

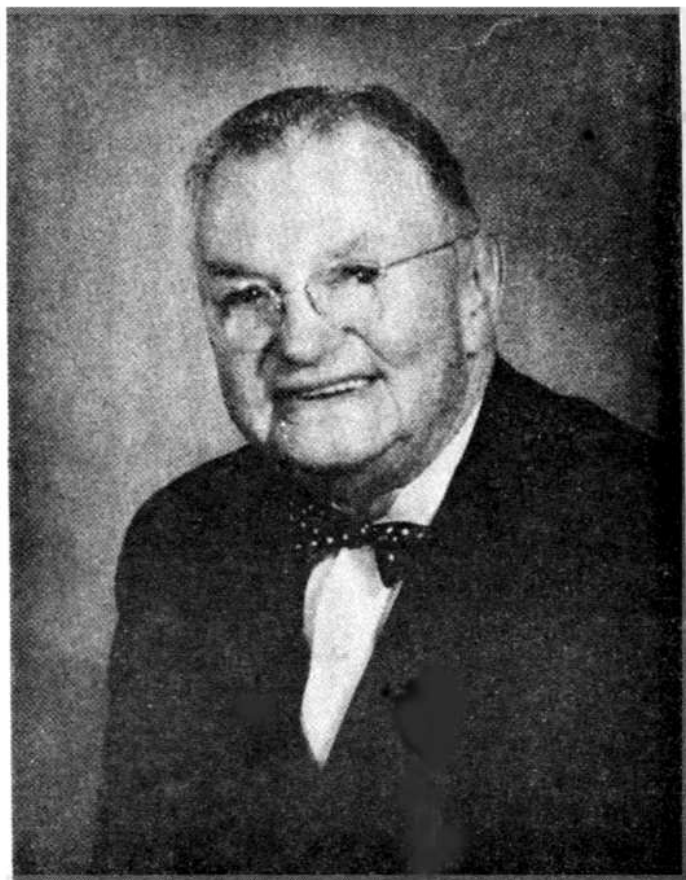


# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 26

MAY 1970

NO. 6



*Brother E. Milnor Peck*

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month  
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING  
22 East 35th St., NY., N.Y. 10017

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION A TIE

On the evening, that the Masonic Stamp Club held its annual competition night, the entries were limited due to the inclement weather. Only three members exhibited but what was lacking in quantity was made up for in quality.

Brother Stanley Salomon displayed several 19th century covers from various United States territories. The stamps on these envelopes were mostly the 2 cent Brown of 1883. The covers were postmarked in the territories of Dakota, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming. In addition to these he showed covers with fancy cancellations and star cancellations.

Our vice president, Louis Bernstein, exhibited a collection consisting of the current art stamps released by the French post office. Each page contained a first day cover and a block of four. There were 21 in all. They pictured several types of art, including paintings, sculptures, stained glass windows and tapestry. Each stamp is of the large size and very colorful. Several new stamps are released by the French government each year.

The third exhibit was a collection of Roosevelt covers, presented by Bob Smith. Included were covers with each of the Roosevelt Memorial stamps on separate covers (Scott 930 to 933). A cover with all 4 stamps was also shown. Other interesting items consisted of an envelope addressed to Bob from Holland Lodge, where the late president was a member. A cancellation from the aircraft carrier Franklin Delano Roosevelt was also displayed. Bob informed the members present that this cover could be obtained by sending a stamped plain envelope, and a self addressed stamped envelope to:

U.S.S. Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
c/o Fleet P.O.  
New York, N.Y. 09501

The ship's post office will stamp the envelope with their own design and return it to you. Any Roosevelt stamp of your choice is appropriate and makes a fine addition to your Masonic or Roosevelt collection. Foreign Roosevelt covers from Cuba, Monaco, Honduras, Greece and the Philippines were also exhibited in this collection.

The judges were Jules Cass, Yale Shapiro and Mannie Reggel. After careful consideration and evaluation they declared the event a draw and requested prizes presented to all contestants.

### ON THE COVER

E. Milnor Peck was honored for his service to the Masonic Stamp Club at a dinner on May 1st. A report of the affair and photos will be in our June issue.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRESIDENT

Pacific Lodge honored our president, Edwin Mayer, by awarding him with a fifty year membership pin and certificate in commemoration of his 50th anniversary as a Mason.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Brothers Stanley Saloman, George Wettach and Bob Smith have been appointed to the nominating committee of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. They will present the slate of officers for June, 1970 to June, 1971 at the annual meeting on June 5th.

### PHILATELIC DEGREE IN JUNE

The Philatelic Degree originally scheduled to be presented at the April meeting of Masonic Stamp Club of New York has been postponed and rescheduled for the June 5th meeting.

### CLARA BARTON



Clara Barton became a member of the Eastern Star in June, 1906. She joined a chapter which bore her name in Oxford, Mass. In 1898 she had given this chapter permission to name it after her. The minutes of the chapter included the following: "After a short intermission the chapter received the great honor of being allowed to confer the degrees of this order upon our illustrious namesake, Miss Clara Barton. It was an occasion long to be remembered as with feelings of pride and pleasure we witnessed the work so impressively and gracefully rendered and received. It was with quite a reverence of feeling that at the close of the meeting we were privileged to take her by the hand as our sister."

The star degrees were conferred upon her by Rob Morris, founder of the order.

### OUR MEMBERS EXHIBIT

Mannie Reggel displayed and lectured on his stamps of Great Britain at the Manufacturers Hanover Bank's Stamp Club.

Jules Cass showed and lectured about his South African collection at the British Empire Study Group of the Collectors Club.

Edwin Mayer exhibited and lectured on his Mulready covers at the New York Chapter of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Norman H. Sehlmeier, our membership chairman, has informed us that the following brothers have joined our club:

**ELWING D. CARLSEN**  
Rising Sun Lodge 115  
Grayslake, Ill.

**RICHARD B. DAVIS**  
Allapattak Lodge 271  
Miami, Fla.

**MURRAY DUBOFF**  
Level Lodge 914  
Bronx, N.Y.

**IRWIN D. FRAZIN**  
Phoenix Lodge 178  
San Bernardino, Calif.

**KENNETH M. HALL**  
Social Lodge 713  
Kendall, N.Y.

**ALBERTO M. KREIMAN**  
Espartaco Lodge 412  
Cordoba, Argentina

**RALPH E. MANIFOLD**  
Mooreland Lodge 331  
Mooreland, Indiana

**GENTER S. SCHMIDT**  
Armenius Lodge 25  
Washington, D.C.

**FRANK E. SHAVG**  
Eureka Lodge 22  
Portsmouth, R.I.

**EDWARD C. SIKES**  
Fremont Lodge 97  
Florence, Colorado

**ADOLPH C. ZOLTAK**  
Braddock's Field Lodge 510  
Braddock, Pa.

**CHARLES K. WESTCOTT**  
St. Paul's Lodge 124  
Auburn, N.Y.

We wish to welcome each as members and hope they enjoy fellowship in

our organization. The complete list of brothers who joined during the June, 1969 to June, 1970 year is too long to

insert at this time. We will welcome more new members in our next issue.

# MASONIC CANCELLATIONS

(Second in a series of articles)

By DR. STEWART DUFFIELD SWAN

## CLASSES



I



II



III



IV



V



VI



VII

Cancellations in classes I, II V and VI can be considered definitely Masonic. Classes III, IV VII could possibly otherwise, but they have been commonly called Masonic by dealers and collectors. To explain this statement there were several "Temperance Societies" that used the square and compasses, but as time has eliminated most of these movements, we are inclined to assume that these insignia are of fraternal importance to Masons active in these societies. There also was a very active "Junior Order of American Mechanics" at one time, which has an insignia approaching Masonic in appearance—with an arm and hammer replacing the letter "G".

In consideration of class I and III, a question has been presented, especially in class III, of just what makes a square and compasses insignia. Some collectors have included all corks cut in a diamond fashion among their Masonic cancellations. To our mind the inclu-

sion of the letter "G" is definite enough to make the cancel Masonic. This throws class III open. For this group we have endeavored to use certain guide lines which many years ago were drawn up by Sidney Barrett, Charles Gramm and myself, as at that time we were the outstanding collectors of Masonics. This was, that the angle of the square should be a right angle and should be within the cork. It should not cut through the edge. Subsequently some cancels were found that did not meet this requirement that came from Post Offices where the Postmaster was found to be a Mason, so they are included in this listing.

Again in class II and IV, while no question was raised for II, in the case of IV some doubt existed for items which were not clearly outlined as compasses or a square. We are accepting cancels for this class that are clearly compasses and square. As covers with cancellations not so clearly identifiable

are found, which proves to have Masonic connections — either from the town or the Postmaster, they are added to this class.

In class V will be found such cancels as the apron, the blazing "G", the cane and two dots, the gavel, the open book, the trowel, and others. Some collectors have asked — "Why not include all 'letter Gs'". At one time I had 38 plain "Gs" of which 29 were identified as to their city source. None of the 29 proved to be of Masonic importance. They all either identified the cancelling clerk or were an initial of the town or station. For this reason the "blazing G", which does have Masonic significance is the only one entered in this report.

Class VI proved to be the rarest group, but we do find representations, from the Royal Arch, the Council, the Consistory and the Knights Templar. We pass up the Maltese and plain crosses because the Maltese cross was one of the cancellers sold by itinerant salesmen to any customers. The plain cross could have religious importance rather than Masonic.

In class VII we find such insignia as the sun and moon, moon and stars Mummies Fizz, King Solomons Seal, clasped hands, initials and the all seeing eye. The latter insignia could well be of an Odd Fellows origin, as they feature this in engraving their literature. The Mummies originally were reputed to have had Masonic connections. The other insignia could be merely fancy cancellations, or ones with local importance.

### CHARLES-LOUIS MONTESQUIEU

The prominent French lawyer, author and political philosopher, Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de la Brede et de Montesquieu, was born at the Chateau de la Brede near Bordeaux, France, January 18, 1689. He was educated at the college of Juilly and studied law at the Academy of Bordeaux. He became counselor of the Bordeaux parliament in 1714 and its president in 1716, a hereditary post carrying with it a modest income.

He occupied a pre-eminent position in French society. He was acquainted with numerous English and foreign members of the diplomatic corps, some of whom were outstanding English Masons. He traveled to Vienna with the Earl of Waldegrave in 1728 and met Lord Chesterfield at the Hague in 1729. The latter invited Montesquieu to accompany him to London in his yacht where they arrived on October 23, 1729 and Montesquieu was presented at

### AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION TO PRESENT MASONIC PROGRAM

Brother George H. Wettach announced that New Jersey Chapter #41 of the American Topical Association will present a slide program of Masonic stamps on October 1st. The showing will be at the Fairlawn Art Center, 12-56 River Road, Fairlawn, N.J. It is scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. sharp.

court. Later that year he was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of London. He had previously been elected to the Academie Francaise in 1728. The two years he passed in England were the happiest ones of his life.

On Tuesday night, May 12, 1730, at a Lodge held at the Horn Tavern in Westminster, in the presence of the Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master, and other grand officers, the Duke of Richmond, Master of the Lodge, and other persons of distinction, Charles-Louis de Montesquieu was admitted a member of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free Masons. The Horn Lodge in the Palace Yard at Westminster is now the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4. A considerable number of foreigners were admitted to London Lodges in the course of their visits to England for business or other reasons, which helped Freemasonry to spread to most of the countries of Europe.

Montesquieu returned to Paris in August 1731. Very little of Freemasonry was known in France up to that time. Montesquieu was among those prominent Masons who promoted some of the first lodges in Paris.

The first week in September, 1734 a Lodge of F & A M was held at the residence of the Dutchess of Portsmouth where Montesquieu assisted the Duke of Richmond admit several persons of distinction, including Montesquieu's 18-year-old son, into that most ancient and honorable society.

In September, 1735 Montesquieu was among those present at a Lodge formed at the Hotel Bussy in the rue Bussy by the Duke of Richmond and the Rev. Dr. Desaguliers, former Grand Masters, when a number of noblemen and gentlemen were admitted into the Order.

Montesquieu withdrew from the practice of law to devote himself to study and writing. He died at Paris February 10, 1755

Stamps: France (1949) No. B238

Bulgaria (1955) 917

Romania (1956) 1075

—Marshall S. Loke  
March 10, 1970

# The Tennis Court Oath

Page 6

## A Remarkable Stamp and A Remarkable Lodge

by Wessel M. Lans



In 1939 the French Post Office issued a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution (Scott 390). The stamp is a reproduction of a painting by Jean Louis David: "Le Serment du Jeu de Paume" (Oath of the tennis court). This painting is exhibited in the Museum in Versailles, France.

The "Third Estate" (Third Class) in France, formed by the intellectuals and better-off citizens, tried to work themselves out of their non-participating part and demanded to have influence in the government. When King Louis XVI was no longer able to ignore these demands, but still tried to minimize the participation, the representatives of this group gathered on a tennis court in Paris on June 20, 1789. They declared themselves to be the National Assembly of France and pledged solemnly not to disband until a new constitution would have been brought about. This important meeting is called: "Tenniscourt Oath".

The events in the latter part of the 18th century in France has a good base for the idea's of the "Enlightenment", propagated by men like Rousseau, Voltaire and others. These new ideas were well received by the Brothers and it is therefore no surprise that many Masons participated in the political development of their country.

The well-known Lodge "Les Neuf Soeurs" (The Nine Sisters) existed during that time in Paris. This Lodge was established by Brother Lalande, who became the first W.M. and who was succeeded in 1779 by Brother Benjamin Franklin, ambassador of the Thirteen States of America. The idea for the Lodge came from the well-known scholar Claude-Adrien Helvetius, who strived to establish a Lodge in which would come together scholars, philosophers, authors and artists, who wanted to give their gifted services to the Muses, "the nine sisters of the Parnassus". The plan of Helvetius, realized

after his death by Lalande, succeeded completely under the inspired guidance of the W.M. The enlightened minds of the Paris metropolitan area united themselves in the Lodge "Les Neuf Soeurs". It is understandable that the social changes in France did not bypass these Brothers and therefore we find several members of the Lodge in the first ranks during these stormy events of 1789.

The central group on the painting by David is nearly totally made up of members of "Les Neuf Soeurs".

1. First of all **Jean-Sylvain Bailly (1730-1793)**, astronomer and politician. He became a member of the "Etats Generaux" (Estates General). During his chairmanship the representatives gathered on the tennis court. Later on he became mayor of Paris and in 1793 he became a victim of the reign of terror.

2. Next the abbot **Emanuel-Joseph Sieyes (1748-1836)**, one of the many clergymen who joined the "Third Estate". In 1789 he also became a member of the Estates-General. At that time he had already obtained notoriety with publishing a booklet: "What Is the Third Estate? Everything!". He headed the French Revolution during the first months and he proposed that the "Third Estate" would declare themselves the National Assembly. On June 20th, it was he who formulated the Tennis-court Oath. During the early period of Napoleon he still played an important part and was one of the consuls of the Republic.

3. **Jean-Paul Rabaut Saint-Etienne (1743-1793)**, was a protestant clergyman, who also died by the guillotine.

4. **Dom Christophe-Antoine Gerle (1736-1801)**, the legendary Carthusian monk, who was seated in the "Etats Generaux" as a representative of the clergymen and who later joined the "Third Estate."

5. **Jerome Petion de Villeneuve (1753-1794)**, lawyer and politician. He succeeded Bailly as mayor of Paris in 1791. His opponent at that time was Lafayette.

6. The last one is **Joseph-Ignace Guillotin (1738-1814)**, the poor doctor from Bordeaux, whose name will always be connected to the machine that after he proposed it, was introduced in France to make the executions during the Revolution more quick and mercifully.

This machine was used before that in Italy, Germany and England.

Guillotín was one of the founders of the "Grand Orient de France" on May 24, 1773. He was the W.M. of the Lodge "La Concorde" in Paris and also a member of "Les Neuf Soeurs".

In the foreground in the right hand corner of the stamp is the well-known popular orator Honore-Gabriel de Riquetti, Comte de Mirabeau. Several sources mention him as a Mason, although it is not known when and where he was initiated.

I am sure that more Masons are pictured on the painting of David, but further research I will have to leave to others who have more sources of information available.

#### Sources:

The names of the persons on the painting were given to me by the director of the Museum at Versailles, France.

The Masonic details were located in the well known book "Une Loge Maconnique d'avant 1789" by Louis Amiable. (Paris 1897).



Fragment of the painting.

1. Jean-Sylvain Bailly
2. Emanuel-Joseph Sieyes
3. Jean-Paul Rabaut Saint-Etienne
4. Dom Christophe-Antoine Gerle
5. Jerome Petion de Villeneuve
6. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin

## UNITED STATES POSTAGE FIRSTS

By JOSEPH NATHAN KANE

The first adhesive stamp was used by the City Despatch Post, established, Feb. 15, 1842 by Alexander M. Greig, with Principal Office at 46 William Street, New York City. They were engraved by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch, New York City and printed in sheets of 42. They were a 3¢ denomination and sold for \$2.50 for a hundred stamps. Local delivery service was authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1836 (5 Stat. L. 80), An Act to change the organization of the post office department.

On August 1, 1842 the City Despatch Post was acquired by the United States Government for \$1,200 and was named the United States City Despatch Post. Alexander Greig was appointed a clerk

in the new service and served until Nov. 24, 1844.





The first air mail stamps were issued May 13, 1918 and consisted of three denominations, 6¢ orange, 16¢ green and 24¢ carmine, rose and blue, all with airplanes depicted on them. The 24¢ stamp was placed on sale May 13, 1918; the 16¢ stamp on July 11, 1918; and the 6¢ stamp on December 6, 1918.

The first books of postage stamps were issued April 16, 1900, as follows: Books containing 12 two-cent stamps priced at 25¢; twenty-four 2¢ stamps, 49¢; and 48 two-cent stamps, 97¢.

The 1st Christmas stamp regular issue was placed on sale, November 1, 1962 at Pittsburgh, Pa. It was a 4¢ red and green stamp printed on white paper which depicted a wreath and candles. The first issue consisted of a billion stamps. The first day, 491,312 covers were stamped.



The first commemorative postage stamps issued by the Post Office Department was the Columbian series of 1893, which depicted incidents in the discovery of America by Columbus. The stamps were of 16 denominations and ranged in value from 1¢ to \$5. They were issued January 2, 1893 with the exception of the 8¢ stamp which was issued March 3, 1893.



The first departmental postage stamps were authorized by Act of Congress on March 3, 1873 (17 Stat. L. 542) to be issued July 1, 1873, but they were placed in use May 24, 1873. The various departments had special colors assigned to them, Agriculture, yellow; Executive, carmine; Interior, vermilion; Justice, mauve; Navy, blue; Post Office, black; State, green; Treasury, brown; and War, dull rose. The denominations were 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢, 7¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢, 24¢, 30¢, and 90¢.

The first imperforated ungummed sheet of postage stamps was the Byrd stamp souvenir sheet made for the National Stamp Exhibition at Rockefeller Center on February 10, 1934 and contained six 3¢ blue "Little America" stamps.



The first memorial stamp was the Lincoln 2¢ Memorial issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln and placed on sale, February 12, 1909. The stamp was red, the size and shape of the

regular issue of postage stamps. It depicted a profile of the head of Lincoln from Saint-Gaudens statue in an oval with the words 1809 Feb 12, 1909," on a ribbon below.

The first mourning stamp was the 15¢ black postage stamp issued June 17, 1866, which depicted President Abraham Lincoln. A 10¢ and a 12¢ black stamp showing portraits of George Washington were issued on July 1, 1847 and July 1, 1851, but these were not "mourning" stamps.

The first American moving picture actress depicted on a postage stamp was Grace Kelly, whose marriage to Prince Rainier III of Monaco on April 19, 1956, was commemorated by a series of eight Monaco stamps (1f, 2f, 3f, 5f, 15f, 100f, 200f and 500f), sold only on the wedding day.

(It is with pleasure that we print this column by Joseph Nathan Kane, one of our directors. He is a Past Master of King Solomon Lodge No. 279 and the author of numerous books, a few of which are: famous first facts, facts about the presidents, the American counties, nicknames of U.S. cities and states, and 1,000 facts worth knowing. Some of the material in this series has been reprinted by permission from his "Famous First Facts.")