



The MASONIC STAMP COLLECTOR

Journal of the Masonic Stamp Unit of the American Topical Association, published bi-monthly. Address all letters and submit material to the Editor, Nicholas G. Koutoulis, 4659 Sandidwood Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70127.

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WHOLE NO. 2

FROM THE EDITOR

The new Masonic Stamp Unit is well underway. It is very gratifying and heart warming to experience such a tremendous response. We have presently over 140 members in the Unit. To become a member it is not a prerequisite to be a stamp collector or to collect stamps pertaining to Masonry. Many brothers who are interested in more Masonic Light and Masonic research will find our newsletter quite useful to them.

I would like to apologize to some of our members for not getting No. 1 issue of the Masonic membership would grow so fast and I only had printed 100 copies. Therefore, it necessitated a second printing. I do hope by now all of you received the No. 1 issue. I also wish to thank all of you who took out the time to drop me few lines with your comments of approval concerning the first issue of the Masonic Stamp Collector. Your kind remarks are most encouraging and appreciated. Unfortunately time does not permit me to thank each one of you individually. Some of you wrote me about different types of articles you would like to see appeared in the newsletter. say that eventually all phases Remember, although this paper is a specialized to Masonry, still it is a general publication on the subject. Some articles will appeal and be helpful to you and some will not, depending, of course, on the type of your collecting interest. However, whether or not any or all articles will be helpful to you, they will, at least, I hope, broaden the scope of your Masonic knowledge and trust you will find it interesting.

QUESTIONNAIRE: I am enclosing with this issue a questionnaire. I would like very much to get to know you better, at least to know what are your collecting interests and some other information about you. I believe this questionnaire will help me greatly for my future guidance. Please do not feel offended. If you think you do not care to answer the questions in whole or in part, do not feel obliged to do so. However, I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in taking out few moments of your time to fill in the questionnaire and mailing it back to me promptly. Thank you.

MASONIC COVER CLUB: In the questionnaire there is one part pertaining to Masonic Cover Club and your interest. If a good number of our membership wishes this service we will attempt to institute it beginning next year. For this reason, especially, I would like to have the questionnaire back with your comments.

MASONIC CACHETS: The Masonic Stamp Club of New York has recently issued three interesting Masonic first day covers honoring famous Masons: Thomas Marshall,

Indiana Statehood stamp; Oliver H. Kelly, National Grange stamp; DeWitt Clinton, Erie Canal stamp. Each of these Masons were prominent in their day for accomplishments that made history in our Country. The covers may be obtained from Masonic Cachets, Pleasantville, New York 10570, for the set of 3 covers at \$1.00. . . . Indiana Masonic Cover; the Grand Lodge of Indiana will issue a cachet January 12, 1968 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Lodge at Madison, Indiana. Cover will be franked with the Indiana stamp. Schofield House, where the first meeting of the Lodge was held, is featured on the cachet. A card with pertinent information about the founding of the Grand Lodge will be enclosed. Covers available at 3 for \$1.00 from Sesqui Covers, Box 1005, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Orders should include addressed gum labels or a stamped and addressed larger envelope. . . .

The No. 1 issue of the Masonic Stamp Collector included William H. Seward as Anti-Mason connecting him with the 88 Alaska Centenary of Purchase stamp. I would like to point out that stamps No. 370 and 371 depicting could also be included to illustrate this subject.

THANKS: to Brother Jerry R. Erikson, P. O. Box 424, Pico Rivera, Calif. 90660 for sending the Masonic Stamp Unit reprinted articles on Alexander Joy Cartwright, Face of the 89 and 90th Congress, Fraternal Footballers, Speakers of the House and Brothers of the Bat. Those items, written by Brother Erikson, are very interesting reading material with much researched information. If any members is interested in procuring all or any of the above write to Brother Erikson. The cost is nominal. . . . to Brother Albert Harris, Fort Worth, Texas for Masonic Penny and photo postcards of various events.

U. S. TYPEWRITER STAMP? The American Topical Association and TOPEX '68 Committee solicits the aid of fellow philatelists to petition Washington for a new U.S. commemorative honoring the Centenary of the Typewriter in 1968. Write to Postmaster Lawrence F. O'Brien, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. 20260; or to your Representative in the House; and to your Senator and ask them to support issuance of a Typewriter Centennial stamp on Friday, June 21, 1968 opening day of TOPEX '68. The first practical typewriter was invented in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and patented by Christopher Latham Sholes on June 23, 1868.

TOPEX '68 PROSPECTUS READY! "TOPEX GREAT IN '68" spearheaded by the dynamic 50-member strong home Chapter--The Wisconsin Chapter No. 5 of the ATA promises to be the major American philatelic exhibition of 1968 - June 21-22-23 at the Sheraton-Schroeder hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Vidiforms Co., makers of Shergard Mounts, will present their only 1968 Shergard Mount Annual Awards totaling \$500 for exhibits with best visual appeal. Emphasis will be on originality of presentation, method of mounting, neatness, condition of material and eye appeal. The three prizes are first \$250, second \$150, third \$100. Prospectus and details of ATA's TOPEX '68 may be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope or IRC to Clarence Belmann, General Chairman, P. O. Box 4140, Milwaukee, Wis. 53210. . . . Speaking about TOPEX I would like to urge as many of our members as possible to start thinking now about exhibiting their Masonic collection at Topex next year. The Unit has a beautiful traveling plaque to be presented to the best Masonic collection. We are also thinking of preparing attractive Masonic award certificates to be presented at various philatelic exhibitions to the best Masonic collections. This, we believe, will help promote Masonic Philately.

PERTAINING TO MASONIC SYMBOLS

Brother Leslie E. Woodworth, Cedar Ridge, California, submitted the following pertaining to symbols on stamps appearing on U. S. Revenue: R331 (Mill-Seeding Eye);

RO21 (Maltese Cross); RO161 (Clasped hands); RO172 (Star); RO106 (Square and Compasses); RS242 (Eye). Also RO14 (Eye). Thanks to Brother Woodworth for supplying us with this interesting information.

WASHINGTON'S AMBIBIOUS REGIMENT



Mass movement of troops in the days of the American Revolution, especially when rivers had to be crossed, was often a slow and difficult task.

Brig. General John Glover, a native of Salem, Mass. was of the utmost assistance to Washington in this respect. He commanded the 14th regiment, one of the first as well as one of the best in the Continental Army, composed almost entirely of fishermen skilled in the handling of boats. When necessary to cross a large river, Gen. Glover's men could be relied upon to commandeer and operate sufficient numbers of boats to ferry the army across in the most efficient way.

An excellent example of such an operation on a postage stamp is on the U. S. No. 1003 of 1951 commemorating the Battle of Brooklyn. A considerable number of small boats of various descriptions manned by members of Glover's group is seen evacuating the Americans from Brooklyn to the opposite side of the East River.

Another occasion of historical importance was when Glover and his 'navy' took Washington's army across the Delaware to surprise the enemy at Trenton.

John Glover was a member of Philanthropic Lodge, Marblehead, Mass. He is recorded as a visiting brother at St. John's Lodge, Providence, R.I., when he was stationed there.

Submitted by Marshall S. Loke, Rochester, New York.

TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO

Poland issued in October two stamps to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a national hero who was one of George Washington's officers during the American Revolution and afterward was a leader in Poland's unsuccessful attempt to gain its independence.

Kosciuszko, who was born in 1746 in what is now Poland and died in 1817 in Switzerland, was an alumnus of the School of the Knights of Warsaw and studied military engineering in Paris. He came to America in 1775 to aid in the revolution, serving as a colonel under Washington and attaining the rank of brigadier general before returning to Poland.

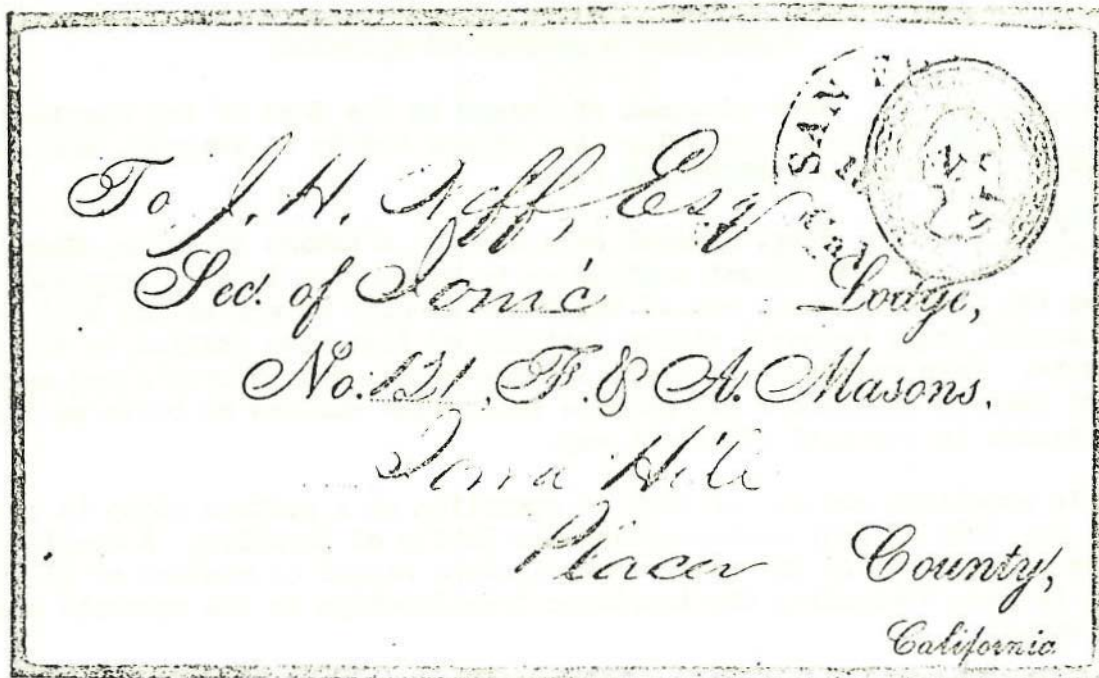
He was granted American citizenship in 1783 for his service in the Revolution and the 150th anniversary of this was marked in 1933 by the release of a 5¢ US commemorative (Scott's No. 734) which reproduces the Kosciuszko statue in Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C.

After his return to Poland he was one of the organizers of the Polish Army. He led the Uprising of the National Liberation in 1794 and when it failed he was forced to seek sanctuary in Switzerland where he spent the rest of his life.

Although he is often referred to as a Mason, there is no definite proof of his membership. Kosciuszko Lodge, No. 1035 of N.Y.C. was organized, May 5, 1936, and named in his honor, being the only Polish lodge in the world.

MASONIC POSTAL HISTORY
IONIC LODGE, PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

By M. G. Neutroulis



One of my Masonic Philatelic specialties is collecting Masonic Postal History which includes old Masonic covers, corner cards, Masonic cancellations, old Lodge notices postally used and the like. The above is one of these Masonic covers. I would like to say that these covers do not come by easily. There are few in existence and the demand seems to be quite great. However, from time to time I am able to obtain these covers for my collection, which gives me a great deal of pleasure. I also love to research and find out the background of these covers.

This cover is addressed to J. H. Neff, Esq. (full name, Jacob Hart Neff), Sec. of Ionic Lodge, No. 121, F. & A. Masons, Iowa Hill, Placer County, California. The cover originated from the Grand Lodge of California at San Francisco, June 1, 1858. The lines on the face of the cover and the cancellation for this period are scarce.

Neff was a famous person. He was one time President of the Miners Association of California, was born in Strasburg, Penna., October 13, 1830. He began to migrate westward at an early age, living first in Ohio, then in Iowa, before pushing on to Placer County, California in 1860. At the time of his death, in 1909, he had a long record of public service behind him. In 1867 and 1868, he was Sheriff of Placer County, and from 1871 to 1875 State Senator. And, to these offices, he added eight years as State Prison Director, one year as Trustee of the State Library, and four years as Lieutenant Governor of the State.

Neff was made a Mason in Wisconsin Hill Lodge No. 78 (now extinct), in 1855, and became a charter member of Ionic Lodge No. 121, of Iowa Hill (now extinct), in 1857. He was elected Secretary of this Lodge in 1858, and Master in 1859, continuing in the office till 1864. Departing from Ionic Lodge in 1866, he affiliated with Church Lodge and was elected Master the next year. Neff rose to Junior Grand Master in 1875, to Grand High Priest in 1878, and to Grand Commander in 1882. He remained a bachelor all his life and, at the time his estate was distributed in 1910, the Masonic Homes in California received a bequest of \$12,688.97.

New York Bay, marking the marriage of the waters. The first boats were of 30-ton capacity, later to be replaced by 90-foot, 100-ton capacity giants. The Erie Canal provided low cost transportation that opened the Midwest and made New York City a great port. Freight previously hauled overland had cost \$23 per hundred ton-miles. It now costs \$1 by water. The Canal has been enlarged and rescutted. It is now the Erie Division of the Barge System, which was constructed 1900-1917, and the original four-foot depth now is 12.

This stamp may be included in a Masonic collection under special events. Of course, the champion of the canal, Governor De Witt Clinton, was a Mason and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. Much information has been written earlier about Clinton's distinguished Masonic career.

MASONIC SYMBOLS - ALPHA AND OMEGA

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, referred to in the Royal Master and some of the advanced degrees. They are explained by this passage in Revelations (xviii, 13): "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." Alpha and Omega is, therefore, one of the appellations of God, equivalent to the beginning and end of all things, and so referred to in Isaiah (xlii, 6), "I am the first and I am the last."

Alpha and Omega are shown on Germany No. 851. Also Liechtenstein issued recently a set of three stamps with religious symbols one of which depicts the symbols of Alpha and Omega.

SHADRACH BOND

First Governor of Illinois. b. November 24, 1773 in Frederick Co., Md. He moved to Kaskaskia, Ill., then in Indiana territory and was a member of the legislature of the Illinois territory and its first delegate to Congress, serving from 1812-14. In 1814 he was appointed receiver of public lands and when Illinois became a state he was elected its first governor, serving 1818-22.

Bond was initiated in Temple Lodge No. 26, Reisterstown, Md. and affiliated with Western Star Lodge No. 107 at Kaskaskia, Ill. on Dec. 27, 1808, serving as master of the lodge in 1815, 1818, 1827, 1828 and 1829.

Bond was also the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Illinois has had two Grand Lodges. The first Grand Lodge established at Vandalia, Illinois, December 9, 1822, failed to weather the anti-slavery storm of the 1826-40 period. The first Lodge was located at Old Kaskaskia, first Capital of Illinois; it was a Pennsylvania chartered Lodge, Western Star Lodge No. 107, its Charter dated June 2, 1806. When the Grand Lodge of Illinois was formed, it received the charter No. 419. On April 20, 1825, Bond responded to a toast to General Hays in Indianapolis when the latter visited Kaskaskia. Bond had been a Captain in an expedition against the Indians, and served in the Army during the War of 1812.

When the Mexican troubles came the Grand Lodge of Illinois ceased to exist. Not one Lodge weathered the storm -- Shadrach's Union Lodge at Cairo, (River River), which had been chartered January 1, 1827, and lost, June 11, 1830. The second Grand Lodge of Illinois was organized April 6, 1830.

On February 12, 1923 the Post Office Department at 1337 issued a George Washington stamp of Illinois at Shadrach, Illinois, being the old state post office in continuous operation, established in 1811, seven years before Illinois became the 21st State.

Ionic Lodge No. 121, of Iowa Hill, was really an outgrowth of old Iowa Hill Lodge No. 63, and neighboring Wisconsin Hill Lodge No. 74. When first organized, it was made up of members of both and apparently came into existence with that understanding. It received its dispensation from Grand Master Curtis, October 19, 1857, about two months after Wisconsin Hill Lodge surrendered its charter and one day before Iowa Hill did likewise. On May 13, 1858, it received its charter. By then, Iowa Hill was pretty far gone as a placer diggings, but hydraulic operations continued to yield millions of dollars worth of gold till well into the eighties. Still there was some question as to the wisdom of organizing another Lodge there. In its first returns in '58, Ionic reported an enrollment of 25 Master Masons. Four years later it reached its peak with 48. Then it quickly slipped down into the 30 brackets, where it remained throughout the seventies. After that it fluctuated up and down through the 30's and 20's the rest of its life. Ionic Lodge surrendered its charter October 8, 1905.

SIR ALEXANDER FLEMING

British discoverer of penicillin. On September 19, 1967, Great Britain issued a set of stamps to honor various discoveries - television, jet engine, radar, and penicillin. The design is a mold illustrating the penicillin. The official first day cover shows Sir Fleming as its design.

Sir Fleming was a graduate of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. A professor of bacteriology at the University of London and lecturer of Royal College of Surgeons. He discovered penicillin in 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel prize in 1945. Discovered lysozyme in 1929. He was knighted by King George VI in 1944.

Fleming was awarded the distinguished service citation of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1953. A member of several English lodges, he was master of Misericordia Lodge No. 3286 in 1935, and later served as treasurer. He was master of Santa Maria Lodge No. 2682 in 1925, and later secretary. In 1942 he was elected senior grand deacon of the United Grand Lodge of England and promoted to past grand warden in 1948. He served as high priest of Aesculapius Chapter and in 1942 was past grand sojourner of the Supreme Grand Chapter, E.M. of England, and later was named past grand master. In the Scottish Rite, he was 30 degree and was sovereign of Victory Chapter of Rose Croix. He was also a member of the London Scottish Rifles Lodge No. 2310 and took special pride in the fact that he has served as a private in the Scottish Rifles Regiment of London for 14 years. b. 1861. d. March 11, 1955.

ERIE CANAL

On July 4, 1967, the U. S. Post Office Department issued a 5c commemorative to mark the sesquicentennial of the opening of the Erie Canal. First day ceremonies were held at Rome, N. Y. where the first dirt was dug on that day in 1817. It was completed Oct. 26, 1825. This engineering marvel of its day had a tremendous economic impact on the country. It was 363-mile ditch that linked Lake Erie with New York City.

Governor De Witt Clinton, long a champion of the canal, was in a procession of canal boats that left Buffalo on that date. According to the New York Evening Post which devoted nearly one page in reporting the big story on November 4, 1825, there was a great parade, an ode to the occasion was read and a special song sung. Distinguished guests to the mayor's party drank thirteen toasts in celebration. Governor De Witt Clinton poured a keg of Lake Erie water into