

# *The Masonic Philatelist*

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



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## STAMP COLLECTING AND OUR HOSPITALIZED

It was not very long ago when stamp collecting was looked down upon as a childish pastime. To-day medical science has accepted philately for its therapeutic value. It is helping our war wounded in restoring their interest in society, by their association with a hobby that has millions of others interested. For this alone its use as an aid in rehabilitation...stamp collecting will have justified the many years it has taken to reach this maturity.

We are to-day facing a post-war responsibility to our thousands of wounded veterans who are still in our hospitals. Through the efforts of Ernest V. Kehr, Stamp Editor "Herald Tribune" in New York, "Stamps for the Wounded" has become the means of furnishing this help. He is doing an excellent job and all stamp clubs should devote a part of their activity in helping this wonderful cause. "Stamps for the Wounded" has been invaluable in aiding those recovering from battle scars. We must assist in keeping this program active.

We have programmed a regular club meeting in conjunction with the stamp club at Veterans Hospital, 130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, New York, on Friday Dec. 5, 1947. Not alone should we provide stamps for these veterans but we should maintain, as a regular part of activities, future visits at regular intervals. Each of our members should "adopt" one or more veterans in correspondence and furnish whatever material he can gather in order to maintain this interest. The Masonic Stamp Club of New York as a Masonic organization can do no less for our wounded veterans.

-- Irwin M. Jarry

## • Meetings •

FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH - COLLECTORS CLUB BLDG., 22 E. 35th Street

NOV. 28 SPOT AUCTION SALE

DEC. 5 VISIT TO VETERANS HOSPITAL 130 Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, N.Y.

## THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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## THE STAMP COLLECTOR

*When you see a common man  
With a gleam in his eye.  
A-gazin' in a window  
At a stamp he'd like to buy,*

*You can almost feel within you  
The joy he's passing through  
Whether it be an air post set  
Or a first day cover new.*

*The stamp germ in his blood  
Is racing all around  
As he so intently watches  
This treasure he has found.*

*So into the shop he goes  
His purchase then to make  
He hopes they are the "Real McCoy"  
And not a low down fake.*

*Soon he's on the street again  
The world seems bright and gay  
The trophy now at last was his—  
Oh! What a lovely day!*

*Now this might seem quite strange  
To one who passes by—  
One who's never bought a stamp  
To catch a collector's eye.*

*But let me tell you, neighbor,  
The joy has just begun  
For it is the little guy,  
That makes this hobby fun.*

**RALPH A. FREED, JR.**

### VISIT TO VETERAN'S HOSPITAL

At our last meeting, Harry Henneman with most of the members assisting, sorted many stamps into envelopes for presenting to the hospitalized veterans on December 5th.

If you can possibly do so, please visit the hospital with us. The hospital is at 130 West Kingsbridge Road, just west of University Ave. To reach it, take the Woodlawn train on the Lexington Ave. line to Kingsbridge Road; walk four blocks west; or the Concourse Independent subway to Kingsbridge Road; walk seven blocks west; or the Broadway-Van Courtland line to 225th St. station, take the C trolley east to the hospital. Reserve Dec. 5th for the Veterans.

### Have You Returned Your Questionnaire?

Our last issue included a questionnaire to be filled in and returned to Bro. E. M. Peck, Box 302, Pleasantville, N. Y. About one-third are already in. If you haven't sent yours, please do so at once. Help the committee to prepare our new roster.

The Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee has presented to the Club's growing library a copy of Philip Roth's "Masonry in the Formation of Our Government." Thank you, Brothers. This is a fine book to read for assistance in making a Masonic collection.

### 1948 CLUB DUES

According to rumor, the Club Treasurer is willing (and able) to mail 1948 Cards to such thoughtful members who will NOW send in their Two Dollars to cover dues for the coming year. Please make out checks or Postal Notes to Harry M. Konwiser, Treasurer, 181 Claremont Ave., New York 27, N.Y.

### Masonic Cachet

We have a small lot of Centenary covers available. When these are gone, there will be no more. Send your orders to the Editor and make your check payable to Harry M. Konwiser, Treas.

|                          |        |                      |      |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------------|------|
| Complete set of 3 covers | \$1.00 | Block of 4, 3¢ stamp | 30 ¢ |
| Complete set on 1 cover  | 1.00   | Block of 4, (plate)  | 50 ¢ |

### THE SERBIAN ANTI-MASONIC STAMPS AGAIN

Much of our correspondence during the past few weeks included requests for information about the Anti-Masonic stamps issued by Serbia in 1941. We have printed the meagre information available, but there must be more! It appears that other Masonic groups look to us for information about Masonic items that relate to stamps. This particular item is in our "unfinished business" file. Can you add anything new on this subject?

### THE BIG RIDDLE!!!

Question-- What Mason has had his portrait on more printed stamps than any other person, place or thing?  
This is the problem put to us by Brother Allison M. Severe of Baltimore. His answer follows:  
DeWitt Clinton, Past Grand Master Of New York. His portrait has appeared on more stamps- cigarette stamps-- than any other person, place or thing. Over 300,000,000 packs of cigarettes are made per day. This brings a total of at least 10,956,000,000 single stamps used per year.  
We feel an argument coming up. Want to get in on it? Everybody welcome.

It is with considerable regret that we must advise the members that three of our Brothers have passed to "that House on high, not made with hands."

We mourn with their families and friends:

William H. Morris of West Cummington, Mass,

Francis T. Neideck of New York City

Edwin H. Finnegan of Bronxville, N.Y.

May their souls rest in everlasting peace.

An interesting letter from Brother John A. Mirt of Chicago, and Brothers, we're going to cultivate this fellow! He is working on a Masonic collection along lines which we have followed for several years, and he has some nice ideas. He writes, "I am delving deeply into Masonic history to obtain material for a book (I hope) "Masons in American History illustrated with postage stamps. It is surprising how many stamps can be worked into a biography". He goes on to state that it is hard work, but we gather from his letter, that it is a most satisfying job. He writes that the "masonic Philatelist" is most helpful in his work. "I also regard it as a privilege to be enrolled in the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and hope I may be able to contribute from time to time to the interesting information contained in the "Philatelist". Thank you John, we hope to hear from you soon.

You all know we welcome contributions from each member. This is a cooperative effort, and every member has a voice in it. We want to know what you collect and how you do it. We want your comment about the articles that appear and if you want to start an argument, well go to it.

## De Witt Clinton

Born- Little Britain, N.Y. March 2, 1769.

Died- Albany, N.Y. February 11, 1828.

Raised in Holland Lodge No. 16 (now No. 8 ), September 3, 1790. He was Secretary in 1792, Warden in 1793, and elected W.M.. December 24, 1793. His first assignment in Grand Lodge was that of carrying instruction to country Lodges. Although a Mason for less than five years, in 1795 he was chosen Junior Grand Warden. He served on several Grand Lodge committees and assisted individual Lodges to iron out their difficulties. In 1798 he was elected Senior Grand Warden. In 1806 he was Grand Master, serving in that office continuously until June 7, 1820, when he declined re-election.

His other Masonic Activities included: Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, General Grand High Priest, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of New York. At the time of his death he was General Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Graduated from Columbia College at 15, he then studied Law and was admitted to the Bar in 1788. His political career began with an appointment as secretary to his Uncle George Clinton, Governor of New York. Later he was elected to the Assembly, State Senate, United States Senate, Lieutenant Governor, and then Governor for four terms. He also served as Mayor of New York City for about 12 years. In 1812 he was a candidate for President, but was defeated by James Madison.

He is remembered for his efforts in building the Erie Canal and the establishment of the Public School system in the State. The ERIE CANAL laid the foundation for New York's commercial supremacy. The Public School laid the foundation for it's educational and cultural leadership. He dedicated the Canal with Masonic ceremonies during the first voyage on the Canal, begun October 25, 1825. He helped organize the State Historical Society, the State Library, the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Fine Arts and other cultural institutions.

He was Governor of the State during the Morgan excitement, but not flinching from his duty, he did everything possible to apprehend and punish those responsible for the abduction. When other Masons were seceding, he remained firm in his devotion to the Order. It can truly be said of him, "he was a great Masonic American."

CANCELLATIONS ON COLUMBIAN STAMPS  
by Harry M. Konwiser

Ralph Huntington recently pointed out that little (or less) attention is being paid to the cancellations on the United States Columbian stamps, issued January 2, 1893 (except the 8¢ stamp issued March 3, 1893).

Dated cancellations are known, that is town postmarks, circle types, with month as well as day date and year inside the circle - as used to "kill" the stamp, making its use over again practically impossible.

Huntington reports having Columbian stamps with leaves (as "killers"), with wedge type markings, with pumpkin head, pie cuts, stars, stars in circle, concentric circles, targets, star in diamond, W inside of circle, flags, doughnuts, all the standard machine markings. Not a single Masonic design is mentioned by Huntington.

There might be a Masonic marking on some of the Columbian series, although it may be that members of the Craft, even unto duly appointed postmasters, were probably paying attention to the requirements of 1860.

In 1860 - in July - Huntington tells us - the joined town-mark and killer was the order of the day, at least for First Class Mail Matter. It was not immediately evident to letter recipients of the day. By July 1870, few post offices retained their "individuality" by employing home-made markings, or cancelling devices not in accord with the regulations.

Just how or why many Columbian stamps acquired non-regulation cancellations is something for study and research. There may be a logical as well as a practical reasoning for the wedges stars, etc., etc. which were employed in great numbers.

There is one important item in assembling a collection of Columbians for their cancellations. That is the fact the lower values, the commonest stamps, are still sold at low prices. The 2-cent rate of the period made this stamp common, and it can be bought, often enough, in lots of 100 to 1,000.

Huntington suggests three important dates, in seeking dated copies. These are: first day of issue Jan. 2, 1893; World's Fair station cancellation from May 1 through Oct. 12; and Columbus Day, Oct. 12, regardless of town.

In the recent SPA story on these cancellations, Huntington noted, the Columbian series was the last of the privately-printed stamps of the United States until the Overrun Nations series of 1943 was produced. The same specialist collector commenting on the Columbian adhesives says that while these (in the lower values) are common enough, it is not a "matter of an evening" to create a collection of cancellations on these stamps.

Some years ago, Horace B. Colson compiled a list of cancellations on Columbian stamps, and these with data on the adhesives was put forth in a booklet. This booklet is no doubt available in your club library and should be consulted.

(Note to the editor: But for the Huntington story these notes would not now be offered to you. Stamp paper indexes will produce references to additional stories on Columbian stamps with only casual reference to the markings known on them. This is practically an untouched field for collecting interest. It has one special merit--no Columbian collection can be without genuine reader interest.)

Specializing collectors of the common stamps of the 1851-61 period, as well as the fanciers of the 3¢ greens and the 2¢ browns, offer reader interest only in the stressed variations in postmarks. The album pages all look alike to casual attention, since the adhesives because of their standardized colors and designs lack "color" (if you please).

A page of Columbians shows the non-collector, as well as the hobbyist, a page of American history; that is, a graphic history of Columbus at least, if not all American scenes. It occurs to me that if a state sought a commemorative stamp for its 150th or other anniversary, something more important than depicting the State House might be employed on the postage stamps. Just what a State House or a building means in the sense of commemoration, is something that no doubt, can be satisfactorily explained by collectors of commemorative stamps.

This recalls the story by the late Ralph A. Barry, in 1935. He pointed out that it was due to the advertising genius of Postmaster General John Wanamaker, (a member of the Craft) that the series of seventeen large stamps was issued. Wanamaker had two ideas in mind in issuing the series, both of them being new in the stamp world, wrote Barry. Foremost was advertising the Chicago Fair and secondly, the profit likely to accrue from selling stamps to collectors. In the



King Leopold I

### LEOPOLD I KING OF BELGIUM

Initiated in 1813 in the Lodge "zur Hoffnung" in Bern. Later he became a member of the Lodge of Friendship #6, London. He also received the Scottish Rite. In 1839 he became Protector of the Grand Orient of Belgium.



King Haakon VII

### KING HAAKON VII OF NORWAY

He became a Mason as Prince Charles in 1896.



King Frederik VIII

### FREDERICK VIII OF DENMARK

In 1870 he was Initiated in the Lodge Zerabbabel and Frederick zur gekronten Hoffnung, Copenhagen. He later became Protector of the Danish Craft.



King Christian X

### CHRISTIAN X OF DENMARK

He was made a Mason in 1889.

He was Vicar of Solomon.



Franz Joseph Haydn

### FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN (1732-1809)

He was made a Mason in 1785 in the Lodge Zum Wahren Ein tracht, in Vienna. Mozart was present when Haydn received his E.A. degree.



Empress Maria Theresa

### EMPRESS MARIA THERESE OF AUSTRIA

The Three Firing Glasses, the first Vienna Lodge was established in 1742, but was closed by order of Marie Therese in 1743. Her husband was a member and the Lodge continued to meet secretly. Freemasonry passed under the yoke of Strict Observance when the Empress died in 1780.

(Columbian cancellations, continued from page 7)

first he was successful, but the dollar values of the series proved a stumbling block and raised the wrath of collectors.

Barry commented on the speculation that developed in the higher values when "several so-called smart individuals thought they saw a chance for a clean-up and bought and bought, close to \$100,000 worth of the high values. Since there was no immediate demand, the speculators liquidated at a loss. Many of the older collectors (in age) recall having had offers of the dollar Columbian stamps, in multiple pieces, at under face! (At least they say so!)