

MASONIC ASSOCIATIONS *On*



UNITED STATES PRIVATE DIE PROPRIETARY STAMPS



The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

In the latter part of the 1800s, the US Government placed a tax on certain products that needed to be paid with the purchase of revenue stamps. The companies selling these products were required to place a stamp on the product thereby proving the tax was paid.

An idea was presented to the government and approved whereby the companies might design their own stamps, providing a means of advertising. The process entailed having a die made and sent to the government, or providing artwork for the preparation of a die by the government—both at the company's expense. The government retained the die and produced stamps as ordered by the companies. It provided a discount (5% for quantities up to 500, and 10% over 500) on the face value of the stamps.

Many companies adopted the plan and designed stamps showing people, animals, product ads, symbols, and various artistic renderings.

In some cases, the people depicted were Freemasons or the objects shown had inadvertent Masonic association. As far as can be ascertained, nothing was intentionally designed with the Masonic Order in mind.

Many companies used an image of their owner or company official. For certain some, or many, of these men were Freemasons, but it remains to be determined who they were.

The stamps provided in this presentation show just one example of those that have a known Masonic association. Variations by the same company have been excluded, but the same design used by a different company is shown.

A remarkable website has been created on this subject and the reader is encouraged to visit it and see if any other Masonic related examples are provided—especially where it is known that an individual shown was a Freemason.

<http://www.rdhinstl.com/mm/mmb1.htm>

The stamps shown in this presentation are in order by the Scott Catalog number. We leave it to the reader to identify the Masonic-related material.

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 14

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 32

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 40

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 61

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 109

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 120

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 125

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 148

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 152

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 169

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 172

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RO 180

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RS 56

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RS 63

Private Die Proprietary Stamps



USA No. RT 12