellow showing President James Monroe; the 20¢ President James A. Garfield, and the current 10¢ President Andrew Jackson. James Monroe, our fifth President was initiated in Lodge 66, Williamsburg, Virginia, November 9, 1775.

James Abram Garfield, our 20th President, shown on the 20¢ stamp, was initiated November 22, 1864 in Columbus Lodge 30 at the request of Magnolia Lodge 20, Columbus, Ohio.

Andrew Jackson, our 7th President, is depicted on the current 10¢ stamp now on sale. He joined Harmony Lodge No. 1 in Nashville and was Grand Master of Tennessee, 1822-1823.

The four stamps to the right of the commemorative are the 6¢ light maroon President Garfield, issued February 22, 1890; the 1932 5¢ blue George Washington commemorating the 200th anniversary of his birth; the 15¢ gray featuring our 15th President, James Buchanan, issued in 1938; and the ½¢ orange Benjamin Franklin issued in 1955.

The stamps directly below the commemorative sheet, from left to right are the 30¢ blue Theodore Roosevelt issued in 1938; and the 11¢ blue depicting James Knox Polk, our 11th President, who was raised September 4, 1820 in Columbus Lodge 31, Columbia, Tenn. The large 3¢ horizontal brown stamp issued in 1954 commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Meriwether Lewis was the First Master of St. Louis Lodge 111, to which William Clark was elected in 1809. The 3¢ horizontal deep violet, the 1936 Texas Centennial Commemorative stamp, depicts the Alamo and two of its defenders, Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, a member of Louisiana Lodge 109, Louisiana territory. The other two

stamps are of the 1¢ green variety, President Andrew Jackson and George Washington.

The second line from the bottom, left to right, depicts the 3¢ purple George Washington issue of 1932, the same stamp as the 2¢ carmine issue of the same year; the 3¢ horizontal purple showing President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the White House issued in 1945; the 3¢ President James Monroe; the 3¢ Indiana Territory Sesqui-centennial, showing the first capital of the Indiana territory, in which the first governor was Jonathan Jennings, Grand Master of the Indiana Grand Lodge 1823-1824. (Although this is not a direct stamp, it is included to show an allied interest for collections); and the 50¢ William Howard Taft, our 27th President who was made a Mason at sight by the Grand Master of Ohio on February 18, 1909.

The bottom line shows the 3¢ horizontal stamp featuring George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, commemorating the 100th anniversary of U.S. postage stamps; the 3¢ purple showing George Washington at Brooklyn; the 5¢ blue F. D. Roosevelt issued in 1945, featuring the four freedoms; the freedom of speech, of religion, freedom from want and from fear. The last stamp, a 4¢ green, honors "the Gentle Knight of . . . Progressive Ideals," George William Norris, who was a member of Beaver City Lodge 93, Beaver City, Nebraska.

A detailed study of Masons on stamps is being made by members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, and displays of stamps featuring Masons, Masonic items, etc., are regularly shown. Many members have specialized and have made studies of Masonic stamps, one of them being W. Sam Brooks, who prepared a special pamphlet twenty years ago which still is used as the basis of detailed study.

Members of the Craft who are interested in seeing Masonic stamps, or hearing the club's various talks may attend the open meetings without obligation. Further details may be obtained from the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, which meets the first Friday of every month at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York City. The club has more than 800 dues paying Masonic members located throughout New York state, and numerous others in the 50 states and foreign countries.

KOSCIUSZKO (Cont'd)

U.S. stamp is modeled from a statue in Lafayette Park, Washington, D.C. A beautiful memorial statue of the great Polish patriot stands on the grounds of West Point Military Academy, a gift of the cadets of the school. Kosciuszko Lodge No. 1085, Bronx, New York City, placed a wreath at the foot of the monument on the 175th anniversary of his appointment as chief engineer in charge of fortifications by General Washington.

The late M. W. Bro. Ray V. Den-slow wrote: "Polish Masonry of today claims Kosciuszko as a mason, but has no authentic proof, and constant search for direct knowledge upon the subject is being made, for if it can be proven, it will be of the greatest value."

Stamps: U.S. (1933) No. 734.

Poland (1932) No. 267, (1938) No. 319, No. 329, (1944) No. 342, (1954) No. 658-59, (1961) No. 984.

Central Lithuania (1921) No. 42.

—Marshall S. Loke

HALIFAX BICENTENARY STAMP

By John A. Mirt

The 3¢ Halifax bicentenary stamp issued by Canada in 1949 (No. 283) is a splendid addition to a Masonic collection. The spirit of Freemasonry came to Halifax in 1749 with the landing of Hon. Edward Cornwallis and his hardy pioneers. Even while they were clearing the land and building shelters (pictured on the stamp), the Masons met with Gov. Cornwallis and laid the groundwork for the first Lodge in Halifax.

Bro. Reginald V. Harris, grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, prepared a cover with a Masonic cachet for use with the stamp. On this cover, he said:

"Freemasonry came to Halifax, N.S., on June 21, 1749, when the Hon. Edward Cornwallis founded that city. Already the founder of a Lodge in the 20th Foot, he became 'as soon almost as there were any houses erected at Halifax' the founder of the First Lodge in Halifax (now St. Andrew's No. 1) under dispensation from Major E. J. Phillips, P.G.M. of Annapolis Royal, N.S., representing Henry Price, Boston. The first initiate was Admiral Lord Coville, later W.M. of the Second Lodge, Boston. St. Andrew's Lodge is Canada's oldest lodge. Cornwallis also founded St. Paul's Church, Halifax, the oldest Protestant Church in Canada. While Governor of Gibraltar, he founded a third lodge, in the 24th

Foot.—G.L. of N.S."

The entrance to Halifax is pictured on Canada No. 242.

WALT DISNEY

The Postmaster General has announced that one of the stamps to be issued in 1968 will be for Walt Disney, who died December 15, 1966.

Walt Disney was **not** a Freemason but was a former DeMolay, having been a member of the original Mother Chapter of DeMolay in Kansas City, Missouri. The Order of DeMolay is an organization sponsored by Masonic bodies for boys between the ages of 14 and 20 inclusive.

He was present at Marceline, Missouri, his former hometown, Sunday, Oct. 16, 1960 when the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri laid the cornerstone of the new Walt Disney Elementary School, assisted by officers of Marceline Lodge No. 481.

The inscription on the cornerstone reads:

MARCELINE LODGE

**WALT DISNEY
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
1959**

NO. 481 AF&AM

—By Marshall S. Loke

Austria issued two stamps to mark the reopening of two noted buildings in Vienna, the Burgtheater and the State Opera House, of Masonic philatelic interest.

The Burgtheater was founded 175 years ago as an imperial court theater by Emperor Joseph II. The building was nearly totally destroyed during World War II. It has been rebuilt much along its former self.

The State Opera House was another war casualty and was rebuilt. The original opera house was opened in 1869 with the presentation of "Don Juan," the work of Wolfgang A. Mozart, a Mason. It is fitting that the initial performance in the new building was "Fidelio," from the pen of another Mason, Ludwig von Beethoven.—Mirt.

Back numbers of the Philatelist are available for 25¢ each. Peter I. Lee, 1235 Grand Concourse, New York City, New York 10452.

