

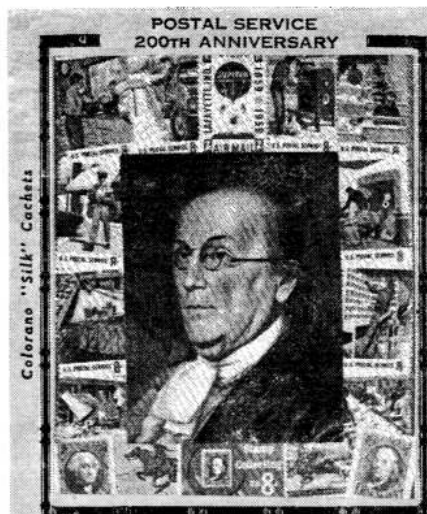


# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 32

FEBRUARY 1976

NO. 6



First Day of Issue



# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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EDITOR ..... Robert A. Smith

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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

## PLANS SET FOR 42ND ANNUAL DINNER

Our annual dinner will be held on May 14, 1976 at the German Masonic Temple, 220 East 15th Street, New York, New York.

We will honor one of our Past Presidents and present editor of the "Philatelist," Robert A. Smith. As in recent years, ladies will be welcome.

We look forward to a gala evening which will include a guest speaker, a friendship hour with hors d'oeuvre and cocktails and a complete dinner. Subscription \$10 per person.

Those who have attended these dinners in the past know the good times that have been had by all.

Here is your opportunity to honor and show your appreciation to Bob, who has done so much for the Club. Send in your reservation with check to: Stanley A. Salomon, 1200 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10029.

## WASHINGTON'S MASONIC CREED

I, as a Mason, believe in the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man. I will do unto others as I would have them do unto me. I pledge my loyalty to the Government of the United States of America, a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and will not countenance disloyalty on the part of others.

Freemasonry is founded upon these principles and I will use my utmost effort to preserve them for posterity. So mote it be.

—George Washington

For A Price List

of Available

## MASONIC COVERS PAST AND PRESENT

Write to

MASONIC CACHETS  
451 WEST 46th STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

## ST. VINCENT AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE ISSUE

The following issue is available from the St. Vincent Philatelic Services, General Post Office, Kingstown, St. Vincent, West Indies. The set will be withdrawn from service on December 31, 1976.



St. Vincent Honours the American Bicentennial with a Unique and Historic Issue of Postage Stamps depicting all the Presidents of the United States from  
GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GERALD FORD

On September 11th 1975 the beautiful Caribbean Island of St. Vincent (whose ties with the United States have always been close) paid honour and tribute to the American Bicentennial with a very special issue of ten postage stamps, the first nine of which each depict four portraits of Presidents of the U.S.A. from George Washington through Richard Nixon while the top value shows Gerald Ford and the White House.

President Ford very kindly invited a delegation from St. Vincent to visit the White House on 11th September when a formal presentation was made of an album containing these stamps plus original artwork.

The stamps, which have been tastefully designed by world renowned stamp designer Gordon Drummond and superbly printed in attractive colours by Questa of London, are in sheetlets of ten stamps with two illustrated labels and decorated borders. The labels depict The Capitol, Mount Vernon, The Lincoln Memorial, etc.

### DETAILS OF THE STAMPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

½¢ George Washington	John Adams	Thomas Jefferson	James Madison
1¢ James Monroe	John Quincy Adams	Andrew Jackson	Martin Van Buren
1½¢ William Harrison	John Tyler	James Polk	Zachary Taylor
5¢ Millard Fillmore	Franklin Pierce	James Buchanan	Abraham Lincoln
10¢ Andrew Johnson	Ulysses Grant	Rutherford Hayes	James Garfield
25¢ Chester Arthur	Grover Cleveland	Benjamin Harrison	William McKinley
35¢ Theodore Roosevelt	William Taft	Woodrow Wilson	Warren Harding
45¢ Calvin Coolidge	Herbert Hoover	Franklin Roosevelt	Harry Truman
\$1.00 Dwight Eisenhower	John Kennedy	Lyndon Johnson	Richard Nixon
\$2.00 Gerald Ford and the White House			

In addition there is a Souvenir Sheet comprising one of each of these stamps thereby including portraits of all 37 Presidents in the one sheet. As with the individual sheetlets, this Souvenir Sheet also includes two labels one of which shows portraits of the main protagonists in the War of Independence—George Washington and King George III of England.

Especially for collectors wishing to possess a really outstanding memento of the Bicentennial, a special Official Presentation Pack has been issued in a limited edition. This Pack contains a set of ten stamps in complete sheetlets of ten together with a Souvenir Sheet and includes a brief history of the effects of the War of Independence on St. Vincent, a facsimile copy of the Declaration of Independence, a Map, Portraits, etc.

# History of the Post Office Department

The Post Office Department history is the history of the United States itself. From its inception in the Articles of Confederation in 1778 to the present, it has symbolized American mobility, drive, and resourcefulness. It has cut an inexorable path by successive stages of horse, stage, automobile and airplane across the great American countryside to bring the intelligence and industry of a nation and government to its people in their homes.

## The Colonial Posts

For three-quarters of a century after the Pilgrims landed in America, the Mother Country manifested little interest in establishing a colonial postal system. As a result, all of the early developments in the posts came through independent action by the various colonies.

The first official notice of a postal service in colonial America appears in a 1639 ordinance of the General Court of Massachusetts, designating Richard Fairbanks' tavern in Boston as the official repository for mail brought from or sent overseas. It is interesting to note that American independence asserted itself even at that early point, for the ordinance stipulated that "no man be compelled to bring his letters thence unless he please!"

In Virginia, a 1657 colonial law required that all official letters "be conveyed from plantation to plantation" under penalty for each default thereof of one hoghead of tobacco. By 1692, however, the Virginia Assembly, recognizing that the posts were a matter of "general concernment and of great advantage for the increase and preservation of trade and commerce," provided for the establishment of a post office.

Governor Lovelace of New York Colony set up a monthly courier service between New York and Boston in 1672, along the rough lines of present U.S. Route 1, the Boston Post Road.

Pennsylvania's Provincial Assembly passed a law in 1683 requiring officials of that province to dispatch public letters within three hours of receipt, or pay 20 shillings for each hour of delay. In July of that same year, Governor William Penn established a weekly post between Philadelphia and New Castle, Delaware, and before the year ended a post route extended from Maine to Georgia over routes that now are trunk highways of the Eastern Seaboard.

By 1691, when the population of the English American Colonies had grown to 200,000, Thomas Neale, a favorite of the Court, persuaded King William to grant him a patent to set up and main-

tain a postal system in the colonies for a term of 21 years. Since all other persons were forbidden to establish post offices, Neale was guaranteed a monopoly over postal communications, to receive all profits for an annual rent to the Royal Crown of 6 shillings a year.

Neale never came to America. Instead, he commissioned Andrew Hamilton of Edinburgh, Scotland, as his Deputy Post Master to organize a post system in the Colonies. Even though most of the Colonies cooperated with Hamilton, Neale's dream of vast profits from his American posts never materialized. He died, heavily in debt, in 1699, after assigning his interests in America to Andrew Hamilton and one West, an Englishman. Hamilton, and then his widow, carried on with the work until 1707, when the British Government bought the rights of West and Mrs. Hamilton and appointed Andrew's son, John Hamilton, as Deputy Postmaster General for America. He served until 1730.

## Benjamin Franklin

Although the service improved slowly during these years and postal routes were gradually extended, the post office was still not self-supporting when Alexander Spotswood, a former governor of Virginia, became Postmaster General for America in 1730. Probably his most notable achievement was the appointment in 1737 of Benjamin Franklin as Deputy Postmaster at Philadelphia. Soon after his initial appointment, Franklin himself tells us, he became "Comptroller" over several post offices.

Head Lynch succeeded Spotswood in 1739, and in 1743 Elliot Benger followed Lynch. When Benger died in 1753, Benjamin Franklin and William Hunter, Deputy Postmaster at Williamsburg, Virginia, were appointed by England as Joint Postmasters General for the Colonies. (Hunter died in 1761 and John Foxcroft of New York succeeded him, serving until the outbreak of the Revolution.)

Benjamin Franklin effected many important, lasting improvements in the colonial posts. He immediately set out on a long tour of inspection of all post offices in the North and as far South as Virginia. He made new surveys, laid out new and shorter routes, and increased the speed of travel on old lines. He set up milestones on principal roads, carried the mail by night between Phila-

delphia and New York and provided more frequent and speedier service between those two points and between Philadelphia and Boston. In 1755, he established a packet line direct from England to New York and later operated one from Falmouth to Charleston, thus giving the Southern colonies direct communication with England. Before he left office, post roads operated from Maine to Florida and from New York to Canada, and mail between the Colonies and Mother England operated on a regular schedule.

Franklin also introduced another important, much needed function to the mails. Before 1758, no provisions existed for admitting newspapers to the mails. Publishers, forced to make private arrangements with post riders for delivery of their papers, found it both lucrative and expedient to take on the postmaster's job with its built-in advantages of free newspaper delivery. Although the publisher-postmaster paid no delivery fee, the post riders often charged exorbitant rates to the subscriber for delivery of the news. Franklin was himself a newspaper publisher, but in 1758 he provided for all newspapers to be carried by the mails at fixed rate of postage.

Franklin served as joint Postmaster General for the North British Colonies in America until 1774 when he was dismissed for sympathizing with the cause of the colonists. Then, on July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress appointed him head of the American postal system at a salary of \$1,000 a year. He served until November 7, 1776. Historians generally accord him major credit for establishing the basis of a sound, efficient, and reliable postal service in the United States.

### **Purpose of the Post Office Department**

The Journals of the Continental Congress, May 27, 1773, show the original purpose of the Postal System was to provide "the best means of establishing posts for conveying letters and intelligence through this continent."

### **Creation and Authority**

Article IX of the Articles of Confederation (1778) gave Congress "the sole and exclusive right and power of . . . establishing and regulating post offices from one State to another . . . and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said

office . . . "These provisions were adopted by the Ordinance of October 18, 1782, regulating the postal service.

Following the final adoption of the Constitution in March 1789, an Act of September 22, 1789 (1 Stat. 70) temporarily established a post office and created the Office of the Postmaster General under the Treasury. On September 26, 1789, George Washington appointed Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts as the first Postmaster General under the Constitution. The postal service was temporarily continued by the Act of August 4, 1790 (1 Stat. 178) and the Act of March 3, 1791 (1 Stat. 218). An Act of February 20, 1792 made detailed provisions for the Post Office Department.

Subsequent legislation enlarged the duties of the Department, strengthened and unified its organization, and provided rules and regulations for its development.

In 1829, upon invitation of President Andrew Jackson, William T. Barry became the first Postmaster General to sit as a member of the President's Cabinet. On June 8, 1872 (17 Stat. 283;39 U.S.C. 301,302) the Post Office Department became an executive Department.

## AN ORDINANCE FOR REGULATING THE POST-OFFICE OF THE

United States of America

Passed the 18th of October, 1782.

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Published by order of the Postmaster-General.

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NEW-YORK  
Printed by CHILDS and SWAINE,  
October, 1789.

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## Important Dates in Postal Service

- 1639—Fairbanks' tavern became repository for overseas mail
- 1672—Monthly post between New York and Boston
- 1683—Regular post from Maine to Georgia.
- 1691—Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Postmaster General under letters patent to Crown
- 1775—Benjamin Franklin, first Postmaster General under Continental Congress
- 1789—Samuel Osgood, first Postmaster General under Constitution
- 1825—Dead letter office
- 1829—Postmaster General became Cabinet post
- 1847—Postage stamps
- 1848—First Overland mail to California
- 1851—Public Service policy enunciated by Congress
- 1855—Registered mail
- 1855—Compulsory prepayment postage
- 1858—Street letter boxes
- 1860—Pony Express
- 1862—Experimental railway mail service
- 1863—City delivery service
- 1863—Uniform letter rate regardless of distance
- 1864—Railway mail service
- 1864—Postal money orders
- 1869—Foreign money orders
- 1873—Postal cards
- 1874—Universal Postal Union (originally General Postal Union)
- 1879—Classification system for domestic mail
- 1885—Special delivery
- 1896—Rural delivery
- 1911—Postal savings initiated
- 1912—Village delivery
- 1913—Parcel post, including insurance and collect-on-delivery service
- 1918—Air mail
- 1920—Metered postage
- 1921—First transcontinental air mail flight
- 1925—Special handling service
- 1927—Foreign air mail service
- 1939—Experimental autogiro service
- 1941—Highway postal service
- 1943—Zoning system
- 1948—Parcel post international air service
- 1948—Parcel post domestic air service
- 1953—Piggy-back mail service by trailers on railroad flatcars
- 1953—Airlift service
- 1955—Certified mail service
- 1955—Combination mail service
- 1960—First fully mechanized post office, Providence, Rhode Island

- 1961—Nationwide Improved Mail Service program (NIMS)
- 1961—Precanceled Postal Cards
- 1961—Customer Service program
- 1962—Post Office Management and Service Improvement Program (POMSIP)
- 1962—Accelerated Business Collection and Delivery (ABCD) service
- 1963—Envelopes standardized for minimum size
- 1963—ZIP Code program
- 1963—Vertical Improved Mail (VIM)
- 1963—Luminescent-coated (tagged) stamps
- 1964—Postmark time eliminated
- 1964—First 24-hour self-service post office
- 1965—552 Sectional Centers activated, to accommodate changing transportation patterns
- 1965—Optical Scanner (ZIP Code Reader)
- 1966—Postal savings ended
- 1967—Mandatory presorting by ZIP Code for second- and third-class commercial mailers
- 1967—Postal Source Data System
- 1968—Postal Service Institute

## POSTMASTERS GENERAL

(Date of appointment  
(Commission) in parenthesis)  
# Carryover from  
previous administration

### CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Benjamin Franklin (July 26, 1775)  
Richard Bache (November 7, 1776)  
Ebenezer Hazard (January 28, 1782)

### GEORGE WASHINGTON

Samuel Osgood (September 26, 1789)  
Timothy Pickering (August 12, 1791)  
Joseph Habersham (February 25, 1795)

### JOHN ADAMS

Joseph Habersham (#)

### THOMAS JEFFERSON

Joseph Habersham (#)

Gideon Granger (November 28, 1801)

### JAMES MADISON

Gideon Granger (#)

Return J. Meigs, Jr. (March 17, 1814)  
Entered on Duty—April 11, 1814

### JAMES MONROE

Return J. Meigs, Jr. (#)

John MacLean (June 26, 1823)

Entered on Duty—July 1, 1823

### JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

John McLean (#)

### ANDREW JACKSON

William T. Barry (March 9, 1829)

Entered on Duty—April 6, 1829

Amos Kendall (May 1, 1835)

**MARTIN VAN BUREN**

John M. Niles (May 19, 1840)

**WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON**

Francis Granger (March 6, 1841)

**JOHN TYLER**

Francis Granger (#)

Charles A. Wickliffe (September 13, 1841)

Entered on Duty—October 13, 1841

**JAMES K. POLK**

Cave Johnson (March 6, 1845)

**ZACHARY TAYLOR**

Jacob Collamer (March 8, 1849)

**MILLARD FILLMORE**

Nathan K. Hall (July 23, 1850)

Samuel D. Hubbard (August 31, 1852)

Entered on Duty—September 14, 1852

**FRANKLIN PIERCE**

James Campbell (March 7, 1853)

**JAMES BUCHANAN**

Aaron V. Brown (March 6, 1857)

Joseph Holt (March 14, 1859)

Horatio King (February 12, 1861)

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Montgomery Blair (March 5, 1861)

William Dennison (September 24, 1864)

**ANDREW JOHNSON**

William Dennison (#)

Alexander W. Randall (July 25, 1866)

**ULYSSES GRANT**

John A. J. Creswell (March 5, 1869)

James W. Marshall (July 3, 1874)

Marshall Jewell (August 24, 1874)

James N. Tyler (July 12, 1876)

**RUTHERFORD B. HAYES**

David McK. Key (March 12, 1877)

Horace Maynard (June 2, 1880)

Entered on Duty—August 25, 1880

**JAMES A. GARFIELD**

Thomas L. James (March 5, 1881)

**CHESTER A. ARTHUR**

Thomas L. James (#)

Timothy O. Howe (December 20, 1881)

Entered on Duty—January 5, 1882

Walter Q. Gresham (April 3, 1883)

Frank Hatton (October 14, 1884)

**GROVER CLEVELAND**

William F. Vilas (March 6, 1885)

Don M. Dickinson (January 16, 1888)

**BENJAMIN HARRISON**

John Wanamaker (March 5, 1889)

**GROVER CLEVELAND**

Wilson S. Bissell (March 6, 1893)

William L. Wilson (March 1, 1895)

Entered on Duty—April 4, 1895

**WILLIAM MCKINLEY**

James A. Gary (March 5, 1897)

Charles Emory Smith (April 21, 1898)

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

Charles Emory Smith (#)

Henry C. Payne (January 9, 1902)

Robert J. Wynne (October 10, 1904)

George B. Cortelyou (March 6, 1905)

George von L. Meyer (January 15, 1907)

Entered on Duty—March 4, 1907

**WILLIAM H. TAFT**

Franklin H. Hitchcock (March 5, 1909)

**WOODROW WILSON**

Albert S. Burleson (March 5, 1913)

**WARREN G. HARDING**

Will H. Hays (March 5, 1921)

Hubert Work (March 4, 1922)

Harry S. New (February 27, 1923)

**CALVIN COOLIDGE**

Harry S. New (#)

**HERBERT HOOVER**

Walter F. Brown (March 5, 1929)

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT**

James A. Farley (March 4, 1933)

Frank C. Walker (September 10, 1940)

**HARRY S. TRUMAN**

Frank C. Walker (#)

Robert E. Hannegan (May 8, 1945)

Entered on Duty—July 1, 1945

Jesse M. Donaldson (December 16, 1947)

**DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER**

Arthur E. Summerfield (January 21, 1953)

**JOHN F. KENNEDY**

J. Edward Day (January 21, 1961)

John A. Gronouski (September 10, 1963)

Entered on Duty—September 30, 1963)

**LYNDON B. JOHNSON**

John A. Gronouski (#)

Reappointed February 19, 1965

Lawrence F. O'Brien (November 3, 1965)

W. Marvin Watson (April 26, 1968)

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT SEAL**

The first statutory reference to a Post Office Department seal is contained in an Act of March 5, 1825, directing that the Postmaster General "shall procure and cause to be kept, a seal for the said office which shall be affixed to commissions of the postmaster and used to authenticate all transcripts and copies which may be required from the Department."

The seal now used by the Department is known to have been adopted officially during the administration of Postmaster General Amos Kendall. In an order to all postmasters dated May 1, 1837, Mr. Kendall directed that after that date the seal of the Post Office Department should be a "Post Horse in speed, with mail bags and rider, encircled by the words 'Post Office Department, United States of America.'"

Many people believe this seal was inspired by Benjamin Franklin. When Franklin was elected Postmaster Gen-



eral under the Continental Congress, he issued a circular letter throughout the Colonies, bearing a rude woodcut of a post rider on horseback, with saddle bags behind him for carrying the mail. It is likely, however, that the formal design was carried out by either W. Harrison or Edward Stabler. W. Harrison was paid \$10 for a post office seal in 1828; on April 21, 1837, Edward Stabler was paid \$271.75 for a "Seal of the Post Office Department and case."

Between Benjamin Franklin and Amos Kendall, however, many Postmasters General used seals depicting the God Mercury holding a serpent-entwined staff. In 1782, Postmaster General Ebenezer Hazard used the figure of Mercury riding on the clouds, with winged feet and a staff in his right hand, inscribed with the Latin words *SEGILLI MAG. GEN. NUNCIORUM*, or, roughly, "Seal of the Postmaster General." In June 1808, Postmaster General Gideon Granger was using the same Latin inscription on a Post Office Department seal which again showed Mercury holding a serpent-entwined staff in his extended left hand. Postmaster General John McLean, in 1824, was using a seal depicting Mercury with his right hand at shoulder height, and his left hand extended to hold the serpent-entwined staff, and bearing the inscription "Seal of the General Post Office Department."

Mercury, of course, in Roman mythology is the messenger of the gods; he is the god of manual skill, the god of commerce and of travel.

Contrary to general understanding, the post horse and rider on today's seal do not symbolize the Pony Express. The Pony Express came into existence in 1860-61, many years after the seal was first used.

**Editor's Note:** If any members of the club know the Masonic membership of any of the Postmasters of the United States I am sure that this will be of interest to all.

Robert A. Smith, P.O. Box 142, Bowling Green Sta., New York, NY 10004.

## POST OFFICE

From the Kane Book of Famous First Facts and Records

Airplane Post Office was Flagship Station 1, officially opened and dedicated May 15, 1938, by Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt during National Air Mail Week. It consisted of an American Airlines sleeper plane which, with wings removed, was set up as a special post office on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. Stamps were to have been sold in the plane, but this was found impractical and a station

was set up in an adjoining building. The plane was exhibited and viewed by 78,636 people during the week it was open.

First facts from this book, which is a new 1976 edition, will be given each issue of the "Philatelist" with the permission of its author, Joseph Nathan Kane, who is a member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and serves as vice president.

## AMERICAN MUSIC ISSUE OF 1964



(Scott No. 1252)

This stamp, which commemorates American Music, we can illustrate with the following Masons:

**Charles Wakefield Cadman**, composer, is a member of Albert Pike Lodge No. 4, in Los Angeles.

**Paul Whiteman** ("King of Jazz") was initiated in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, in New York City and was a member of Corinthian Chapter No. 159 RAM, New York.

**Leopold Damrosch**, composer and conductor of the Mens Choral Society of New York and founder of Oratorio Society. He was also founder of the New York Symphony Society. On the 100th year jubilee of the Grand Lodge of New York he was the leader of the musical part of the ceremony.

—Ludwig Appeldorn

## HERMANN BAHR

Hermann Bahr was born July 19, 1863 in Linz, Austria. He was a famous writer and poet. He studied for years throughout Europe, Morocco and Russia and later lived in Berlin, Wien, Slazburg, and Munich. He wrote for the theatre under Max Reinhardt and was dramatic advisor and critic to the Burgtheatre in Wien. He died Jan. 15, 1934 in Muenchen, Germany.

He was initiated on April 25, 1897 in Wiener Lodge "Freundschaft" (Friendship). Brother Bahr appears on Austria issue of July 19, 1963 (Scott No. 705).

—Ludwig Appeldorn