



# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

Volume II No. 6 November 1945

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**EDITORIAL BOARD...** Harry M. Konwiser, Sam Brooks & Forrest Ellis  
Address them at 22 East 35th Street New York, on matters relating to this publication. **Masonic Stamp Club Secretary...**  
**Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, 61-23 Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.**

STAMPS WANTED FROM MASONIC BRETHREN

## SCOTT CATALOGUE NUMBERS

9X1, 29, 33, 35, 36, 37, 50, 52, 54, 59, 64, 68, 69, 70, 72, 115, 136, 146, 210, 220, 249, and later issues depicting George Washington.

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These stamps are required for a glass covered frame of Washington Stamps to be donated to The George Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan, New York. The Tappan Shrine is a Mecca for Americans and is the "special pet" of M.W. Charles H. Johnson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York; formerly Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, and First Vice-President of the Club Brothers Ferrars Tows and Alex Watts, both Members of the Masonic Stamp Club, are on the Board of Managers of the Tappan Shrine.

The stamps to be displayed, all depicting Washington, will be mounted and framed, and carry the inscription "Donated by Members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York".

Brethren, attend to the suggested alarm, mail your donations to Sam Brooks, 570 7th Ave., New York 18, N.Y.

Note: Since we intend to mount the stamps (permanently) we will overlook thin spots on back and absence of original or other gum.

## MEETINGS

- Nov. 2nd - Members Competition-Scandinavian Countries.  
40 pages or 15 minutes.  
Nov. 30th - Spot Auction Sale of Stamps.  
Also Trading and Swapping.

MEETINGS FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH  
COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING 22 East 35th St. N.Y.

By Harold J. Snyder

With Brother Charles Brooks -- he of the scholarly mien and gracious manner-- acting as Chairman of the Programme Committee, our President, Sam Brooks, appointed as Judges, Brothers Charles Lott, Fred Hill and Gordon Shoop, to decide on the best of the Great Britain and Colonies collections shown and exhibited competitively.

If it were up to the writer of this article, we would post haste ask the Royal Philatelic Society of London to award a specially-struck medal to Bro. Henry M. Friedman on his showing of part of his collection of Seychelles. Our English cousins have commented in their philatelic journals, on the Sherlock Holmes-like technique of his, in assembling his remarkable study of SURCHARGES on the stamps of this out-of-the-way, little British Colony. Of course, you can see why Hawkshaw Henry literally ran away with the First Prize. Be it recorded, here and now, that the forty pages exhibited at our meeting are the foundation of his famous article on this country.

The Judges, after further and due deliberation, awarded the Seconded Prize to Dr. George Camnitzer, for his fine showing of part of his Great Britain collection. Sotto voce, fellers, here is a collector who has mastered every phase of our fascinating hobby. He is thorough in his research; and his sensible plan of acquiring historical examples of this desirable and popular country's philatelic emissions, is to be admired and emulated. By way of comment, the good Doctor is still looking for a block-of-four of the "Penny Black" -- price no object! We hope, for his sake, that the philatelically - inclined King of England will be so kind as to commission his Highness's stampic Archivist to cement the ties that bind our nations and peoples by presenting to Brother Camnitzer a block showing the beautiful profile of proud Queen Victoria. That really would be a Masonic gesture, four-square, which would ring down the corridors of time; and, perhaps, compensate US for some of the "lease-lend" mools that seemingly is gone but not forgotten!

Dr. Irwin M. Yerry came away with the Third Award, for a remarkable study of cancels on British Colonial issues circulating in the Leeward Islands area. The cancellations on the stamps of these British Colonies lend themselves to interesting examination; and, likewise, possess great historical interest to student and specialist. Just for the record: Doc impressed us as a real student of things philatelic; very much advanced in the art of competently displaying his acquired material. His exhibit was well received and aroused favorable comment. He has incorporated on each of his pages a story packed with stampic romance, tastely arranged and pictorially aglow with color and design. We hope the Doctor will try for First Honors at future exhibits. Good Luck, Pal!

In drawing this report to a close, permit us to mention the others who participated competitively, but received Honorable Mention by the Judges, for their limited array of British issues and Colonies, and co-lateral material. Firstly, we speak, lovingly, both of the man and his stamps; and, that is none other than Brother Charles D. Carpenter. His truly first love is "Queens Heads". The Right Hon. Charles hails from Kings County, Brooklyn. Brother Carpenter is a philatelist of the old school and collects his postage stamps in the traditional style and tempo of the Gay Nineties. All his collecting proclivities show the stigmata of a sincere, philatelic student. Behold, where can you find a copy of Scott No. 16a of Mauritius? And at the price that Viscouat Charles paid for this rarity. Ask His Lordship to relate the story surrounding its acquisition.

Chronologically speaking, the first exhibitor of the evening was Brother Irving E. Black. Philatelist Black is strong on "Penny-Blacks", too. He specializes in British America, being long on Canada, Bermuda, and Jamaica.

He has some rare Virgin Islands, and a fine display of early British issues, stressing the plate numbers right down the line from the moment Sir Rowland Hill finished his masterpiece. On some future occasion this genial member of our club may get more than Honorable Mention for his holdings. He decidedly knows what is good and collectible. Irving, let it be known, is one of the best boosters of our club, and the records reveal, an ardent attendant at every meeting.

The next to the last paragraph of our "short" report is reserved for some comment on the showings of Brother Bert Ehrenberg, who did not want to enter his collection in competition with the others, for reasons best known to plaintiff, as the members of the Bar would put it. He was good enough to bring a portion of his Great Britain and Colonies to round out a full evening. He revealed to the boys present what forty years of hunting the elusive little postage stamp can do to one's Exchequer. We looked in vain for empty spaces in that album of his, but they were hard to find. Completeness (or nearly so) is Bertie's forte. They tell us his spouse has a silent interest in this collection of Britanniana. Maybe, she too has made Scott's Catalogue her favorite Baedeker in the lane of Philatelia. We say, mates, that is a fine interest to have in common with the distaff side of the house. Here, really is a nearly complete collection of G.B. and CoIs. in mint condition. Thanks for showing us those shillings and Pounds in singles, pairs, blocks, on and off covers, etc. etc. Listen, Bert! Have you insured these stamps with Lloyds' of London; or do you carry your own Floater Policy?

Unexpected Showing of the Evening! This event was not on the programme. Behold - that genial gent of things philatelic -- none other than our cooperative, always, and exemplar extra-ordinaire, of the good neighbor (and good Vat-69) policy in the stamp world: Introducing Brother Harry Konwiser - philatelic pundit, etc. Up and-at'em columinat of that dynamic stamp paper called "SFMATS" (spelt backwards and what have you got!)

So, Brethren, you missed one of the most surprising and exciting meetings ever held by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, since its foundation. Please, now don't let time, or distance, or other important engagements, keep you from your destination here on meeting nights of the Club, held on the First and Last Fridays of each month, at the Collectors Club Building. Did we say enough! We are not asking you -- just tellin' youse guys what we saw and heard at the last meeting. Your myopic reporter knows a good collector when he meets one, so, how about meeting you at the next meeting? YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL US THAT THE BOYS WILL LOVE TO HEAR AND KNOW! SO LONG, PALS IN PHILATELY!

.....H.J.S. PAX VOBISCUUM

#### SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

This active group, which numbers many members of the Masonic Stamp Club, also meets at the Collectors Club. At its meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, our own Charles H. Johnson, who has just returned from Europe, will speak of his experiences there. To make the evening complete, Brother Alex Watts will show his famous collection of Samoa.

A cordial invitation has been extended to every member of the Masonic Stamp Club, to attend. We'll meet you there!

#### CONGRATULATIONS-

to Ferrars H. Tows, who has been nominated and elected to receive the 33<sup>o</sup> at the next meeting of the Grand East, in September, 1946.

Our genial Second Vice-President was Raised in 1931, in Holland Lodge No. 8, F.&A.M. New York City, and was Worshipful Master in 1940. He is a member of Aurora Grotta, of which he was M.W.M. in 1939 - 1940.

Brother Tows joins a select group in the Masonic Stamp Club, Brothers Charles H. Johnson, and Floyd S. Leach also being members of this degree.

By Frank W. Campbell

The following notes are from old memory, as they were not written items.

In looking over old Ontario letters in Michigan historical collections, Niagara was constantly encountered, as it was a postoffice established in 1789 when the place was called Newark - and now is Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niagara Falls was never called Niagara postoffice. It's first name was Clifton, in late 1840's.

The "Niagara" was encountered in two groups. Firstly, mail from New York or Montreal to further West was assembled there, and sent on its way apparently the same day each month, each year, (once a month) as backstamp indicated this. The backstamp was a straight line of type tied-together, with date added more or less haphazardly, generally struck over the fold on back of the "Folded Letter" sheet.

## NIAGARA Feb 28

Little commercial mail originated at Niagara, it being a forwarding point.

A second group of correspondence that did originate there, concerned Freemasonry Lodge No. 2. Apparently Gen. Simcoe was there with his Rodger's Rangers about 1792 when getting Upper Canada "established", and a garrison was left while he plodded around locating places for a capital - Newport, York, London, being at least three places he considered. (These are Canadian towns, of course).

This garrison group formed a Lodge and corresponded with others who had gone on to Detroit, Michilimackinac, etc., emphasizing the social side of life at Niagara during Lodge get-togethers. Apparently meeting people as they moved through that gate to the Northwest, was the main pastime.

Although the Straight Line postmark is reported for 1792 I saw none myself earlier than 1794 -- and "PAID" in a type line was on some late 1700 letters, the first handstamp "paid" I had seen on Canada covers.

### VETERAN RETURNS

Frank Zeltmann, one of our real old-timers, has just been discharged from the Air Force. Frank, a veteran of both World Wars, saw service in nearly every Pacific area. Welcome home, and hope to see you soon.

### CALLING ALL SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS

We want to see part of your collection at our meeting on November 2nd. Join Irving Black, Gordon Johnson, Carl Pelander and many others who specialize in this group. Don't fail! See you on Friday, November 2nd.

BRO. JAMES A. HAMILTON, PAST POTENTATE, MECCA,  
writes to our secretary. Dr. Yarry:

"Herewith enclosed please find my check in re payment of Dues for years 1945 - 1946. My membership to the Club is of little or no value as I know very little about the science of Philately. It is however worth a buck a year to be enrolled with such delightful and distinguished philatelists as are members of the Masonic Stamp Club.

I am a humble stamp collector and get a kick of it beyond description. I would like to do some trading if it were possible to make contact with some member who like myself, is not a specialist. It may be, you can help me out."