



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 27

OCTOBER 1970

NO. 2



Brother Al Van Dahl

The Al Van Dahl Story

(See Page 4)

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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., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This month's Masonic Philatelist is dedicated to the memory of our late Brother, Al Van Dahl, and also pays tribute to the Van Dahl Publishing Company who publishes our magazine. An article which appeared in 1959 has been updated and reprinted along with pictures of our friends in Albany, Oregon.

Again we would like to request articles from our members and readers. If they are relating to Masonic stamp collections, fine, but we realize that many of our brothers specialize in other topics. Items of interest regarding these collections may also appeal to our other members. We will try to keep our theme Masonic but we will print articles such as Joe Kane's "United States Postage Firsts" when appropriate.

Please send items to:

RAY T. KETCHAM
1827 East 33rd St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
11234

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman Normal Sehmeyer reports the following new members have joined The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.:

GEORGE W. HENERSON
Boulevard Lodge #882
Chicago, Illinois
(SFC) DAVID V. MERRITT
Anglo-Bolivian Lodge #7
La Paz, Bolivia

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was held on the second Friday of the month as the first Friday was during the Labor Day weekend. The program of the evening consisted of a showing of recent acquisitions. Some of those displayed included the Australian Captain Cook set, the British Queen Elizabeth high values, a Canadian gold engraving of the EXPO Stamp, and an interesting collection of Jamaican stamps with various postmarks.

Our president, Edwin Mayer, received the congratulations of the club for being the first recipient of the Harry L. Lindquist Award.

Manny Reggel visited England during the summer and was delighted to meet Joe Kane who was also there on vacation.

Dr. Irwin Yarry is going to England and will visit the International Show

(Philympia) in London while abroad.

It was also announced that Stanley Salomon was going to lecture and show his Solomon Island collection to the British Empire Study Group of the Collectors Club on September 14th.

MASONRY IN ROUMANIA

by Wessel M. Lans

In Roumania Masonry could only develop at a late moment. During the Turkish and later the Russian rule there could be no question of Masonry. The Roumanian intellectuals, led by well-known authors, aimed at an independent Roumania. Many young Roumanians, Bratianu, Balcescu, Alecsandri, Ghica, Kogalniceanu and others studied abroad, especially in Paris and there they took note of Western ideas. In 1848 they were back in their native country and took part in a revolutionary movement that however, was knocked down by the tyrants. This was why the leaders were forced to flee from the country. Many of them found asylum in Paris.

In this town there existed the "Athenee des Etrangers Lodge", that from 1820 on initiated many foreigners. It was in these circles that the newspaper "La Roumaine Future" (The Future Roumania) came into existence in which Balcescu, Kogalniceanu, Alecsandri and others cooperated.

The refugees saw their wishes coming true in 1856 when, after the Crimean War the Russian protectorate over Roumania was put to an end by the Treaty of Paris. Of course they continued their Masonic work in their native country. Under the jurisdiction of the "Grand Orient de France" Ion Bratianu founded in Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia, the "Steaua Dunarei" (Star of the Danube Lodge) and became its first W.M. In Jassy, capital of Moldavia, and also in Galatz, lodges were founded under the same name. Immediately the members took part in the social and cultural life; so for instance a theatre was founded in Jassy by Kogalniceanu, Alecsandri and Negruzzi.

Soon the Masons played a prominent part in political life. The members of the lodges mentioned above achieved that in elections, both in Jassy and in Bucharest, Colonel Alexander Cuza was elected sovereign, by which Moldavia and Wallachia were united in one principality Roumania. This Alexander Cuza was prefect of Galatz and W.M. of the Lodge in that town.

Cuza instructed Kogalniceanu to form a government. Several other members of the Paris Lodge "Athenee des Etran-

gers" held posts as ministers during the Cuza administration: Alecsandri, Bolinteanu, Ghica and others.

Alexander Cuza, however, aimed at a totalitarian government after the model of Napoleon III of France. This earned him many opponents, especially in the circle of his Brethren. In 1862 this led to an action against Cuza, which he answered by closing the 'Star of the Danube Lodge' in Bucharest. But the members were not prosecuted and founded another Lodge named "Alexander-Ion Cuza I Lodge". In 1866 Cuza was forced to abdicate. After his fall many Masons stepped back from social life to dedicate themselves to their literary work, others are seen playing a part in the political life of Roumania after 1866.

For our Masons on Stamps collection the following are important.

Alexander-Ion Cuza (1820-1873) Educated in Paris. Studied in Pavia and Bologna (Italy). In 1859 monarch of Roumania. Freed the farmers of serfdom. W.M. of "Star of the Danube Lodge" in Galatz.

Stamps: Scott 1263 and year 1964.*

Vasile Alecsandri (1819-1890) Studied medicine and law in Paris. In 1848 in exile in Paris. Was director of the Jassy theatre, for which he wrote plays after the pattern of Moliere. In 1859 foreign minister. He wrote many poems. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamps: Scott 1213, 1778 and year 1968.*

Grigore Alexandrescu (1810-1885) Roumanian poet. Sympathized with the 1848 revolution. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamp: Scott 1311.

Nicolas Balcescu (1819-1852) Historian and politician. Lived in Paris in 1846. After the unsuccessful 1848 revolution again in Paris in exile. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamps: 1209, and year 1952, 1958, 1968.*

Ion Ghica (1816-1897) Politician and author. Governor of Samos (1854-1859). Minister under Cuza. Prime minister in 1870. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamp: year 1966.

Mihail Kogalniceanu (1817-1891) Historian and politician. Studied in Berlin and Luneville (France). After 1848 in exile. Prime minister under Cuza. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamp: year 1967.*

Constantin Negruzzi (1808-1868) Poet and politician. Secretary of the Treas-

ury under Cuza. Translated works by Pushkin and Victor Hugo. Initiated in the Lodge "Athenee des Etrangers" in Paris.

Stamp: Scott 1313.

Dimitri Bolintineanu (1819-1872) Got

a scholarship in Paris. After 1848 in exile. Minister under Cuza.

Stamp: Scott 1314.

Source: "Histoire de la Franc-Maçonnerie universelle", Tome III by Gerard Serbanesco. (Paris 1966).

The Al Van Dahl Story

Volume 8 Number 8 of the "Masonic Philatelist" appearing in April 1952, carried this lead story: "With this issue of the Philatelist another milestone in the affairs of the club has been reached. Through the generous cooperation of Brother Al Van Dahl, publisher of Western Stamp Collector, arrangements have been completed for having our paper printed as you now see it. . . ."

"Prior to April 1952, and dating back to March 1944, the MP had been a photolith job, under the able guidance of Brother Sam Brooks, but with the usual handicaps of such work.

"But Brother Al Van Dahl changed all this through his generosity, and when this staunch Mason, keen philatelist and successful publisher died suddenly on March 3rd, 1954, his gracious wife, Mrs. Arlene Van Dahl, and her family carried on this work."

Al Van Dahl was born in Amsterdam, Holland, and grew up in Sweden where his father was a druggist and a Mason.

A graduate of Upsala University, he completed his education at Heidelberg in Germany. As a boy his father bought him a small job press on which he learned printing; subsequently he learned the operation of a linotype, so that when he came to this country he found work in newspaper offices. Later he published a number of small weekly newspapers, but no great success came his way until he started a stamp column!

Brother Van Dahl was a pioneer in this respect, as far as he knew it was the first time that a country weekly newspaper had been used to present stamp news.

This was over 48 years ago in Mill City, Oregon, and the newspaper was called the Mill City Logue. The column turned out to be surprisingly popular so in a short time he moved to the present locale in Albany, Oregon, and his paper became the Western Stamp Collector.

Advertising patronage in those days was difficult to come by. Times were not so good then, but success came and stayed. The wave of collecting that



Mrs. Arlene M. Van Dahl, president of Van Dahl Publications, Inc., and publisher of Western Stamp Collector.

swept the country during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration brought him more and more success until Western Stamp Collector became one of the five large publications of stamp collecting.

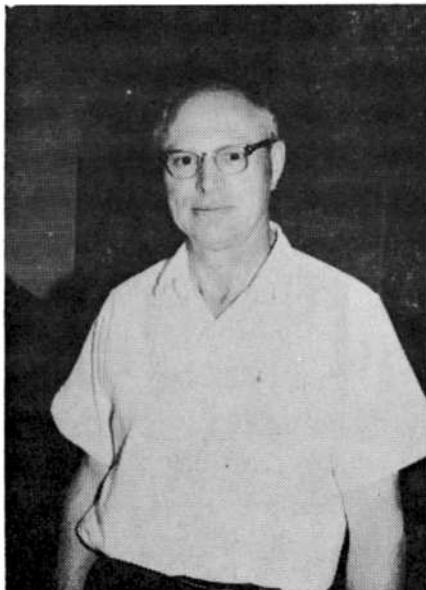
But the mark of true success can be measured by the regard in which he was held by his employees. "Pop" Van Dahl, as he was known to them, was considered quite wonderful and a generous, loving person. He greeted each employee every morning in a warm friendly way.

An interest in philately was traditional in his family and he had acquired the urge to collect stamps at an early age. His main collecting interest was the stamps of Sweden and Brother Al Van Dahl was elected to the "Hall of Fame" of the American Philatelic Society.

Your editor did not know Brother

Al Van Dahl personally, but is in close touch with the lasting contribution that he has made to the Masonic Stamp Club. It is only right and fitting that we should know and recognize all that is being done for us through the generosity of the Al Van Dahl Publication Fund.

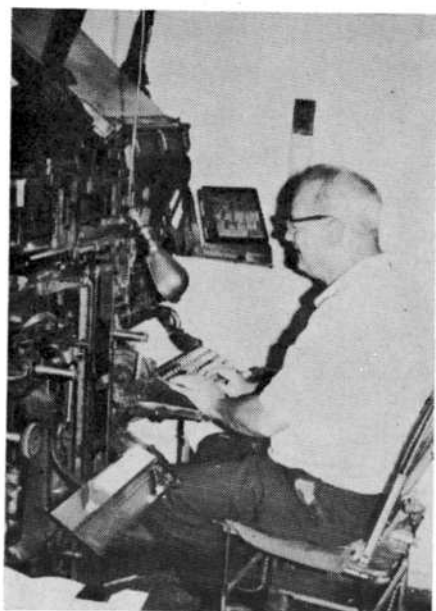
The present owners of WSC are Mrs.



Dave Blake, vice-president and general manager of Van Dahl Publications, Inc.



"Si" Simonis making up the Masonic Philatelist.



Leylan Wood at Linotype machine setting copy for Masonic Philatelist.

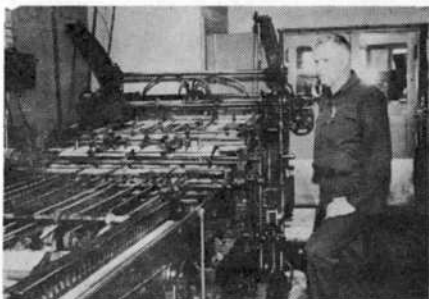


A layout of the Masonic Philatelist.

Arlene Van Dahl, (OES; Daughters of the Nile; and White Shrine of Jerusalem, Willamette #2), her son-in-law, David G. Blake (AF&AM St. John's Lodge #17), and her daughter, Alberta, all actively engaged in Van Dahl Publications. The present editor of WSC is Kenneth A. Wood.

Although WSC has been remarkably successful in the past, the publication is not content to rest on its laurels, and active consideration is presently being given to ensure continued growth in the future and to adjust to the ever-changing philatelic scene.

Because we want you to meet some of the people who are responsible for the "Masonic Philatelist" we are fortunate in being able to present some of them pictorially.



"Si" Simonis printing the Masonic Philatelist.



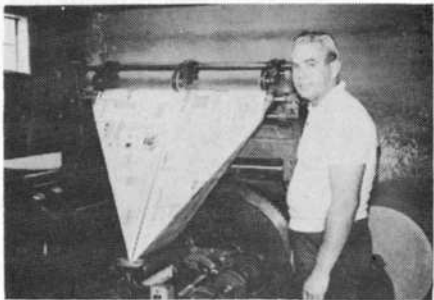
Bess Kudrna addressing copies of the Masonic Philatelist.



Bess Kudrna (left) and Alice Kropp. Bess is in charge of mailing the Masonic Philatelist, while Alice is a proof-reader.



The Mailing and Circulation Department. Left to right: Marilyn Connet, Cheryl Robinson, Mary Clark and Barbara Davis.



Bob Dahl operates the Goss press which prints Western Stamp Collector.

Something which gives Mrs. Van Dahl cause for considerable pleasure is the fact that the current employees represent a total of 321 years service.

One of the staff members who has a particular connection with the production of the "Masonic Philatelist" is Derald "Si" Simonis, who oversees the setting, makeup, and printing of the publication. "Si" has been with Van Dahl Publications for 23 years, is imaginative and has a distinct flair for coming up with new and effective ways of presenting the written word. He is assisted by Dick Hubert.

Leylan Wood is the man responsible for converting the copy into type. He operates one of the firm's five linotypes.

David Blake supervising the folding, binding and mailing operations among his many duties.

One of the most vital operations in the production of any publication is the proofreading department. This is capably handled by Alice Kropp and Elsie Shortridge, both of whom are longtime employees.

With a membership in the Masonic Stamp Club that covers every state in the U.S., and so many foreign countries; with our ever expanding list of members; with the change of addresses, deletions, additions, and other changes you get some idea of the job being done by the girls in the mailing room. Our several hats are off to you for work well done as attested by the minimum of complaints received.



The Western Stamp Collector truck leaves for the post office with the latest edition of Masonic Philatelist and W.S.C.

All Photos by Harold Lopes, Assistant Editor of Western Stamp Collector.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE FIRSTS

By Joseph Nathan Kane

The first postage stamps issued by the Post Office Department were authorized by Act of Congress of March 3, 1847 (9 Stat. L201) and first placed on sale in New York City on July 1, 1847. The issue consisted of two stamps, a 5-cent red-brown stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin, and a 10-cent black stamp bearing the likeness of George Washington. They were printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson of New York City. They were withdrawn from use on June 30, 1851. The issue consisted of 3,712,200 of the 5-cent denomination. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing began the printing of stamps with the 1894 issue of the "triangle" design stamps.

The first postage stamps to picture a woman were the Columbian commemorative stamps of 1893. Queen Isabella was depicted on three varieties which were placed on sale January 2, 1893. The 5-cent stamp (35,248,250 issued) was in chocolate brown and depicted "Columbus soliciting the aid of Isabella". The one-dollar stamp (55,050 issued) was in rose salmon and showed "Isabella pledging her jewels", and the four-dollar stamp (26,350 issued) was in carmine with portraits of Columbus and Isabella. Women were also shown as characters in group scenes in this set, but their identity was not given.

The first American woman's portrait on a United States stamp was that of Martha Washington on an 8-cent dark lilac stamp issued December 6, 1902. The portrait was after the painting by Gilbert Stuart.

The first postage stamps to picture an airplane were the 20-cent parcel post stamps issued on December 16, 1912 and placed on sale January 1, 1913.



The first postage stamps to picture the coat-of-arms of the United States were the 10-cent yellow stamps and the 30-cent blue and carmine stamps of the issue of 1869, on sale from March 1, 1869 to April 9, 1870.

The first precancelled stamps printed on rotary presses at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing were issued April 21, 1923. This initial order embraced 1-cent stamps of the 1923 series. One-cent precancelled stamps in coils were first issued January 7, 1924. Prior to the addition of precancelling devices to rotary presses, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing precancelled 1-cent stamps in sheets for a limited number of post offices with electrotype plates containing 400 stamps each. The records indicate that Bureau precancelled stamps of this style were first issued to the New Orleans, La., Augusta, Maine, and Springfield, Mass., post offices in January 1917.

The first public exhibition of postage stamps was held from May 10, 1876 to November 10, 1876 in the United States building at the Centennial Exhibition at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa. It was arranged by John Walter Scott. The first important exhibit by collectors opened March 11, 1889 at the Eden Musee, New York City. Thirty-one exhibitors showed 272 sheets of stamps

from 161 countries valued in excess of \$200,000.

The first sheet of postage stamps to contain more than one variety of stamps was placed on sale May 9, 1936, in a temporary post office at Grand Central Palace, New York City, during the Third International Philatelic Exposition, May 9 thru May 17. The sheet consisted of four purple un gummed imperforated 3-cent stamps, one of the San Diego exposition issue of 1935, one Texas centennial issue of 1936, one Connecticut tercentenary issue of 1935, and one Michigan centenary issue of 1935. Surrounded by a white border on which was lettered "Printed by the Treasury Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing", at the left, "Under Authority of James A Farley, Postmaster General" at the top, "In Compliment to the Third International Philatelic Exhibition of 1936" at the right, and "New York, N.Y., May 9-17, 1936", at the lower edge. About two-thirds of the total issue of 2,809,039 sheets were sold during the exposition.

The first stamped envelopes issued to commemorate an event were the 3-cent green stamped envelopes printed on a Hartford press set up in the Post Office Department in the Government Building at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pa., between May 10 and November 10, 1876.