

**A Nichol's Worth of . . .
Comment On This and That**

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer



Harman Nichols

Washington — (U.P.)—For the first time in many a moon, no U. S. postage stamp honors a son of Massachusetts.

Understandably, the good folks of the Bay State are worked up about it.

In fact, Secretary of State Edward J. Cronin was moved to send in a complaint to Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield. He reminded the head of the mails that Massachusetts' most illustrious dad and son team have been "pushed" around, postally speaking.

That team was made up of John Adams, our first vice-president and our second President, and his boy, John Quincy Adams, the sixth President.

Cronin told the P.M. General that the people of Massachusetts want to know why the combine of Adams and Adams disappeared from the latest list of general stamps, issued on April 16, 1956.

"John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams," he wrote, "have been on the two and six-cent stamps for untold years."

The new general list contains stamps of 16 denominations.

The Bay State secretary wanted to know why Virginia got seven listings — Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Wilson, Robert E. Lee, John Marshall and Patrick Henry — and Massachusetts none.

Two Homes, Too

Cronin pointed out that the homes of two Virginians (Mount Vernon and Monticello) are included. He said, in effect, that this added up to making the commonwealth of Massachusetts an orphan so far as the public is concerned.

The Bay State secretary of state was warming up. He would like to inform the postmaster general that John Adams was the architect of American constitutions. He was the author of the constitution of Massachusetts, the "oldest written instrument

of government in operation in the world. Not only that, but a model for the Constitution of the United States and most of the other states."

Cronin is proud of the fact that in his present job he is custodian of the constitution of Massachusetts.

Cronin's letter runs into detail—and history.

"Thomas Jefferson, the great Virginian, considered Adams the elder the greatest American of his time," he said.

Other Accomplishments

Consider, added the Bay State leader, these other accomplishments:

John Adams led the fight against the stamp act.

He defended Capt. Preston and the British soldiers in the Boston massacre case, "an act which required x x x courage x x x and which established forever in Massachusetts the guarantee of a fair trial for any accused."

Adams nominated Washington as commander in chief, "and carried the appointment through the Continental Congress."

Adams, with Jefferson and Franklin, served on a committee which drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Adams was the father of the American Navy. He appointed John Marshall as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He gave our country his distinguished son, John Quincy who died in the service of his country.

Cronin wound up his polite but documented complaint to the P.M. General with these words:

"The people of Massachusetts are confident that you will rectify this discrimination."

Meaning, let's get a couple of Adams stamps back in the mails.

SCHOOL BREAK

Corvallis, Ore. — (U.P.)—If the mid-morning coffee break is good enough for adults, it's good enough for teenagers. That's the opinion of Corvallis school officials who ordered a 10-minute observance of the American custom for high school students. But school clubs will serve fruit juice and pastries—no coffee.

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