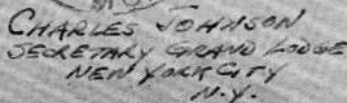




NO 2



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1976

VOL. 33

NO. 2

Published by
QUIZ GRAPHIC ARTS, INC.
Ord, Nebraska 68862

EDITOR Robert A. Smith

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC. OFFICERS FOR 1976-77

President Joseph Nathan Kane
1st Vice-President Robert L. Shallcross
2nd Vice-President Charles Morris
Secretary Robert L. Shallcross
Treasurer Charles Morris
Chaplain Louis Bernstein

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 1979
M. Herskowitz, J. Levinsohn, Bernard
Tepper

Class of 1978
Joseph Oster, Irwin M. Yarry, Emanuel M.
Reggel

Class of 1977
Robert A. Smith, Joseph Nathan Kane,
Yale J. Shapiro

All past presidents are ex-officio members
of the Board of Directors.

COMMITTEES

Cachets Robert A. Smith,
Emanuel M. Reggel
Membership Bernard Tepper
Publication Robert A. Smith
Irwin M. Yarry
Finance Charles Morris,
Joseph Munk, Emanuel Reggel
Ritual Irwin M. Yarry,
Robert A. Smith
Program and Exhibition Irwin M. Yarry
Dinner Irwin M. Yarry

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was
organized in 1934 for the purpose of encour-
aging research and study in Masonic Philate-
ly, 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

A PHILATELIC TRIBUTE TO A MASONIC STAMP CLUB FOUNDER

By Herman Herst, Jr.

The Masonic Stamp Club dates back
to the 1930s. It would be nice if some
time one of our real old timers would
dig up the names of the founders. We
joined quite early, and knew some of
them, but some had passed on before
our being raised to the sublime degree
of Master Mason.

We recall the names of two of the
founders, since we knew them in-
timately. One was Harry M. Konwiser,
and the other Ralph M. Barry. Bro.
Konwiser was the Editor of the Stamp-
less Cover Catalog, and did a great
deal to make this now popular branch
of philately, once totally ignored,
popular. Bro. Barry was of course the
Dean of Philatelic Writers, with his
weekly column in the New York Herald-
Tribune.

Then there was another member of
the Craft whom we may have met, but
whom we never got to know closely, since
he died quite early in the Club's history.
We refer to Charles Johnson, Secretary
of the Grand Lodge of New York.

We have no idea how the postal card
shown came into our possession. No
doubt it was Bro. Johnson's property
at one time. There is nothing written
on the back but "Delbert S. Decker,
P.M.", without any indication as to the
Post Office of which Mr. Decker was
Postmaster. The card, as will be noted,
is addressed to Charles Johnson,
Secretary Grand Lodge, New York, N.Y.

It bears four 1c Presidential stamps,
each tied by a different post office, with
a fifth strike on the one cent Jefferson
stamp that also helped frank the card.
Each postmark contributes one word to
the full address on the card. We are
listing them, together with the date each

Continued on page 5

For A Price List
of Available

MASONIC COVERS PAST AND PRESENT

Write to

MASONIC CACHETS

451 WEST 46th STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

America's First Great Sea Fighter

JOHN PAUL JONES

Reprinted from the Northern Light,
September, 1975

By Charles W. E. Morris, 32*



In the crypt below the domed chapel of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis is a magnificent tomb of marble and porphyry. In it repose the mortal remains of America's first great sea fighter, John Paul Jones.

He was born John Paul on July 6, 1747, in the small fishing village of Arbigland, Parish of Kirkbean, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, on the shore of the Solway Firth. This was the country of William Wallace, Robert Bruce, John Knox, and Robert Burns. Its people still smarted from the crushing blow to their hopes for independence inflicted by the English under George II at Culloden Moor the previous year.

John's father, a landscape gardener, worked for Dr. Robert Craik, a member of Parliament. His mother, Jeannie Macduff, the daughter of a gunsmith, worked for Mrs. Craik. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Craik came to Alexandria, Virginia, and became a friend and physician to George Washington.

At the age of 14, John was an apprentice on the brig *Friendship* and made a voyage to Virginia. On this trip he visited Fredericksburg and met the Rev. Patrick Henry, rector of the Church of England and uncle of his namesake, the fiery orator of the Revolution. For the next several years John Paul made a number of voyages to America and the West Indies, earning his promotion to first mate while still in his teens.

On his return to England he apparently obtained a midshipman's warrant in the British Navy, through the influence of the Duke of Queensbury. Lacking the social connections which in those days was almost a requisite for rapid promotion, John apparently recognized his deficiency and resigned from the Navy. He went back into the merchant service as a mate on a vessel engaged in the slave trade. Resigning a couple of years later, he joined a company of actors on the island of Jamaica. This experience was to stand him in good stead, for it taught him a grasp of correct speech and diction which is

reflected in his writings and letters. He learned to express himself lucidly in the presence of an audience, although his contemporaries were conscious at times of a certain aloofness, which may have been accounted for by his proud and introspective nature.

Returning to Scotland he applied for and was received into membership of the Masonic lodge in Kirkcudbright. The following year, while in command of the trading vessel *Belsey*, anchored off the island of Tobago in the West Indies, he unintentionally killed a sailor who attacked him with a club. Recognizing the possibility of being accused of manslaughter he hurriedly departed.

It was about this period that his elder brother, who had been living in America, died; and in 1713, John inherited his estate. Shortly afterward he made the acquaintance of two socially prominent brothers, Wylie and Allen Jones of Edenton, N.C. The brothers had been educated at Eton and lived a life of leisureliness. As a guest in their home John Paul adopted the standards of gentility, a love of good books, and an insight into politics.

It has been suggested by some biographers that the young sea captain was so impressed by his hosts that he took their name and was ever afterward known as John Paul Jones. It is possible that there may be another reason for his taking the name of Jones. Soon after he killed the sailor who attacked him in Tobago, a young man from Martha's Vineyard named Chase, sought him out and informed him that a vessel came to the Vineyard and put ashore an officer for burial. Chase, a carpenter, built the coffin. The captain of the ship told him that the name of the deceased was Paul Jones and that he believed himself the illegitimate son of the Earl of Selkirk. Perhaps John Paul sought another identity and the idea of posing as a son of a nobleman may have touched his vanity.

On October 3, 1775, the Continental Congress voted to purchase two warships, hopefully to intercept British

merchant vessels and transports en route for Boston. The Lexington and the Reprisal were bought and fitted out as privateers. Later it was decided to increase the number of ships to 13.

The original Marine Committee consisting of John Adams, Stephen Hopkins, Richard Henry Lee, and Joseph Hewes had the responsibility of selecting the officers to command the ships. John Barry was given command of the Lexington, a name to become famous in American Naval history. Jones at the age of 29 was appointed a senior naval lieutenant on December 22, 1775. He was assigned the task of arming and manning the flagship Alfred moored at Philadelphia.

On May 19, 1776, Jones was given command of the Providence. Soon afterward he was in an engagement with the British frigate Cerberus and after an exchange of shots was lucky enough to escape. On August 8, 1776, he received his Captain's commission, signed by John Hancock, and was given command of the Ranger, a ship of 18 guns. His first mission was the carrying of dispatches to France.

Following the completion of his mission he made a daring foray into English coastal waters raiding the port of Whitehaven and capturing the Drake, a 20-gun ship, after an hour's battle. Jones sailed his prize into a French port and in Paris he met with Benjamin Franklin, a member of the American Commission.

Franklin, apparently was favorably impressed by the daring young Scot and was instrumental in introducing him to the Duke and Duchess of Chartres. The Duke was the Grand Master of all Masonic lodges in France. The Duchess was the leader in an "adoptive" lodge of women freemasons affiliated with the Lodge of Candour. Franklin was a luminary of the Lodge of Nine Sisters. Among its members were Voltaire, Helvetius the philosopher, and Houdon the sculptor. Jones is reported to have been a frequent visitor.

Through the influence of the Duchess, Jones was granted an audience with King Louis XVI. The King put at his disposal the 40-gun ship Duras which Jones renamed the Bon Homme Richard in tribute to Benjamin Franklin. After making necessary repairs and modifications, Jones in company with a smaller vessel, the Alliance, sailed in quest of enemy ships. Off the English coast he fell in with the British 50-gun Serapis and the 28-gun Countess of Scarborough. These ships were escorting a 40-ship convoy. A desperate three and one-half hour battle ensued. Two of his guns burst at the first broadside, killing or wounding their crews. Knowing he

was outranged and outgunned, Jones tried to come alongside his opponent to board her but his first attempt failed.

On the second attempt the Richard crashed into the Serapis, and grappling irons locked the ships in a death grip. Realizing that his enemy was badly damaged Captain Pearson hailed, "Have you struck?"

Jones' response was, "I have not yet begun to fight."

Apocryphal or not, this slogan has been in the American lexicon ever since.

Fierce hand-to-hand fighting on the deck of the Serapis ensued and suddenly it was discovered that grenades had set the Bon Homme Richard afire. After many of his men were killed or wounded, Captain Pearson surrendered. Jones transferred his men to the English ship and the following day the Bon Homme Richard sank. The Countess of Scarborough had beaten her opponent and sailed away with the convoy.

Although the Serapis had sustained a great deal of damage and was leaking severely, Jones successfully sailed her into Dutch waters, anchoring in the Texel. Later, during a storm he was able to elude the blockading British ships and escape to Lorient. For his exploits Louis XVI presented him with a gold-hilted sword and the royal order of military merit, and made him a chevalier of France.

In December 1780, he sailed for the United States and arrived in Philadelphia February 18, 1781. After much delay and a good deal of political chicanery he obtained command of the first ship of the line, the America, but it was turned over to the French to replace the Magnifique which had been wrecked in Boston Harbor.

In November 1783, he was sent to Paris as agent for the prizes captured in European waters under his own command. He apparently engaged in many social affairs and private business ventures, but he was successful in collecting the prize money. He returned to America in 1787 and was awarded a gold medal from Congress in recognition of his services.

On November 11, 1787, he sailed for Europe never to return. On April 8, 1788, Jones wrote Jefferson hinting that he was going to St. Petersburg. The Empress Catherine the Great was patron of the Masonic Lodge of Clío of Moscow. In May 1788, he was presented at Court to Catherine where he was warmly received. He was offered the post of Rear Admiral, which he accepted, conditional to retaining his American citizenship and standing as an officer.

He took part in the Black Sea actions against the Turks but the inefficiency of the Russian officers and the jealousy

toward him shown by Prince Potemkin, a boorish unpredictable scoundrel, completely disillusioned him. After a miserable 6 months he left Russia and went to Warsaw for a short stay.

He was back in Paris by May of 1790, and Gouverneur Morris reported that he was much disturbed with the political situation in the country. Morris noted signs of his aging, though at the time Jones was only 43. In July 1792, he was visited by Gouverneur Morris. A few days later, Col. Samuel Blackden of South Carolina and Major Beauport of the French Army came to see him. Concerned by his physical condition they sent for Gouverneur Morris to whom Jones dictated his last will and testament. Jones died the same day, July 18, at the age of 45. His body was placed in a leaden coffin and taken to the St. Louis Protestant Cemetery for foreigners. Military honors including the firing of the customary three volleys were accorded him in the presence of Col. Blackden and Major J. C. Mountflorencia, both former U.S. Army officers.

In 1834, Congress authorized the naming of a ship after him; and in 1845 George Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy and founder of the Naval Academy, requested permission to have the body returned to the United States. Complications arose and the project languished, and the burial place was almost forgotten.

However, in 1899 General Horace Porter, U.S. Ambassador to France, determined to find the body of Jones at his own expense. Houses had been built on much of the site of the old Protestant cemetery, but finally the leaden casket was discovered and the body was in a remarkable good state of preservation. The work of excavating had begun in 1905, and President Theodore Roosevelt ordered Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee to proceed with a squadron to France and bring back the body.

On April 24, 1906, commitment exercises were held at Annapolis with addresses by the President, Secretary of the Navy Charles J. Bonaparte, and French Ambassador J. J. Jusserand. Also present were General Porter and Governor Warfield of Maryland. The casket lay on a trestle behind a stairway in Bancroft Hall for seven years, but on January 26, 1913, the coffin was placed in its present place in the chapel of the Naval Academy. On his tomb are inscribed the names of the ships he made famous, the *Ranger*, the *Bon Homme Richard*, the *Alliance*, and the *Ariel*.

Sixty years have passed since the doughty little Scot was finally laid to rest but his example may have served

to inspire several generations of famous navy fighters — men such as Sims, King, Nimitz, Halsey, Spruance, Mitcher, and a host of others. Today his name is commemorated on a sleek, guided-missile destroyer carrying more destructive fire power than John Paul Jones could ever have imagined.

A PHILATELIC TRIBUTE . . .

Continued from page 2

Post Office handstamped the card, should the illustration not show these things clearly:

CHARLES, North Carolina	Dec. 22 1939
JOHNSON, New York	Dec. 16 1939
GRAND, Oklahoma	Jan. 16 1940
LODGE, Missouri	Jan. 10 1940
SECRETARY, Maryland	Jan. 22 1940

The card, with this article, will be presented to the Masonic Stamp Club of New York with the writer's compliments, as a memorial and tribute to those philatelist - Masons who founded this organization approximately forty years ago.

First Meeting of the Masonic Philatelic Club of G.B.

During the Plymouth Congress, the recently - formed Masonic Philatelic Club of G. B. held its first meeting June 3rd, at the Guildhall and the occasion will be marked by a souvenir cover which will be available from June 2nd, the day of issue of Britain's 11p Benjamin Franklin stamp commemorating the U.S. Bicentennial. Serviced covers, each at 50p, are offered as follows:— posted June 2nd with G.P.O. First Day of Issue Plymouth, cancellation; posted June 2nd with Congress U.S. Bicentennial Day cancellation; posted June 3rd with Congress Seafarers' Day cancellation.

Orders, with remittances payable to the Masonic Philatelic Club of G.B., should be forwarded immediately to T. J. Fray, 76 Merrivale Road, Beacon Park, Plymouth. Profits will be shared by the club and a selected charity.

Submitted by Herman Herst, Jr.

FREE FRANKS

An interesting sideline to collecting Masonic Philately is Congressional Free Franks of Congressmen and Senators who are members of the fraternity.

It has been part of my collection to obtain such envelopes from our Brothers and will show a few that I received.

Robert A. Smith

1907 Jamestown Commemorative Series

Continued from Sept./Oct. issue

It is suggested that postmasters cause announcement of the foregoing to be made in the newspapers if it can be done as a news item without expense to the Department.

The attention of postmasters is particularly directed to the instructions of September 19, 1907, pages 9 and 10 of the October supplement to the 1907 Postal Guide.

If any postmaster finds that he cannot dispose of his stock of Jamestown commemorative postage stamps by November 30, he should so advise the Third Assistant Postmaster - General immediately, stating the quantity that is likely to remain unsold, when the stamps will be transferred to another post-office.

The shifting of postage stamps from post-office to post-office in late 1907 satisfied the demand for this popular series only temporarily. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced many more copies of all values during 1908 and 1909. The Annual Reports of the Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the period ending June 30, carefully itemize the number of stamps delivered to postmasters during the fiscal years of 1907, 1908 and 1909.

Fiscal Year Ending —

	1c	2c	5c
— June 30, 1907	46,776,000	98,899,300	5,341,000
— June 30, 1908	30,730,000	49,419,900	2,322,200
— June 30, 1909	222,494	1,178,794	316,494
	77,728,494	149,497,994	7,979,694

Total figures for quantities issued, as summarized in the fifty-fourth (1976) Edition of the Scott Specialized Catalogue differ from those mentioned above.

Quantity Difference between B.E.P. & Scott figures	1c 77,728,794 300	2c 149,497,994 0	5c 7,980,594 900
--	-------------------------	------------------------	------------------------

Which set of figures (if either) is correct? At this writing, no answer is available. Can any readers help? Please contact the writer with your ideas.

Focusing on the five-cent value again, B.E.P. statistics indicate that only 53,410 sheets were distributed between early May and June 30, 1907. In Part II of this series, first day activities in several cities around the country have been discussed. The reconstruction of shipment records and earliest known usages is continuing for many of the large cities that most likely would have received early shipments. The results of this survey will appear in upcoming installments.

The first day for the highest value theoretically could have been in late

April. However, due to a delay at the Bureau, the first 5c stamps were not shipped until May 9. The Smithsonian's Postal Service files give us this date. It is confirmed by adding one day to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's May 8 date (as was done with the one- and two-cent values) in Part I of this series.

These two slivers of information are the only two solid bits of information that point to any specific first day date. No firm reference to the issuance of the five-cent value has been uncovered in any of the newspapers of the time. The May 9 date "holds quite a bit of water" with one exception.

The May 10, 1907 cover, mentioned in Part I of this series is herewith described. All three stamps are tied to an embossed envelope (Scott No. U 395) from the Norfolk Exposition Station registered and backstamped upon receipt in Springfield, Mass. The envelope is fresh and pristine. The stamps are of the usual centering, average to fine, and of brilliant color. Apparently the cover has not seen the light of day for quite some time. A black segmented cork cancellation ties the stamps to this philatelic cover. IT IS NEATLY OPENED AT THE BOTTOM WITH CONTENTS REMOVED. Very little wear is apparent and no evidence of ever having carried large, bulky contents is

present. Quite probably a brief note or letter was enclosed describing circumstances surrounding the cover's origin. Unfortunately it's whereabouts is unknown.

Mr. W. E. Johnson, the addressee, was member #1947 in the American Philatelic Society in the early 1900s. His address "57 Thompson St. Springfield, Mass", is confirmed by noting an identical address in an early A.P.S. directory. The sender, R. C. Munroe, was also an A.P.S. member (#1732). Robert C. Munroe, again according to the A.P.S. directory, lived at 40 Massachusetts Avenue in Springfield, Mass. On the back of the envelope Munroe wrote "R. C. Munroe, 155 Bute St., Norfolk, Va." Most certainly this

was his address while attending the Jamestown Exposition. Was this an address of a hotel or private residence? One poke in the dark failed. No A.P.S. member lived at the Bute Street address!

By piecing all of this together, it seems that Robert Munroe sent his philatelic friend, W. E. Johnson, a very interesting combination cover. Did Munroe prepare a first day cover of the five cent value or was he preparing a souvenir of the Jamestown Exposition and a "second day cover"? To date, this is the earliest known usage of the five cent value on cover. Any surviving five cent values of this issue cancelled in May, 1907 deserve special note. Few such covers exist, as many of the stamps were removed from original cover and sold as used stamps.

Covers of Spurious Origin

In any thorough discussion of first day cover rarities, forgers rear their ugly heads, display their misapplied talents, and produce covers designed to fool the innocent, uninformed or greedy purchaser. It is sad to report that all these Jamestown stamps have been the victims of evil first day cover forgers.

As the body of first day cover knowledge has grown and as articles have been written, the cover maven has risen from the quagmire of ignorance. The tales of sadness related below have fooled two of the most knowledgeable collectors in the country. In their earlier collecting days (during the 1960s), these covers were acquired for large sums of money. Today, these are important "reference" items, carefully set aside and identified as forgeries.

The most clever forgery identified to-date bears a copy of the one-cent value on a pencil erased postcard, cancelled in Norfolk, Virginia on April 25, 1907 (the day before the correct first day). The postcard, measuring 5½" X 3½" shows the site of the first theatre in America in Williamsburg, Virginia, and the Audrey House, also in Williamsburg. On the picture side of the postcard, the following message is written, "Left this place early this morning for Norfolk. Rough weather. (signed) Earl". The sender dated his message — "April 25 — '07". The postmark, a single circle measuring 15/16th of an inch in diameter, ties the stamp to the card.

This picture postcard was submitted to the Philatelic Foundation as patient number 32 056. On January 5, 1970, an opinion was expressed stating "that the stamp did not originate on this postcard and the cancellation is counterfeit".

The story of this forgery is quite interesting. In the early 1960s, the postcard was sold to its present owner. No cer-

tificate was obtained until the collector sold a large portion of his holdings to a major New York City auction dealer. Many rarities from this collection (all genuine) were sold either at auction or via private treaty. The Jamestown card "didn't seem right" to the dealer, so off it went to the Philatelic Foundation. When the "thumbs down" opinion was received, the postcard was returned to its original owner. The author has borrowed this postcard for research purposes and examined it carefully. It has been returned to its owner and rests in the disappointed owner's holdings.

Adam K. Bert, in Volume 18, Number 1 (Jan/Feb., 1973) number of FIRST DAYS describes four covers of dubious origin. An extensive description of these covers, complete with illustration, appears on pages 8, 9, and 10 of Mr. Bert's well written article. This same article describes a fake five cent value cancelled on May 3. Unfortunately, this cover is not illustrated.

The last group of forgeries are addressed to, "H. A. Robinette, 15 3rd St., N.E., Washington, D.C. According to Adam Bert, Robinette worked for H. F. Colman in 1907. In that year, Colman's business was located at 725 11th Street N.W. The N.E. (northeast) address, according to all available information, was never a Colman or Robinette business address. Quite fortunately, the forger tipped his hand by not doing all of his homework!

The circular date cancellation on each of the three covers measures one inch in diameter. They are very similar in overall appearance to the covers described in Adam Bert's article (see above). However, the hour cancel on these covers for the one and two cent values is "3.M" (versus "1.M" on those described in Mr. Bert's article). The five cent value is cancelled and tied to the cover by a very crude seven line killer, with "EXPOSITION STA." appearing between the third and fifth horizontal bars on the killer.

The first day cover collecting community should be very thankful that these particular covers are safely "out of circulation". As must always be stressed, collectors should exercise caution when considering purchase of classic first day covers. The more knowledge one has acquired about what cancellations of the period exist, the better one is equipped to evaluate a particular cover. Opinions should be sought from reputable sources such as the American First Day Cover Society Expertizing Committee and the Philatelic Foundation.

Part IV of this series will present a series of photographs. First Day covers

and selected early uses will be pictured and discussed.

Additional installments in this series are being prepared. Your comments,

ideas and contributions are encouraged. Please send all letters to: Henry B. Scheuer, P.O. Box 535, Madison Square Station, New York, N.Y. 10010.

Masonic



Philately

GENE TAYLOR
Congressman - Seventh District, Missouri

Born near Sarcosie, Missouri February 10, 1928.

7th District of Missouri

First elected to the 93rd Congress, November 7, 1972
and reelected to the 94th Congress on November 5, 1974.

Brother Taylor is also a member of the Scottish Rite
and the Shrine.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

M.C.

Robert A. Smith, Master
43-15 45th Street
Long Island City, N.Y. 11104