



AN INFORMAL HISTORY
OF THE
COLLECTORS CLUB

By

WM. W. WYLIE

Reprinted from the ANPHILEX '71 Catalogue

Presidents of The Collectors Club

| | |
|---|--|
| William Herrick (1896-97) | Beverly S. King (1933) |
| William Thorn (1898-99) | Lawrence B. Mason (1934-36) |
| Peter F. Brunner (1900-01 and 1905) | Arthur W. Deas (1937-42) |
| Jose M. Andreini (1902-04) | Robert L. Graham, Jr. (1943-45) |
| John N. Luff (1906-07 and 1922-25) | Hans G. Zervas (1946-47) |
| Joseph S. Rich (1908-09) | Richard S. Bohn (1948-51) |
| John W. Scott (1910) | Jacob S. Glaser (1952) |
| Dr. J. Brace Chittenden (1911-12 and 1920) | John J. Britt (1953-54) |
| Frederick Spiegelberg (1913-14) | Edwin E. Elkins (1955) |
| William Homan (1915) | Lt. Gen. C. W. Wickersham (1956-57) |
| Thomas L. Wells (1916) | Harrison D. S. Haverbeck (1958-60) |
| Theodore E. Steinway (1917 and 1926) | George E. Burghard (1961-62) |
| Alfred F. Lichtenstein (1918-19) | John R. Boker Jr. (1963-64) |
| H. M. Wilson (1921) | Herbert P. Woodward (1965-67) |
| Harry L. Lindquist (1927-30) | Philip Silver (1968-70) |
| Charles Curie (1931-32) | F. Burton Sellers (1971-) |

This Country's Preeminent Philatelic Institution

An Informal History

By Wm. W. Wylie

By the last decade of the 19th century stamp collecting had attained mature stature as an avocation with an extensive literature, thousands of enthusiastic devotees and a prosperous stamp trade.

Release by the U. S. Post Office Department of the elaborate Columbian Exposition series in 1893 was indicative of the standing what the more sophisticated called philately was enjoying.

Inevitably stamp collecting's popularity had brought organizations into being and in the early 1890s no less than a score were functioning in and near New York City.

Three of the largest and most active of these organizations were the National Philatelic Society, which dated its beginnings from 1874, the Staten Island Philatelic Society and the Brooklyn Philatelic Society. There was considerable duplication of membership in these organizations. Most of the more active collectors of the era belonged to more than one stamp club.

But none of the functioning organizations were particularly identified with New York City and since it was felt that there should be such an organization, some of the city's leading philatelists launched a movement to bring one into being during the summer of 1896.

While several of them were dealers it was felt that philately's commercial aspects should be subordinate to philately in the organization they were forming and gave it the name of *The Collectors Club*.

In the application for a charter as a membership corporation (which was granted by the State of New York on Dec. 16, 1896) the club's founders stated its purposes were: "The maintenance of reading and assembly rooms; the promotion of social intercourse among the members; the encouragement of the best interests of Philately by mutual improvement in and the dissemination of literary and historical knowledge relating thereto by all proper means and for other lawful literary, social and historical purposes."

Though changing conditions have made necessary numerous revisions of the Constitution and By-laws drafted in 1896 to implement the charter of *The Collectors Club* its basic objectives remain as stated three-quarters of a century ago. On its 75th anniversary the club is confident its founders would regard their aspirations for it as fully realized.

First Days of The Collectors Club

For a yearbook published in 1898 containing the club's constitution, by-laws, house rules and membership roster, John N. Luff produced a succinct account of the beginnings of The Collectors Club and early days from which it seems in order to quote at some length.

Mr. Luff wrote:

"The Collectors Club was something of an inspiration. For years the Philatelic Society, New York, had occupied a large bare room on Ann Street, which had evidently been intended by the builder as an adjunct of a Turkish bath. In this room a majority of the stamp auctions were held. In one sense none of these auctions were "frosts." At last there came a fortunate day when the march of improvement reached the building and the Society had to move. The subject of a new location was canvassed and the verdict was almost unanimous for a move further up town and nearer the residence portion of the city. Then came the man with the inspiration. He said, "Let us make it a Club and gather to it all the societies, all the auctions, and all the philatelic interests of the city!" And presently the Club was an accomplished fact.

"But, between the idea and the fulfillment, there was work and plenty of it. The project was started in July, 1896. To commence an undertaking in a New York summer requires nerve. To carry it to a successful conclusion demands something little short of genius. Among philatelists such requisites are, of course, readily found.

"The organization committee consisted of John W. Scott, Chairman, J. M. Andreini, Secretary, Chas. Gregory, Wm. Herrick and John N. Luff. For three months they devoted their time and efforts to furthering the project. By personal solicitation, circular letters, and articles in the philatelic magazines, the work was continued until finally success rewarded their labors. The one hundred shares of founder's stock were all sold and a house in a suitable location secured for the Club.

"On October 5, 1896, the majority of the resident members met at the Club House, discussed and adopted the Constitution and By-Laws, and elected the Board of Governors for the first year. At a subsequent meeting of the Governors, the following officers and committees were elected:

Wm. Herrick, President

Charles Gregory, Vice-President

John W. Scott, Treasurer

J. M. Andreini, Secretary

Henry L. Calman, Hiram E. Deats, John N. Luff, Frederick A. Nast.

Committees

Executive.— H. E. Deats, Chairman; Henry L. Calman, J. N. T. Levick.

House.— F. E. P. Lynde, Chairman; H. E. Deats, John N. Luff, Albert Perrin, W. S. Scott.

Amusements.— John N. Luff, Chairman; J. B. Brevoort, J. Oakley Hobby, P. F. Bruner, C. L. Moreau.

Auditing.— F. A. Nast, Chairman; Henry Clotz, Alvah Davison.

Literary.— H. E. Deats, Chairman; Jos. J. Casey, Jos. S. Rich.

Membership.— Chas. Gregory, Chairman; R. R. Bogert, H. Collin, H. Clotz, H. N. Terrett.

Furnishing.— J. W. Scott, Chairman; R. R. Bogert, H. L. Calman.

"The necessary alterations to the building completed and furnishings provided, the formal opening of the club took place Oct. 28, 1896 and New York philatelists for the first time experienced the comfort and satisfaction of having a home in which they would be welcome at all times, where they could extend a welcome to their friends and where they could find amusements, companionship and pleasant surroundings. Since its starting the club has never failed to provide all these. Continued improvements and familiar use have made it delightful to the members.

"The incorporation of the club was secured Dec. 14, 1896. The membership is increasing, several new members being elected at each of the monthly meetings of the Board of Governors.

"The location, 351 Fourth Avenue, is very central and convenient. It is within a block of Madison Square, with its numerous hotels, theatres, etc. The lines of street cars which pass the door, and traverse the adjacent streets, enable members to reach readily any point in the city, as well as the ferries and the great railways leading to all parts of the country. Visitors from out of town find the club easy of access, and many are in the habit of going direct to the building on their arrival in the city and rooming there in preference to a hotel.

"The large Assembly Room occupies all of the first floor except the space devoted to the Secretary's office. This is, naturally, the most attractive room in the house. Three large windows in the front and two in the rear supply abundant light. These windows are draped by curtains of a rich garnet color. The floor is of hard wood, covered with rugs. The chairs are of oak and russet leather. Two large tables, loaded with magazines and papers, some smaller tables, a piano, lounge, etc., complete the furnishing of the room. Two mantels, draped to match the windows, overhang grates where cheerful fires blaze in the winter.

"The members have taken special pride in this room, and by gifts and loans of pictures, ornaments and music have added much to its attractiveness and comfort. A pleasanter place to lounge and talk stamps over an after dinner cigar would be hard to find, and the usual evening attendance of members demonstrates their appreciation of this fact.

In the Assembly Room are hung the bulletin-boards with Club notices, names of candidates for membership, and dates of coming auctions, and they are usually well filled.

"The Secretary's office adjoins the Assembly Room, and is suitably furnished for the use of that officer and the Chairman of the House Committee.

"The second floor is devoted to the library and the meeting rooms of philatelic societies. The Library is furnished in oak, in keeping with the rest of the house, with book case, writing table and chairs. A creditable display of philatelic works adorns the book case, which we hope to see increased before long by the addition of various standard works of reference, and through the further kindness of members and publishers.

"Adjoining the Library is the room of the Philatelic Society, and in the rear is the large room of the National Philatelic Society, which extends its hospitality twice a month to the Manhattan Philatelic Society. Both these rooms are furnished with a large table and abundance of chairs, and each possesses a well filled book case. Pictures, frames of stamps, clocks, curtains, hat racks, and various small pieces of furniture add to the completeness of the rooms and the comfort of the members of the societies.

"The third floor is used for sleeping rooms, all neatly furnished. The bedsteads are of white enamel and brass, and the other furniture is of oak. This feature of the house has been much appreciated by the non-resident members, who find the Club more home-like than a hotel, and in many ways preferable.

"Not the least attractive nor the least patronized room in the house is the billiard room in the basement. For want of space the members are at present forced to exhibit their skill on a combination table, but it is hoped before long to increase the accommodation and add more tables. A side-board, refrigerator, washstand, chairs and small tables, all of which are in the prevailing oak, complete the furnishing of the room. In addition to the usual wall fixtures of a billiard room, there is a rack of private cues and some pictures. The balance of the house is devoted to store rooms, bath rooms, servants' quarters, etc.

"The social side of the Club has, from the first, been a success. A few of the members can usually be found in the rooms in the afternoon, while evening invariably brings an increased attendance, and conversation, music and merriment from the billiard room pervade the house. On the nights of auctions and society meetings large gatherings are the rule. At frequent intervals during the winter entertainments are provided. Interesting lectures on philatelic subjects, illustrated with stereopticon pictures of the stamps, have been given. Very successful vaudeville entertainments were enjoyed by the members on other occasions. And at Christmas the members made merry around a tree which yielded most surprising and amusing fruit.

"The large Assembly Room is used for numerous auctions in the busy season. It certainly presents attractions in the way of comfort and convenience which are quite unusual on such occasions, and which appear to be much appreciated by those who attend, and, no doubt, have their effect in the improved result of the sales.

"It is expected that the Thirteenth Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association, which meets in this city next August, will be invited to hold its sessions in the Club House, and we anticipate that visiting philatelists will find it easy of access from the railways, convenient to many large hotels, and well adapted for a meeting place for the convention.

"Numerous improvements and added comforts for the members are contemplated for the future. And it is hoped that at no distant day the Club may occupy quarters even more agreeable and commodious than at present.

"Taken all in all, The Collectors Club has more than fulfilled the expectations of its founders.

"It has gathered under its roof all the philatelic interests of the city. It has made a pleasant meeting place for local collectors, and a home for those from other cities; giving them companionship and entertainment which they would otherwise have missed. It has become a center of philately in the United States. It has been free from cliques and has not been conducted for the benefit of any man, firm or society, but has been for the good of all, and, in the best sense of the words, the philatelists' Club. It has amused and instructed us and has helped to an increased interest in philately.

"It is to be hoped that the Club will long continue and prosper, and it will if the members do as they did in the beginning — not wait for success, but make it.

The Founders of the Club

The 100 stamp collectors and dealers whose purchases of stock, at \$25 a share, provided the working capital needed in 1896 to establish a club to function as a headquarters for philatelic activity in New York City, included most of the leading philatelic personalities of the era. The names of relatively few known collectors and dealers of the middle 1890s aren't on the list of founding members and many of them joined the club soon after it came into being.

Significantly, something like a third of the club's founders weren't residents of New York City, many lived at considerable distances, including one in China, and couldn't expect to make much use of the club's facilities. But all were enthusiastic philatelists, either as amateurs or professionals, and all were anxious to be a part of any activity which would enhance philately's prestige as an avocation.

This pattern has persisted for three-quarters of a century. Ever since The Collectors Club began functioning the names of the leading philatelic personalities of New York City, the United States and Canada, and to some extent the world, have been on its roster.

Following is a listing of those who took part in the founding of The Collectors Club in 1896:

Resident Stockholders

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Ackerman, E. R. | Herrick, William |
| Albrecht, R. F. | Hobby, J. Oakley |
| Allen, Dr. Paul | Holland, Alexander |
| Andreini, Jose M. | Hunter, F. W. |
| Berlepsch, M. C. | Jones, Gilbert E. |
| Bishop, C. F. | Kirtland, A. M. |
| Bogert, R. R. | Knudson, William |
| Bruner, P. F. | Krassa, A. |
| Calman, G. B. | Krebs, Jacques |
| Calman, Henry L. | Lawrence, Henry C. |
| Casey, Joseph J. | Leavy, Joseph B. |
| Castle, W. A. | Leshner, Raymond |
| Clotz, Henry | Levick, J. N. T. |
| Collin, Henry | Luff, John N. |
| Corwin, Charles B. | Lynde, F. E. P. |
| Crittenton, G. W. D. | Merry, H. C. |
| Davis, A. D. | Meyenberg, Max |
| Davison, Alvah | Moreau, C. L. |
| Dieschbourg, N. | Morgenthau, J. C. |
| Dionian, J. S. | Murray, W. J. |
| Douglas, John F. | Nast, F. A. |
| Drew, Charles D. | Parker, E. T. |
| Duveen, H. J. | Peroso, F. A. |
| Eberhardt, George | Perrin, Albert |
| George, J. W. | Quigley, R. W. |
| Gregory, Charles | Rich, Joseph S. |
| Gregory, W. F. | Rogers, A. R. |
| Gremmel, Henry | Scott, John W. |
| Hartshorne, Edward C. | Scott, Walter S. |

List continued on page 100

Continuation of Resident Stockholders

Seebeck, N. F.
 Terrett, H. N.
 Thorne, William
 Tuttle, G. R.

Watson, George H.
 Wells, E. G.
 Williams, O. H.
 Williamson, S. T. S.

Non-Resident Stockholders

Ayer, F. W., Bangor, Maine
 Bartels, J. M., Washington, D. C.
 Batchelder, A. W., Boston, Mass.
 Benjamin, David, Shanghai, China
 Boynton, G. E., Baltimore, Md.
 Brevoort, John B.,
 Johnsonburg, Pa.
 Brown, F. P., Boston, Mass.
 Brown, Richard R., Keyport, N.Y.
 Conant, F. O.,
 Portland, Maine
 Crocker, Henry J.,
 San Francisco, Calif.
 Curtis, W. T., Boston, Mass.
 Deats, Hiram E.,
 Flemington, New Jersey
 Dunkhorst, H. F.,
 Washington, D. C.
 Green, William L.,
 Albany, New York
 Harbeck, Charles T.,
 Islip, New York
 Hubbard, L. L.,
 Houghton, Michigan

Kilbon, John Luther,
 Boston, Mass.
 Mekeel, Charles H., St. Louis, Mo.
 Mekeel, I. A., St. Louis, Mo.
 Morgan, W. F., Lynn, Mass.
 Moser, William, Rowayton, Conn.
 Olney, F. F., Providence, R. I.
 Painter, J. V., Cleveland, Ohio
 Peck, T. G., Haverstraw, N. Y.
 Pitman, F. H., Boston, Mass.
 Rice, J. D., Trenton, N. J.
 Rothfuchs, C. F.,
 Washington, D. C.
 Sanderson, Howard K.,
 Lynn, Mass.
 Sweet, F. G., Baltimore, Md.
 Tuttle, A. E., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Weed, E. F., Rowayton, Conn.
 Withee, N. H.,
 La Crosse, Wisconsin
 Woodward, H. E., Boston, Mass.
 Worthington, George H.,
 Cleveland, Ohio

Who the Founders Were

Since few of those who subscribed to shares in The Collectors Club three-quarters of a century ago are more than names to this generation of philately's devotees, comment on some of them seems desirable.

John Walter Scott was probably the best-known of the club's founders since it was largely through his activities that philately had come of age as an avocation in the United States. One of New York City's pioneer stamp dealers he had held the world's first auction sales of stamps, created the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue and had produced an extensive range of stamp albums. He was a leading spirit in the founding of The Collectors Club and was an active member until his death in 1919, serving as its Librarian during the last six years of his life.

John N. Luff, who was beginning his long tenure as editor of the *Scott Catalogue* in 1896, was as famous philatelically as Mr. Scott by reason of his writings in the philatelic periodicals of the era. He had come to New York from San Francisco, where he had gained high standing as a philatelist, joining the staff of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. after brief service with R. F. Albrecht, a New York stamp dealer who was also one of the club's founding members. Mr. Luff was active in the affairs of the club until his death in 1938.

Hiram E. Deats, Flemington, N. J., died in 1963, the last survivor of the group which founded the club in 1896. He had a brilliant philatelic career, forming an outstanding collection of U. S. Postmaster's Provisionals, pioneering in the collecting of plate numbers and carrying out researches in U. S. Revenue Stamps which brought what is known as the *Boston Revenue Book* into being. One of the first to appreciate the value of philatelic literature, Mr. Deats made important contributions to The Collectors Club Library.

G. B. Calman and his brother Henry were proprietors of the Scott Stamp & Coin Company, which they had organized in 1886 after purchasing John Walter Scott's stock and rights in the *Scott Catalogue*.

Joseph S. Rich was also a proprietor of the Scott Stamp & Coin Company and was one of the club's most active members from the time of its founding until his death in 1932. His son, Stephen G. Rich, who joined the club in 1924, inherited his father's intense interest in The Collectors Club and was active in it until his death in 1956.

Charles B. Corwin, one of the first collectors in this country to take watermark and perforation varieties seriously, also had the distinction of being the first collector in history to pay more than \$1,000 for a single postage stamp. He paid \$1,010 for the 2c British Guiana "Cottonreel" of 1851 when the DeCoppet collection was sold at auction by J. W. Scott in 1893.

Gilbert A. Jones, one of the owners of the *New York Times*, collected imperforate stamps in pairs and was reported to have some 1,200 varieties.

R. R. Bogert, one of New York's leading stamp dealers, had been one of the founders of the National Philatelic Society in 1874 and was active in the group which organized the American Philatelic Association (now the A. P. S.) in 1896.

H. J. Duveen was a prominent art dealer and owner of an outstanding British Guiana collection.

Joseph B. Leavy, a New York stamp dealer in 1896, held the post of Government Philatelist in Washington, D. C. at the time of his death in 1922.

William Thorne pioneered in the collecting of unused stamps in blocks of four.

Henry J. Crocker, a Pacific Coast railroad builder, was famous for outstanding collections of Hawaii and Japan.

F. W. Ayer, Portland, Maine, developed an important general collection, but disposed of most of his holdings because his father felt his son was spending too much money on stamps.

George H. Worthington, Cleveland, Ohio, was a traction magnate whose outstanding collection, containing many rarities, was acquired by Alfred F. Lichtenstein in 1917.

Charles H. Mekeel, St. Louis, Mo. was a leading stamp dealer and publisher. During the year that The Collectors Club was founded he was publishing the *Daily Stamp Item* as well as his popular *Weekly Stamp News*, but the experiment with a daily stamp paper wasn't successful.

F. W. Hunter was a New York attorney who dealt in stamps as an avocation.

J. C. Morgenthau, of course, ranked as one of the major stamp dealers of New York until his death in 1929.

J. V. Painter, Cleveland, Ohio, was much in the philatelic limelight in the 1890s as the discoverer of the 4c Columbian error of color.

A. W. Batchelder, John Luther Kilbon, A. Krassa, Charles Gregory and E. T. Parker were among the more prominent stamp dealers of the era when The Collectors Club came into being.

Later Additions to the Roster

After the turn of the century there were many important additions to the roster of The Collectors Club.

Dr. J. Brace Chittenden, who is best-remembered for his service as Librarian from 1921 until his death in 1928, joined the club in 1900. During the same year Charles J. Phillips of London, proprietor of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. became a member. A few years later he moved to New York and became one of the club's most dedicated supporters.

Warren H. Colson, who was to acquire high standing as a dealer, joined the club in 1901.

In 1905 the Earl of Crawford visited the United States and his superlative U. S. collection was exhibited at The Collectors Club. He was complimented by election as the club's first honorary member.

Edward Stern, who was to produce the definitive work on the free franking of mail in the U. S. joined the club in 1907.

Alfred F. Lichtenstein, who was to help the club acquire a permanent home and carry out many of its most significant projects, became a member in 1911. At the same time Charles Lathrop Pack and Henry N. Needham were enrolled as members.

Theodore E. Steinway's long service as a member began in 1912. The names of Eugene Klein, the Philadelphia dealer, and Hugh M. Clark of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. appeared for the first time on the club's rolls in that year.

Alfred H. Caspary, who had commenced forming the outstanding collection of rarities which made history in the auction rooms when it was dispersed after his death in 1956, became a member of The Collectors Club in 1918.

In 1918, Col. E. H. R. Green took out a life membership and Eugene N. Costales, who was beginning his distinguished career as a professional, became a resident member.

Harry L. Lindquist, first editor of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, joined the club in 1920, as did Dr. Carroll Chase, famed for his study of the 3c U. S. 1851-57, John H. Hall and George Wolcott.

Sidney F. Barrett became a member in 1921, when celebration of the club's 25th anniversary led to the enrollment of many new members.

During the next half century the club's roster continued to represent a valid who's who of philately.



22 East 35th St. — Home of The Collectors Club Since Oct. 6, 1937

Collectors Club Locations

For not quite half of the 75 years it has existed The Collectors Club has functioned at 22 East 35th Street, just east of Madison Avenue in New York City's Murray Hill area and literally in the shadow of the famed Empire State Building.

The club acquired this permanent home in 1937, purchasing the five-story building from the estate of the late Thomas B. Clark, a distinguished collector of fine arts in the last decades of the 19th century. The structure, its facade ornamented in baroque style, was built by the famous architect Stanford White, to house some of Mr. Clark's collections of paintings and sculpture. Clarence Brazer, an architect member, supervised its remodeling to meet the club's special needs.



Entrance to the
Stephen G. Rich
Memorial meeting
room at 22 East
35th Street.

The large hall on the ground floor, where meetings of the club are held twice each month, has wall frames for the display of philatelic material which were installed as a memorial to the late Stephen G. Rich. The club's famous library is housed on the upper floors, where there are a number of rooms for use of the Board of Governors and committees and quarters for the permanent staff. Until 1969 the Philatelic Foundation, established in 1946, occupied the fourth floor of the building.

The property at 22 East 35th Street, which has been called America's most prestigious philatelic address, became the permanent home of The Collectors Club after development of Radio City frustrated its plans to create a philatelic center for New York City at 51 West 48th Street.

This building, acquired in 1925 (largely through the generosity of Alfred F. Lichtenstein) was on land leased from Columbia University. The Radio City development terminated this lease, but the club received an award which made possible the purchase of the Murray Hill property it now owns.



51 West 48th St. — Home of The Collectors Club From 1925 to 1931



A session of the Board of Governors in the room provided for their meetings. Portraits of the club's past presidents are displayed on the wall at the right.

The club had elaborate plans for development of the West 48th Street property. It planned to rent the space in the building it did not need to stamp dealers and Herman Toaspern, J. C. Morgenthau, George B. Sloane and Marshall Hancock functioned there until the club vacated the building and moved to temporary quarters at 30 East 42nd Street. It was hoped that the store room on the ground floor might be rented to provide income for the club, but no tenant materialized.

But the few years the club functioned at 51 West 42nd Street were eventful ones. Membership expanded and meetings were well-attended. It was while the club occupied what it expected to be its permanent home that J. M. Swanson was commissioned to create The Collectors Club Medal. This was first awarded to Charles Lathrop Pack for his studies on early stamps of Victoria.

The Collectors Club functioned in half a dozen locations before acquiring what it expected would be a permanent home in 1925.

Its first clubhouse was a four-story brownstone at 351 Fourth Avenue (now Park Avenue, South) near 25th Street. A bar and billiard room were popular features of this facility and there were several bedrooms available for the use of members and their guests.

When the landlord raised the rent on the building to \$1,500 a year in 1905 the club moved to rooms at 24 West 26th Street, paying \$70 a month rent. It was while the club functioned here that it sponsored a showing of the fabulous collection of United States stamps formed by the Earl of Crawford.

In 1909 a J. W. Scott auction catalogue gives 14 East 23rd Street as the address of The Collectors Club, but little is known of activities there. This seems to have been at a time when there was little philatelic activity in New York. A legend persists that for a short time the only individuals active in the club were a few who were primarily interested in using its rooms for gambling.

In 1911 the club acquired quarters at 14 Park Place, where Kalil's restaurant occupied the ground floor. Since the location was close to

Nassau Street, then a center of the stamp trade, The Collectors Club became a popular rendezvous and the scene of extensive social activity since the facilities of the Kalil restaurant and bar were available.

Plans for the 1913 international exhibition took form at meetings at 14 Park Place and the Association for Stamp Exhibitions was organized there. And it was while the club functioned at 14 Park Place that Alfred F. Lichtenstein, Theodore E. Steinway, Hugh M. Clark and Charles Lathrop Pack began their association with the organization.

In 1913 the club moved to quarters on an upper floor of the Carbide Building at 30 East 42nd Street. It was to occupy these rooms again in 1931 when development of Radio City made vacating of the West 48th Street property necessary. During the first years at 30 East 42nd Street, chess and bridge tournaments were a popular part of the club's program.

When the club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1921 it was occupying quarters above Zucca's restaurant at 120 West 49th Street. Financial problems made it necessary for the club to leave its rooms in the Carbide building in 1917. Even after the move to 120 West 49th there were deficits covered by contributions from Mr. Lichtenstein, Mr. Pack, George Walcott, Dr. J. Brace Chittenden, Joseph S. Rich and J. C. Morgenthau, but philately prospered after World War I ended and celebration of the club's 25th anniversary inspired a campaign to provide it with a permanent home. And the success of this campaign set the stage for the most significant era in The Collectors Club's life.



A meeting of The Collectors Club

The Collectors Club Library

Valuable though its real estate holdings unquestionably are, The Collectors Club regards its library as its most impressive asset since it ranks as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive collections of philatelic literature.

It has attained this stature during the past half century, primarily as a result of the efforts of a few of the club's members who believed that without the knowledge recorded in books and periodicals no collector can realize philately's potential with any adequacy.

While the club had a library of sorts from its beginnings it was not until 1911, when the club was functioning in rooms above Kalil's restaurant at 14 Park Place that its quality or arrangement were in any way notable. At that time the late Hiram E. Deats solicited appointment as Librarian and undertook the task of building an important collection of philatelic literature. He obtained donations of many desirable items, which he arranged for convenient use by the members.

A few years later John Walter Scott retired from business and spent the last six years of his life classifying the collection and augmenting it. A few months before his death in 1919, Mr. Scott finished a catalogue of the just less than 1,000 bound volumes in the library and estimated their value at \$1,750.

In 1921 development of an outstanding library for The Collectors Club became a project to which Dr. J. Brace Chittenden devoted the last seven years of his life.



The Collectors Club Library. A portrait of Theodore E. Steinway is on the end of the bookcase in the right foreground.

Dr. Chittenden's efforts were heartily seconded by Theodore E. Steinway, Joseph S. Rich, W. R. Ricketts and J. M. Bartels, who all made important donations of books and "runs" of periodicals.

Mr. Steinway provided the funds for the purchase, late in 1922, of the superlative philatelic library formed by Hofrath Victor Suppanttschitsch, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Austria. This library, packed in 16 large packing cases, was described as the finest collection of 19th century philatelic literature ever formed on the European continent. By its purchase The Collectors Club Library secured many unique items from the library formed by John K. Tiffany of St. Louis, which had been sold in 1910 to the Earl of Crawford.

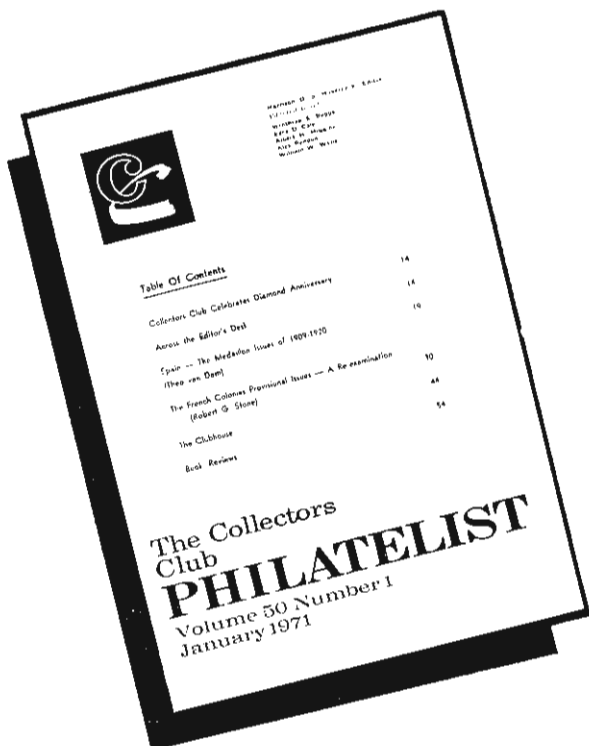
Largely as a result of its acquisition of the Suppanttschitsch library The Collectors Club was able to provide a philatelic literature display for the 1926 International Exhibition which included the first philatelic journal of every country in the world, the first 100 philatelic journals in the United States, rare English catalogues and rarities in the philatelic literature of the United States, France and Germany. This display, prepared by Dr. Chittenden and Mr. Ricketts attracted much attention at the 1926 show.

While Dr. Chittenden was serving as Librarian, the club acquired an important collection of philatelic literature formed by E. B. Sterling and Joseph S. Rich presented his extensive library of some 1,400 bound volumes to the club. Mr. Ricketts donated his holdings in foreign philatelic literature to the club and promised that his library of U. S. philatelic literature would come to The Collectors Club when he completed his indexing of it. Mr. Steinway, Mr. Rich and Alfred F. Lichtenstein provided funds for purchase of a collection of South American philatelic literature owned by a Senor Busch of Buenos Aires and Charles Curie gave the library \$1,500 for binding periodicals.

It was because The Collectors Club Library expanded so tremendously under Dr. Chittenden's aegis that the Dr. J. Brace Chittenden Fund was raised after his death in 1928 as an endowment for the library's maintenance and expansion.

During the 1930s the late Harry M. Knowiser served as Librarian and produced an extensive card catalogue of its books and periodicals. He also identified duplicates, which were sold to raise funds for the purchase of material needed by the library or traded for items the club wanted in its collection.

Housed on the upper floors of the clubhouse at 22 East 35th Street the Collectors Club Library is in constant use and is growing steadily. It is traditional that books received for review in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* go to the library after the reviews are written and it receives most of the world's philatelic periodicals through exchanges with its journal. Its extensive resources are in every way an impressive memorial to those who labored to make it what it has become during the past half century.



The Collectors Club Philatelist

Mature Philately's Journal of Record

Volume 50 of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* is appearing this year as The Collectors Club celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Published quarterly from 1922 through 1949 and six times a year since 1950, this scholarly journal has undoubtedly played the significant role in gaining The Collectors Club the prestige it enjoys in the world of stamp collecting and stamp collectors. For half a century its pages have provided mature philately with an adequate journal of record and, in consequence, its sponsor has come to rank as one of the world's pre-eminent philatelic institutions.

Since *The Collectors Club Philatelist* made its first appearance in January, 1922, it has had five editors.

Harry L. Lindquist produced the initial issue and served as editor until 1939.

The late Walter R. McCoy served as editor from 1939 until 1942.

Franklin R. Bruns edited the quarterly until 1947.

The late Henry M. Goodkind assumed the editorship in 1948 and guided the periodical's destinies until his death in August, 1970.

Harrison D. S. Haverbeck is the current editor.

The Collectors Club had less than 100 members as it launched *The Collectors Club Philatelist* just after it celebrated its 25th anniversary late

in 1921. Five years later the Club had more than 500 members on its roster. Since then membership in the Club has increased consistently and existence of its journal is probably directly responsible for this since it makes it possible for those living outside the New York area to benefit by affiliation with the club.

It was because the late Dr. J. Brace Chittenden was convinced The Collectors Club could function effectively only if it had a voice that *The Collectors Club Philatelist* began appearing half a century ago.

Dr. Chittenden, head of the Mathematics Department of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute for 23 years and a dedicated philatelist, was a leading spirit in the movement to expand the club's activities and services inspired by celebration of its 25th anniversary. The late Alfred F. Lichtenstein and Julius C. Morgenthau agreed to finance his program. In the Doctor's opinion, a first and most important step was the launching of a magazine through which the members could be told about the program and their cooperation enlisted.

Harry L. Lindquist, then a newcomer in New York City, who had published an outstanding philatelic periodical in Chicago, was persuaded to provide the club with the voice it needed and the first issue of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* appeared in January, 1922.

Vol. 1, No. 1 of the quarterly was a 44-page magazine with tan paper covers containing articles and features with the by-lines of George B. Sloane, John Murray Bartels, A. Krassa, Maj. Joseph A. Steinmetz, H. L. Lindquist, John N. Luff, Hugh M. Clark, John A. Kleemann, Edward S. Knapp and William Evans, plus advertisements by 23 stamp dealers of the era.

One of the features was a lengthy report of the club's 25th anniversary celebration in which seven of the eight surviving members of the group which founded the club in 1896 had taken part.

A significant element of the initial number of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* was Dr. Chittenden's editorial outlining its purpose and policies. He summed it up succinctly in these words: "Primarily this journal is for the benefit of The Collectors Club. We are not conscious of any mission or any expectation of bettering results obtained over and over again elsewhere. The primary aim is to give our own members something more for their support, to establish an opportunity for publishing the results of their studies, if they so desire, and to increase if we may such influence as we may have in the service of philately."

In an article written when *The Collectors Club Philatelist* commenced its fortieth year of continuous publication, Mr. Lindquist recalls that what was known as the "Hot Stove League" came into being in the journal's early years to help its editor make it an effective voice of the club.

"This," Mr. Lindquist wrote, "was an informal group made up of a few active contributors to the journal who met in the Library before the general meeting on club nights. The discussions would revolve around any problem that might arise in relation to *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, but inevitably they expanded into other problematical matters in the field of philately generally."

"This latter, in fact, eventually became the group's most important activity," Mr. Lindquist recalls. "When complaints had been filed we would 'summon' the members involved to answer the charges. Many members clamored for admission to this 'select' group, but as the room could only hold a dozen, we had to limit 'Hot Stove League' membership to that number. As I recall, the original group consisted of Herman

Toasperm, Harry M. Konwiser, George B. Sloane, Sidney F. Barrett, Elliott Perry, E. R. Radford, Hugh M. Clark, Theodore E. Steinway and Eugene N. Costales."

From its beginnings *The Collectors Club Philatelist* has been a journal of scholarship, devoting a lion's share of its space to articles of permanent reference value. While it has chronicled club activities adequately its emphasis has been on solid philatelic information rather than on the more ephemeral aspects of philatelic activity.

An impressive number of articles which have enjoyed the highest standing as contributions to philatelic knowledge have made their first (and often only) appearance in print in the pages of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.

One of the first of these was Elliott Perry's "The Plating of the U. S. Ten Cent 1847" which reported findings in a remarkable study sponsored by the late Ernest R. Ackerman and based on his collection. It appeared in ten installments during 1924, 1925 and 1926.

Articles on 20th century stamps of the U. S., first produced by Beverly S. King, continued by him in collaboration with the late Max G. Johl, who carried on with them after Mr. King's death in 1935, appeared in handbooks after first serial publication in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.

Edward Stern's "History of the Free Franking of Mail in the U. S." appeared serially in *The Collectors Club* journal before publication as a definitive handbook.

Articles on U. S. postal history by Henry C. Hitt, Victor M. Berthold, Henry C. Needham, Ernest Wiltsee, M. C. Nathan, Winthrop S. Boggs and Dr. A. Jay Hertz appearing in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* make its file invaluable for reference work in that area.

In recent years C. W. Wickersham's studies in Venezuela's early stamps, research by Louis Stich on the 1856-80 issues of Corrientes, Edwin Mueller's classification of the pre-stamp postmarks of Austria, H. D. S. Haverbeck's work on the issues of Indian States, Nepal and Tibet and studies in the 20th century issues of Afghanistan by Frank E. Patterson III have provided many pages of basic information for serious philatelists in the journal which is now marking its golden anniversary.

One of the more impressive contributions of *The Collectors Club Philatelist* to philatelic literature was its publication of English translations of sections of the *Kohl Briefmarken Handbuch*, created and edited in the 1920s by the late Dr. Herbert Munk of Germany. The late Alfred F. Lichtenstein purchased rights to translate this important work for publication by *The Collectors Club* and 45 pages in the January and July, 1928, issues contained the late A. E. Pade's translation of the Denmark sections. Later the France section of the *Kohl Handbuch* appeared, taking up 79 pages in a single issue. Afterward translations of the Bulgaria, China and Greece sections appeared.

Although Dr. Chittenden is best remembered for his inspired service as Librarian, the prestige *The Collectors Club Philatelist* has earned for the club during the past half century makes it as impressive a monument to him as the superlative collection of reference material on stamps, stamp collecting and stamp collectors housed on the upper floors at 22 East 35th Street.

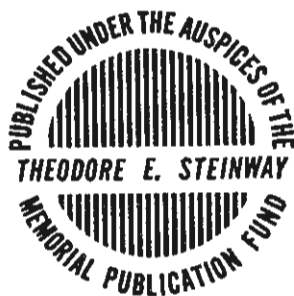
It is because so much information vital to adequate understanding of philately has appeared in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* that work on a cumulative index to its first 50 volumes was launched as the club sponsoring its publication celebrates its 75th birthday.

The Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund

Since a dominant interest of Theodore E. Steinway was philatelic literature it was felt after his death that his dedicated service to The Collectors Club and philately could be memorialized most effectively by the creation of a fund to finance publication of significant contributions to philatelic scholarship.

It was recalled that the late Mr. Steinway had frequently expressed the hope that the club he served so faithfully as president, treasurer and trustee might produce more of the literature he valued so highly.

The speed with which more than \$6,000 was subscribed when establishment of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Fund was announced demonstrated clearly that members of the club agreed that no memorial could be more appropriate.



The club's Publications Committee selects titles for publication, making every effort to select material whose escape into print will add substantially to philatelic knowledge. From the sales of titles published the cost of publication is recouped so that the fund may bring out additional handbooks, etc. for the edification of philatelists.

The following titles have appeared with the imprint of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund:

United States: The 24c Air Mail Inverted Center of 1918

By Henry M. Goodkind

Corrientes: The Issues From 1856-80

By Louis Stich

Austria, Handbook of Pre-Stamp Postmarks

By Edwin Mueller

Postage Stamps of Nepal

By Harrison D. S. Haverbeck

Venezuela, The Early Stamps

By C. W. Wickersham

U. S. RF Overprints on Air Mail

By Henry M. Goodkind

- United States, The Ten Cents Stamps of 1855-59*
By Mortimer L. Neinken
- Robert Morris, Postmaster of New York*
By Winthrop S. Boggs
- Confederate States of America, Special Postal Routes*
By Lawrence L. Shenfield
- French Colonies, The General Issues*
By Robert G. Stone
- Civil War Prisons and Their Covers*
By Earl Antrim
- Honduras, The Black Air Mail*
By Irving I. Green
- The Pony Express*
By M. C. Nathan and W. S. Boggs
- Manchukuo*
By Helen K. Zirkle
- United States, The 1851-57 Twelve Cent Stamp*
By Mortimer L. Neinken
- Afghanistan, Its 20th Century Postal Issues*
- United States, The 5c Beacon Air Mail Stamp*
By Henry M. Goodkind
- The New Hebrides, Postal Stamps and History*
By Nathan Hals and Phil Collas
- The Postal History of Vermont*
By George C. Slawson, Arthur W. Bingham, Sprague W. Drenan
- New Zealand, 1898-99 Great Barrier Island*
Pigeon Post Stamps
By J. Reg Walker, H. L. Chisholm, H. M. Goodkind

Scheduled for publication by the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund in connection with the 75th anniversary of The Collectors Club is a definitive handbook by Mortimer L. Neinken on the popular 1c U. S. stamp of 1851-57 and a cumulative index to the first 50 volumes of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

To demonstrate The Collectors Club's sincere appreciation of all that the late Alfred F. Lichtenstein did for the club and as a tribute to his status as a philatelist, the Board of Governors gave his name to an annual award "for distinguished service to philately" established in 1952.

The late Theodore E. Steinway was the first to receive the medal which is the tangible symbol of this accolade.

Twenty distinguished philatelists have received the Alfred P. Lichtenstein Memorial Award since then and the dinner at which the medal is formally presented is a major event in the club's calendar.

Those receiving what is generally recognized as this country's highest award for achievement in philately have been:

- 1953—Dr. Clarence W. Hennan, Chicago, Ill.*
- 1954—Dr. Carroll Chase, Amherst, N. H.*
- 1955—August Dietz, Sr., Richmond, Va.*
- 1956—Sir John Wilson, London, England.
- 1957—Harry L. Lindquist, New York, N. Y.
- 1958—Winthrop S. Boggs, East Orange, N. J.
- 1959—Gen. C. W. Wickersham, Cedarhurst, N. Y.*
- 1960—J. W. R. Purves, Melbourne, Australia
- 1961—John J. Britt, New York, N. Y.
- 1962—Mrs. Louise B. Dale, Red Bank, N. J.*
- 1963—Henry M. Goodkind, New York, N. Y.*
- 1964—Vincent G. Greene, Toronto, Canada.
- 1965—Alvaro Bonilla Lara, Santiago, Chile.
- 1966—H. D. S. Haverbeck, Bernardsville, N. J.
- 1967—John R. Boker, Jr., Scarsdale, N. Y.
- 1968—Herbert J. Bloch, New York, N. Y.
- 1969—H. R. Holmes, Hants, England.
- 1970—Robson Lowe, London, England.
- 1971—Mortimer L. Neinken, New York, N. Y.

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award is made to living philatelists. Mr. Steinway and those whose names are starred in the list died after receiving the accolade.



Members' Lounge on the second floor at 22 East 35th Street. The sculpture of an Indian which was the grand award in the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in 1947 may be seen at the left.

Honorary Members

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| *The Earl of Crawford, K. T. | *Arthur W. Deas |
| *Charles Lathrop Pack | Harry L. Lindquist |
| *George H. Worthington | *Theodore E. Steinway |
| *Sir Edward Denny Bacon, C.V.O. | *Hugh M. Clark |
| *Prof. Dr. Carl Lindenberg | *Fred R. Harris, R. Adm. U.S.N. |
| *Dr. Emilo Diena | *Dr. Herbert Munk |
| *John Nicholas Luff | *Alfred F. Lichtenstein |
| *Thomas L. Wells | Sir John Wilson, Bart, |
| *Harry M. Lewy | C.V.O., LL.D. |
| *Joseph S. Rich | *Hiram E. Deats |
| *Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt | *Edwin E. Elkins |
| *P. F. Bruner | *Jacob S. Glaser |
| *Walter S. Scott | John J. Britt |
| *J. Murray Bartels | *Lt. Gen. C. W. Wickersham |
| *George Royce Brown | *Robert L. Graham, Jr. |
| *Charles J. Phillips | Mrs. Ethel B. McCoy |
| *William R. Ricketts | Julian F. Gros |
| | *Henry M. Goodkind |

*Deceased