



the Masonic Philatelist

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No. 3



Clara Barton
Born December 25, 1821
at North Oxford, Massachusetts
Died April 12, 1912
Founder American National Red Cross



THE COVER

A true Maximum Card, first day cancel at Oxford, Mass., Clara Barton's birth place, commemorative postage stamp for Clara Barton, and post card showing the same photograph of Clara Barton as the one used to model the portrait on the stamp.

The original photograph, possibly by Brady, around 1865, showed Miss Barton wearing a brooch with a white center, as on this card. At the time Miss Barton organized the American Red Cross she had the photograph retouched to show a cross, as will be seen on the stamp portrait of Miss Barton.



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● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

November 28, 1952—Maximum Card Society visit to Masonic Stamp Club.

December 5, 1952, Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30.

Clarence Brazer, Proofs and Essays. Bro. Clarence is head man in this wondrous phase of philately, do not miss this opportunity to see the marvelous material he will show.

By the Sign of the GAVEL

To speed up production of this paper, your editor has advanced his dead-line from the tenth of each month to the first. While this will get the Philatelist to you sooner, it will mean that the happenings of the meeting on the first Friday of each month will not be reported until the next following issue.

It means, too, that we cannot at this time make a complete report on the "George Washington — Mason" cachet for November 4th. However, as of this writing, all but a very few of the 625 for which we were able to locate stamps have been ordered. Because of the fine publicity accorded us by the philatelic press, for which we are very

grateful, many of the orders that have been received have been from non-members. It is very unfortunate if any member who wanted the cachet should be disappointed but the distribution is, as promised, on a first-come, first-served basis. The cachet is one of the nicest we have ever seen and everyone seems quite pleased with it. The committee that did this fine job, Bros. Brooks, Pihl and Roane, richly deserves the thanks of the Club, and it is hereby publicly extended.

Once again I would urge each of you to a greater effort at attendance at our meetings. The speakers have been showing extremely interesting material that you can ill-afford to miss. You all have the program, so how about making it a point to be at at least one meeting a month?

Arthur I. Heim.

Do you believe in Santa Claus? Well, the editor had a pleasant surprise in the mail today. A cover franked by a pair of ½ cent and a 2 cent prexies, cancelled with the pictorial cancel "1852-1952 / Santa Claus / Centennial" (Indiana) on the left bottom of the cover were the same kind of stamps, cancelled with the "Sanger / The Nation's / Christmas Tree City" (Calif.) cancel. Also on the cover, between the stamps, was a rubber stamped cachet, depicting the "Nation's Christmas Tree." Inside the cover was a card with this same cachet, this time a printed one, bearing a one cent prexy cancelled on December 25, 1950 with the "Sanger / The Nation's / Christmas Tree City" cancel. On the back of the card was a printed message "Season's Greeting" relative to the Sanger Christmas Tree and a hand autograph of the postmaster of Sanger (1950).

We note that though the 1952 killer cancel seems to be the same as the 1950 cancel, Sanger has a new dater. All this through the courtesy of Moe Luff of N. Y. C.

Henri Dunant, Swiss Mason and founder of the International Red Cross, is honored on a 30 plus 10 pfg. Germany "Helpers of Mankind" series stamp, issued October 1.

From Bro. William R. Denslow, business manager of the ROYAL ARCH MASON, comes the information that Keystone, S. D., the first place of issue of the Mount Rushmore stamp was named by a prospector after his Chapter watch charm.

THE INSIDE STRAIGHT

By HARRY WEISS

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Weekly Philatelic Gossip

Many years ago this writer read a beautiful tribute to stamps and stamp collectors. It left an impression that will never be forgotten for in later years it comes back, perhaps not exactly as originally written by one who must have traveled in the east. Many of the craft will recognize its origin. Collectors might clip this item for their album. It is inspirational, a creed or perhaps a mental philatelic ritual that should stay with sincere stamp collectors forever.

Picture yourself before examiners. Remember the thought is for the sincere stamp collectors, for the person who wishes to be treated as he treats others in philately. We read it some twenty years ago. If we knew the author's name we would gladly give him a credit line by mentioning his name. Several stamp clubs have in later years used material somewhat along these lines. Thirteen questions and their answers comprise what follows:

1. Are you a stamp collector?
I am.
2. How may I know you to be a stamp collector? Try me.
3. How will you be tried? By the perforation gauge.
4. Why by the perforation gauge? Because it is an instrument of accuracy and one of the working tools of my hobby.
5. What is a perforation gauge? A necessity to the specialist, an unmitigated nuisance to the general collector and a snare and a delusion to the novice.
6. What induced you to become a collector? That I might gather the Philatelic Treasures of foreign countries, study and realize the delight of a collector and be thereby better enabled to enjoy my leisure moments and contribute to the pleasure of my brother philatelists.
7. Where did you become a stamp collector? In the home of a boy friend who gave me a few foreign stamps from his duplicates.

8. What followed? I was divested of all my spare change by the unsolicited approval nuisance, hoodwinked by reprints, etc., in which I was led to the door of real philately by a brother collector who knew the ropes.
9. How were you received? On the sharp points of the criticisms of the specialist and the wails of the general collector, which was to teach me that the way of a collector is a torture until he makes up his mind to collect what he blame pleases and let the rest of the world go hang!
10. What did you then desire? More light in philately!
11. Did you receive it? I did.
12. How? By the study of the Catalogue and the Encyclopedia and all the back numbers of this magazine that I could beg, borrow or steal, also with the assistance of my brother collectors which was to teach me the philatelic knowledge that only comes from hard, consistent and painstaking study.
13. What did you next discover? The three great delights of a collector: The pleasure of pursuit in the search for stamps. The pride of possession and the joy of displaying my collection to my less fortunate brother collectors, but above all the fine people I have met who also collect stamps. The pleasures of helping a Junior get started in stamp collecting, in belonging to a stamp club, paying my dues and giving others of the knowledge received from stamp collecting. To never collect for investment but for the pleasure received in collecting stamps. To spread the gospel to all, to play square with everyone, be it buyer or seller, society member or fellow club brother. To be a good listener at all times. These are but a few of the things that I believe qualify me to belong to the greatest fraternity in existence today—a fellow stamp collector.

Origin of Design of Postage Stamps And Maximum Cards

F. L. ELLIS MACSA 339

It does not seem that the space of a year has gone by, but the visit of the Maximum Card Society on November 28, 1952 to the Masonic Stamp Club recalls to mind that we had the pleasure of hearing Miss Florence Palma extoll the collecting of maximum cards on November 30th of last year.

The collecting of these cards in the United States has increased many fold in the past few years, mainly because of the effort of Dr. Edgar C. Cardose, who is the founder and the present President of the Maximum Card Society. On its second year, it boasts of 500 members and expects to reach 1600 members by its third anniversary.

The Society issues a journal which is of great interest because of its promptness in card news and of its progressiveness. In fact the Society is on its toes and is going places because of that progressiveness.

There are many phases and facets to the collecting of maximum cards and because of this variety, one can include these cards in most any style or type of stamp collecting. The writer, who is interested in the origin of design of the United States postal issues, has for many years been including these post cards showing the same design as that of the stamp. Though the Card Society is one of our younger stamp societies, the collecting of these cards is not new in either the United States or in foreign countries.

Countries such as France and Germany have shown more interest in the cards than the United States collector in the past, the disinterest in the U. S. was caused by the rebuffs from the Post Office Department in years past in not allowing the stamp to be cancelled away from the side for the address on the card.

The writer has been collecting certain types of the cards for at least 26 years and has cards of the United States, dating on the stamps, from 1909. He also is of the generation that remembers the post card craze at the early part of the nineteen hundreds. Because cards that had gone through the mails were preferred and that in order to show that the cards' stamps had been cancelled, it became the custom to place the stamp on the picture

side of the card, so that the cards after being placed in the album, would not have to be removed in order to prove that the stamps had been cancelled.

Later it became the interest of some to tie on a stamp, with the same view or representation as that of the card, a cancel relative to both. Thus maximum card collecting was born. The late Alex Baumgarten of New York City introduced this phase of collecting to the writer around 1925, Mr. Baumgarten could correspond in seven languages and obtained a great many maximum cards from European sources.

Great Britain and the United States postal authorities refused to allow this misplacement of the stamp and instructed their postmasters not to cancel the stamps, other than on the address side of the card. Even today the postmaster can refuse to cancel the stamp as demanded by the maximum card collector though the Card Society has been given some official recognition to some extent by the United States Post Office Dept. on June 17, 1952 regarding the cancellation of maximum cards. No official notice regarding these cancellations has been published in the POSTAL BULLETIN.

To properly make a maximum card one must have a card with some illustration similar or the same as that of the stamp and have the stamp cancelled at some appropriate post office significant as to time or place.

Some time ago, possibly a year or so, the writer while visiting the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, saw an extensive exhibition of cards bearing postage stamps on the view side of the cards. This exhibit was labeled, "Maximum Cards," but though labeled as such, there was not one maximum card in the lot. Every card was a view card, with any kind of stamp thereon, that had been evidently sent to post card collectors of an early day.

For the writer's collection the card, to be of real interest, must have been in existence before the stamp was issued and must be of the same design as that of the stamp. This makes a somewhat limited collection, though in recent years it has increased to a greater extent than in earlier years. Now

that it is easier to obtain stamp cancels on the view side of the cards, cards are submitted in volume to the postmasters for such cancels so that more cards are coming on the market. In the past the Post Office Department has received post cards as offering the model of their design for the postage stamps.

The Iowa Centennial commemorative postage stamp of 1938 was designed after a post card view of the Old Capitol, Iowa City, Iowa, taken by F. W. Kent, University Photographer. This same maximum card view can be had on a colored view card issued by Curteich (6A-H761) and distributed by Voss News Co. The Tennessee Statehood commemorative postage stamp depicting the State Capitol at Nashville, Tennessee was designed from a post card. This card is designated below the picture "State Capitol Nashville Tenn - D-1." There are a number of view cards bearing a similar picture of the Capitol that are available for maximum use but the writer has not been able to get one of the original design use card. Curteich (4A-H331) Kropp (19766). The Post Office Department has also given credit to a post card as part of design model for the recently issued Mount Rushmore stamp.

Two other post cards used as design models for U. S. postage stamps, (though not given credit) were used for the BiCentennials of 1932, the 5 cent value of George Washington, by C. W. Peale, on New York Historical Society post card and the 10 cent value of George Washington by Stuart on a Metropolitan Museum of Art post card. This was discovered when research was done on the BiCentennial design models in 1932.

A maximum card for the 9 cent value is available by use of the post card bearing the Williams portrait of Washington. Card issued by Alexandria-Washington Lodge.

The painting of Captain John Smith on the one cent Jamestown commemorative stamp is available on post card issued by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Post Cards bearing the same picture of the Wayne Monument as on the commemorative stamp of 1929 were available for the first day of issue of the stamp but the postmaster would not cancel on the view side of the card.

Other post cards bearing the same picture as that of their respective stamps are the 5 cent National Park,

Haynes cards, (13040); 7 cent, National Park, Bradley card (522). Max Rigat's post card of the Federal Building, Chicago World's Fair (2A-H455).

New York World's Fair post card of the Trylon and Perisphere (43296).

State Capitol Building, Tallahassee, Florida commemorative postage stamp of 1945, (B-44).

Mrs. B. V. Brown post card of Valley Forge, Pa., of "Washington at Prayer" (18031).

Albert A. Lampl post card of Mother's Day stamp (5481)

American Art Post Card Co. post card for Clara Barton stamp of 1948, (2252).

Kansas City Distr. post card for the Kansas City, Missouri Centennial stamp (49978).

Capital Souvenir Co. post card of the Smithsonian Institution stamp of 1946, (W25).

Grogan Photo Co. post card of Francis Scott Key stamp of 1948.

Curteich post card of George Washington Carver, stamp of 1951, (18151).

Smith News Co. post card of the Oakland Bay bridge, 25 cent air mail stamp, (SFO 45).

There are many others and since the Card Society has been formed post cards are now made to order for recent stamps showing the design models. Some of these are available for first day cancel use, others are cancelled at various places long after the stamp had been issued.

TRAGEDY BEHIND A POSTAGE STAMP

It was just 140 years ago when tragedy struck what is now Chicago. Stationed at Fort Dearborn were 67 soldiers, under the command of Capt. Nathan Heald, and about 30 wives and children. Outside the stockade were encamped about 200 Potawatami braves. Word was received of the fall of the garrison at Mackinaw, Mich., leaving Chicago unprotected from Indians to the north and west. An order was given to abandon the fort. The party started out and was attacked by the Potawatamies. When the massacre had ended, only 27 whites remained alive; the fort was no more.

A reproduction of Fort Dearborn is pictured on a 1¢ stamp (U. S. No. 728) issued in 1933 in connection with Chicago's Century of Progress exposition. The stamp is of Masonic interest, the fort having been named after Maj. Gen. Henry Dearborn, who was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge, Ports-

mouth, N. H., in 1777. The builder and first commandant was Capt. John Whistler, a member of Nova Caesarea Lodge No. 10, Cincinnati, (now N. C. Harmony No. 2).—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

MASONIC STAMP SERVICE

"Masonry on Postage Stamps," a monthly service for Masonic stamp collectors, is being issued by John A. Mirt of Chicago.

The service provides up-to-date information on world postage stamps of Masonic significance. It also presents exclusive articles which are the result of Masonic history research, all woven in with stamps which have been issued.

All of the profits of the project are contributed to the educational fund of the Illinois Masonic Orphans Home. A sample issue may be had by sending 25¢ in coin or stamps to Bro. Mirt, 644 Melrose street, Chicago 13, Ill.

CLIPPINGS

From the WICHITA FALLS DAILY TIMES, October 19, 1952.

BOYS STAMP CLUB TO FORM AT Y.M.C.A.

Another club will be formed this week for boys in the Young Men's Christian Assc. First meeting of the stamp collectors club will be held at 7 p. m. Tuesday at the Y.M.C.A., with J. F. (Jake) Reinhardt Jr. as instructor and organizer. Reinhardt is recognized as one of the outstanding collectors in this area. Having been a collector for over twenty years he has had collections in every major show in the country and has won eight ribbons and two bronze medals in international awards in foreign countries.

A limited number of boys will be able to take advantage of the new club according to Paul Jury, associate boys work secretary. The club will meet every first and third Tuesday of each month. Reinhardt is a life member of each of the following stamp organizations: APS life 779; SPA life 207; TMPS life 35; Tex. P. Asst. life 29; Okla. P. S. life 15; NPS life 2; AAMS life pending.

Bro. Reinhardt, who is also a member of the Masonic Stamp Club, is to be congratulated for his philatelic work in furthering and sharing his hobby with others. To be a life member in so many societies surely signifies that he will always be a collector.



Bro. Herman Herst in submitting a Brazilian postage stamp, of the 1878-79 issue, (Scott #72) 100 reis, green, claims that it is cancelled with a Masonic square and compass. The cancellation in black, which does not photograph well on the green stamp, may or may not be of the Masonic type. Owing to the fact that it is off cover, it is hard to say that it was cancelled in Brazil, or that it is a square and compass.

THE STORY OF THE LIBERTY BELL

When you look upon the 2¢ stamp issued in 1926 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (No. 627), may it remind you of the Masons who founded and built this nation.

In 1729, a proposal was made to build a State House in Philadelphia. Ground for it was purchased by William Allen, Grand Master of Pennsylvania. Four years later, another Mason staked out the ground. The superstructure was raised in 1734 during the incumbency of Benjamin Franklin as Grand Master. The brick mason was Thomas Boude, first secretary of St. John's Lodge. Today, more than two centuries later, the structure is still sound—"an enduring monument to the skill of our early

brethren of St. John's Lodge, both as operative and as speculative Masons."

The building was inaugurated with a grand banquet given by Bro. Allen in 1736. In the 40 years that followed, State House became a landmark. On July 4, 1776, it became a national shrine. There on that date the Declaration of Independence was signed. First to affix his signature—and in bold script—was John Hancock, a member of the Lodge of St. Andrews, Boston. How many of the 55 who signed after him were Masons will never be established because of lost Lodge records. However, at least 15 were beyond doubt.

Three days later when the Liberty Bell was rung to proclaim the action, the bell rope was pulled by Andrew McNair, a member of Lodge No. 3, Philadelphia. The crack in the bell occurred in 1818 when it tolled the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, a Past Grand Master of Virginia.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage stamps."

PETER LASSEN, POSTMASTER

Peter Lassen, a native of Denmark, came to America in 1822, aged 29, and in due time journeyed westward, wandering about throughout California, located what became known as Lassen's Ranch on the Sacramento. This is gleaned from the C. Corwith Wagner story, in the Masonic Philatelist, April 1946. The story featured a cover, mailed at Lassens, Cal. (1851). This pioneer was killed by Indians, April 26, 1859, aged 66, according to the monument erected by Masons June 24, 1862. This monument is "about five miles south of Susanville and three miles west of Janesville, at the upper end of Elysian Valley.

The town (Lassens, a post office in the days of Peter Lassen) is a "ghost-town"—but is the home of the great Stanford University. In 1856, as a post office, Lassens, in Butte county, California, paid the postmaster (William P. Mayhew), exactly \$30. The net revenue to the Post Office Dept. was \$18. These figures applied to the year ending June, 1856. In this period postmasters were operating on a commission basis. They received 60 per cent on postage collections not exceeding \$100 per quarter; 50 per cent on next \$300; 40 per cent on next \$2000; 15 per cent on all sums over \$2,400. "The rules" indicated no postmaster could receive a larger compensation from commissions than \$500 per quarter.

The Oakland, California Tribune in a recent "Knave Feature" commented on Peter Lassen and the fact the lodge he helped organize "is the oldest lodge in the State." The charter for this lodge was obtained by Lassen, who made a trip by mule ride to Missouri and back. It now appears the lodge was moved from Peter Lassen's ranch—that is presumably the original building was moved, and is now unmarked, according to the California historians.

Collectors who feature "Masonry"—as in postage stamps and in postmarks—naturally might like a letter indicative of postal origin in Lassens, Calif. If any non-Mason has such a cover, please write the Treasurer of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, 22 East 35th street, New York 16, N. Y.—H.M.K.

EARLY MASONIC PERSONALITIES IN HAWAII

By Irwin M. Yarrick

The establishment of the first lodge in these islands was under the Supreme Council of France in 1850—Le Progres de L'Oceanie; a most active member of this lodge, King David Kalakaua—Scott #35, 40, 56, 61, 66, 67, visited the United States and was entertained by Columbian Lodge, in Boston on January 7, 1874.

His lodge met in Honolulu. The second lodge (Hawaiian) but under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California was established in 1852. A prominent member of this lodge, Prince William Pitt Leleiohoku is pictured on Scott #36, 46, 62, and 69. This lodge was also formed at Honolulu. A third lodge, Wailukee, also under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California was established shortly afterward at Maui.

Possibly the earlier rulers of Hawaii were Freemasons, but no records are available. The membership of these lodges were cosmopolitan in nature and consisted of Americans, Englishmen, Germans and Hawaiians among whom a true spirit of Masonic fellowship prevailed.

The above facts are from authentic sources.

New England Freemason 1875, pg. 44.

Proc. G. L. of Canada 1872, pgs. 244, 390.

Freemason 1881, 7/16/81.

History of Freemasonry — Vol. 3 Gould pg. 395.

FREEMASONRY AT WORK DURING GOLD RUSH

The California Gold Rush stamp (No. 954) issued in 1948 tells me a dramatic story of Freemasonry at work a century ago. It reminds me of one of the most important obligations assumed by every Mason.

The story goes back to 1848, when the news of a gold strike electrified the world. Among the thousands who flocked to the Pacific Coast by boat, on horseback, and by covered wagon were many Masons. In that year, the first Masonic Lodge was formed in California.

Some of the gold seekers became rich when they struck pay dirt. Many ran out of funds when their hopes were not realized. Sickness gripped others when cholera broke out. Misery was on every hand. Far from home, these unfortunates had to rely upon the kindness of strangers.

Masonic principles asserted themselves. At Sacramento, the Sacramento Masonic Association was formed. Uniting with Odd Fellows, a part of Sutter's Fort was purchased and converted into a hospital for the care of sick brethren.

A group of Masons pledged their credit for this humanitarian project. The needs were far beyond expectations. Lodges and individuals contributed more than \$32,000, but this was still \$14,000 short. Aid came from outside sources.

On the Masonic foundation of Brotherly Love and Relief, laid by these Masons, the Grand Lodge of California was established on April 19, 1850. That is the story the California Gold Rush stamp tells me.

An equally interesting account can be given in connection with the Gold Rush centennial series of four stamps issued by the Canal Zone on June 1, 1949. I uncovered the story while delving through century-old Masonic magazines and confirmed it through proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas of 100 years ago.

During the Gold Rush of 1849, the route across the Isthmus of Panama was the best and quickest way to get to California. However, the 60-mile trip across land and water also was fraught with hardships and dangers. Many of the travelers came down with serious fevers. Among the victims were Masons.

As was the case in California, a few

Masons—11 to be exact—banded together to aid the distressed brethren. In 1850, they obtained a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Texas to organize a lodge in Panama City. Their sole objective was to establish a Masonic missionary station to which brethren in a strange land could turn. Dues were set at the high rate of \$5 a month, but even this was insufficient to meet the heavy relief demands. Out of this developed Union Lodge, which stood as a "Good Samaritan" to aid the distressed, cherish the weak, nourish the sick and bury the dead of transient brethren.

In the 1852 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas is to be found this comment of the Grand Master: "The history of this infant lodge is one of the most interesting character. Being remote from all other lodges and at a point where the sick, the distressed and the destitute are most likely to be found, the calls upon their charity have been more numerous than in any other lodge, perhaps, in the United States. Composed of old and experienced Masons from all parts of the globe, we may confidently expect that the principles of our Order will be carried out, the hand of charity extended, and the weary pilgrim find rest and refreshment."

That is the story I read when I look over the Canal Zone stamps showing the route taken by the '49ers. They recall to me another example of Freemasonry at work.—(From Mirt's service, "Masonry on Postage Stamps.")

A THOUGHT IN PASSING

As we study our postage stamps, and learn from them the story of the priceless heritage of American liberty transmitted to us from our Masonic forefathers, let us dedicate ourselves to the task of guarding that heritage. Let our Masonry personify true Americanism.—Mirt.

Uruguay has issued a belated 75th anniversary of Universal Postal Union series, consisting of 3c, 7c and 12c stamps. The founder of the U.P.U. was Heinrich von Stephan, German Mason.

The grave of Gen. Jose San Martin, South American liberator and Mason, is in the nave of the Municipal Cathedral shown on Argentina No. 125.