

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. Koutroulis, 4639 Sandalwood Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70127.

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MAY-JUNE 1969

WHOLE NO. 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MASONIC PHILATELY IN ITALY: A recent letter from Bro. Bruno S. Guglielmi, MSU #235, Sanremo, Italy, reads in part as follows: "I have the pleasure to inform you that our club under the name of the other Director of Board, Bro. Raimondo Ricci, exhibited for the first time in this Country, at the Stamp Exhibition, ... and we won a prize, also a few mentions in Philatelic Press. This was the first try; I'm now preparing good material for a next exhibition, and this time under my name." We would like to extend to Bro. Guglielmi and to his club our most sincere congratulation and best wishes for a continued success in their philatelic endeavors especially in Masonic Philately since Masonry in Italy is not as openly enjoyed as we are enjoying it here.

AUTOGRAPHED SPACE COVERS: Bro. Fred Jelsema, MSU #179, Rapid City, South Dakota, writes that he is interested in obtaining autographed cover by Bro. Donn F. Eisele and how to go about it. For the benefit of our members who are interested for this phase of collecting it is suggested that they send the covers to be autographed addressed to the astronauts involved (name of the astronauts), Astronaut Mail, NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Texas 77001. It should be pointed out, however that since 1965 the vast majority of autographs coming out of the MSC are made by the autopen (a machine which duplicates a signature). While they are not as desirable as an authentic signature, nonetheless it is all that is available at present. Make sure you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (large size) for return of your autographed covers. How to get the appropriate cachet covers? Well, there are several sources. I get mine through the local stamp store of Minkus. The covers are appropriately cacheted with each flight cancelled at Cape Kennedy on the day of launching. For the historic first manned lunar landing in July, Dow-Unicover, P. O. Box 1327, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001, will prepare and service an attractive and appropriate cover. For those who wish it, they will have three separate cancellation dates; launching, landing on moon, and recover. Three serviced covers for \$1.35. The first man to touch the moon will be Astronaut Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Jr.

APOLLO 8 STAMP MASONIC FIRST DAY COVER OFFERED: Bro. John M. Cunningham, MSU #186, Grant Building - 151, U. S. Soldiers' Home, Washington, D. C. 20315, offers for sale attractive Masonic covers honoring apollo 8 as follows: first day covers, 50 cents each postpaid, plate blocks \$1.00 each on card stock Masonic cachet. Zip Singles, all 4 positions-hand cancelled on card stock \$1.00. These are suitable for framing. Write to Bro. Cunningham before the supply is exhausted. **YEMEN QUEEN SHEBA** issue is offered for sale by Cunningham also (see Masonic Stamp Collector Whole No. 9, page 77 for write-up), perforated used and imperforated unused all for \$2.60, postpaid, each set includes 10 stamps. He will also include a Masonic page to mount them on.

STAMP FOR BROTHER DOUGLAS MACARTHUR IS SOUGHT: Bro. Vernon E. Allen, MSU #54 Inglewood, California, writes: "Several of us are interested in getting a commemorative stamp for Brother Douglas MacArthur. We feel that he was a great American who has been ignored far too long in this respect. Thus far, about all we have been able to do is write to our Congressmen, and various stamp papers, urging such a stamp. Our enthusiasm is only exceeded by our inavete. We realize that gaining approval for a commemorative stamp is usually a difficult thing to accomplish. If you are favorably inclined toward this idea, anything you can do to help promote the issuance of a stamp in honor of General MacArthur will be appreciated." We agree with Bro. Allen that Gen. MacArthur has been ignored far too long postally. We urge all our members to write to their respective Congressmen and to the Postmaster General in this respect. If enough interest is shown cross section of the Country we are sure that such a stamp will be forthcoming.

CONGRADULATIONS TO: Bro. Harry E. Killmon, MSU #6, Onley, Virginia, who was recently conferred the title of KYCS, Knight York Cross of Honour. He served Master of Central Lodge No. 300, Onley, Va. (1961), Hight Priest of Jewel Chapter and Council No. 49 Onancock, Va. (1961) and Commander of Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock, Va. (1965).

CORRECTION: Bro. Marshall S. Loke, MSU #18, Rochester, N. Y., writes that the Masonic dates of DONN F. EISELE on page 83 of the MSC are incorrect and should be as follows: Received E.A. on June 10, 1952, F.C. on June 13, 1952 and M.M. on June 18, 1952.

CANADA'S THE FREEMASON: In the March-April 1969 issue of Canada's national Masonic magazine, The Freemason, there is a leading article on the Canadian Prime Ministers who were Masons and portraits of the P.M's adorn the front cover. This article was written by Bro. Marshall S. Loke, Rochester, N. Y.

FURTHER DATA CONCERNING FILING MASONIC INFORMATION: Bro. Marshall S. Loke further states that "On the subject of "Masonic Data" I might add that on the card for each person, symbol, event, etc. I list the country, year and Scott numbers of the known stamps that apply. Then I watch announcements of new issues and note same on the appropriate cards in an attempt to keep them up to date. When each item of information is filed, it is important to record the source of same. I clip some articles from Linn's and other papers for future use or reference. I keep the Masonic Stamp Unit papers in three-ring binders and as each issue is received and read add the page number and name of the articles to a growing index. Over the years it becomes quite a comprehensive index. Same for the Mas. Phil.

THANKS FOR COVERS

... to Bro. John M. Cunningham, Washington, D. C. for Apollo 8 Masonic first day covers and plate block on card stock. ... to Bro. Bruno S. Guglielmi Sanremo, Italy for Europa Italian stamps first day cover and Centenary of Ragioneria Generale first day cover.

BACK ISSUES STILL AVAILABLE

Back issues of the Masonic Stamp Collector are still available. Some earlier issues in a limited quantity. Each issue 50¢, postpaid. Write to the editor.



CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION STAMP:
 Bro. J. G. Connell, MSU #12, Trail, B.C., Canada sent us a block of 6 of the recent 6c issue of ILO. He points out that the stamp shows many of the Working Tools and should be worthy of a write up in the Masonic Stamp Collector. You will notice on the illustration that "Canada" is printed up-side down and reverse, also the "6". Bro. Connell further states that if any member of our Unit is interested in having this stamp he will be pleased to forward it at no cost. So, if you would like to have a copy of this stamp write to Bro. Connell. His address is: 3331 Dahlia Crescent, Trail, B.C., Canada. When writing to him please use commemorative stamp. I am sure he will appreciate it. Bro. Connell is presently recovering from a heart attack (his 3rd) and we take this opportunity to wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

CLARA BARTON

Bro. Jerry R. Erikson, MSU #42, Pico Rivera, California, furnished us with additional information about Clara Barton (see page 87, No. 10).

The Clara Barton Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized at Oxford, Mass. in 1898, and was named for her with her permission. She did not join the chapter until June, 1906. The records show the following: "After a short intermission the Chapter received the great honor of being allowed to confer the degrees of this Order upon our illustrious namesake, Miss Clara Barton. It was an occasion long to be remembered as with feelings of pride and pleasure we witnessed the work so impressively and gracefully rendered and received. It was with quite a reverence of feeling that at the close of the meeting we were privileged to take her by the hand as our Sister." (New Age, 1931, p.629)

Became a member of the Order of the Eastern Star at her home in Oxford, Mass. in the presence of a few Masons. The Star degrees were conferred upon her by Rob Morris, founder of the Order. (New Age, 1950, p.356)

Was the daughter of a Mason (New Age, 1928, p.121)

Her dad was Captain Stephen Barton, born Aug. 18, 1774. Her 2 brothers, Stephen and David Barton, owned a cloth mill for weaving satinent.

Our records show Stephen Barton, sawmill operator, born at Oxford, Mass. March 29, 1806, joined Oxford (Mass.) Lodge previous to 1870, but no dates given. (Grand Secretary, GL Mass.)

GIUSEPPE MAZZINI

Bro. Marshall S. Ioke, Rochester, New York informs us that the first issue of Bro. Beltmann's News Letter in August 1960 informed the readers that Giuseppe Mazzini was Grand Master of Freemasons in Italy. NOT SO!

Giuseppe Mazzini, like Garibaldi, was a great Italian patriot who worked for the emancipation and unity of Italy. At his funeral in March 1872 members of the Grand Orient carried a Masonic banner. In June 1949 the Italian government invited the Masons to the dedication of a statue of Mazzini and to participate in the

parade. Mazzini Lodge No. 824 in New York City annually pays honor to its namesake at his statue in Central Park.

In spite of all this there is no evidence that Mazzini was ever made a Mason. Masons honored him because of his great service and the love for a republic that he infused into Italian hearts. Some lodges went so far as to confer "honorary" Masonic titles on him. Statements that Giuseppe Mazzini was Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy are erroneous. The mistake was due to the similarity of his name to that of Giuseppe Mazzoni who was the Grand Master from January 27, 1871 to May 11, 1880. Mazzini died in 1872.

Giuseppe Mazzini is shown on stamps of Italy, Nos. 141-519-C129-142 (Scott)

SAMUEL B. AXTELL

Samuel B. Axtell a native of Ohio, came to Amador County in 1851. He was a member of Amador Lodge #65 at Jackson, California. This outstanding Mason, later moved to New Mexico, and was the first Governor when that territory became a State. He helped organize and presided over the first meeting of the Grand of New Mexico.

Axtell should be included on the page under the (U.S. Stamp #1191 "50 years of Statehood 1912-1962") along with Charles Bent first Civil Governor of the New Mexico Territory in 1846, and was killed the same year in an Indian-Mexican raid, Bent was a member of Missouri Lodge No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri, raised in 1822.

Submitted by Bro. Myrl W. Hurley, MSU #107, Long Beach, California, who says that "Masons In The Story Behind The Stamp" is one of the parts of his Masonic collection. The above information he discovered within the covers of a new book on the history of Masonic Lodges in the Gold Mining country of California (Gold Dust and Trowels) by Grandville Rimbald Frisbe. This author spent much time in research in the Gold country before writing this book.

THE CLASPED HANDS A Masonic Symbol

Ancient people worshiped a deity by the name of Fides or Fidelity, sometimes represented by two right hands clasped and sometimes by two figures holding each other by the right hand.

The Latin name of the deity and the widespread influence of the Romans throughout the ancient world may be the reason why the symbol was incorporated into the workings of the Speculative Craft.



A book printed at Duesseldorf, Germany in 1731--a period when Speculative Craft was developing its ritualistic forms as we know them today--depicts Roman coins bearing the symbol of the clasped hands.

If we remember that the ancient Romans were an aggressive people, almost constantly at war in some far flung borders of the known world, we can understand the motives which prompted the Emperor Vespasian, following the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., to erect a Temple of Peace. Peace was commemorated not only by the Temple which Vespasian erected, but also by coins bearing suit-

able symbols and the words, **PACI ORBIS TERRARUM** - which can be translated, "Peace throughout the world." Titus, the son and successor of Vespasian, used the motto **PAX AETERNA** (eternal peace) on his coinage.

In the reign of the Emperor Augustus, who reigned from 21 B.C. to A.D. 14, a coin was struck which symbolized the benefits of peace following wars of his period. This coin bears the caduceus, two cornucopias, two clasped hands and the word **Pax** (peace). These symbols can be read thus: Peace and concord bring an abundance of all good. The caduceus is the wand of Mercury, the messenger; the cornucopias are symbols of plenty; the clasped hands signify peace and concord.

The symbol of fidelity has been cherished in all ages. Robert Barker, whose name is familiar to collectors of seventeenth century books, especially of Bibles, used a wood cut depicting Faith on his 1612 edition of the New Testament printed at London. Here the name **Fides** appears again, and to symbolize it further, the two clasped hands appear on the shield.

Fidelity was stressed early in Masonic history. The Regius Manuscript, which dates from around 1390 A.D., and is our oldest set of Old Charges, advocates fidelity to lord, master, fellows and apprentices. "That no mon to hys craft be false" is emphatically urged. "He must be stedfast and trwe also to alle thys ordynance, wherever he go, and to hys lord the Kyng."

When in later centuries, the Speculative Fraternity had spread over Continental Europe, we find medals bearing the symbol of the clasped hands. Thus Freemasonry teaches, according to ancient usage, by types and allegorical figures, and brings home to us eternal truths in a language that all races and ages can recognize. Therein lies the antiquity of our Fraternity, and makes the modern Freemason a kinsman in spirit of every man who has ever knelt at the altars of ancient and honored fraternal societies.

From California Freemason - J. Hugo Tatsch

Clasped hands are depicted on many stamps of the world. The one illustrate on the opposite page is from the Republic of China issue of 1962, Scott No. 1348.

CHARLES B. HALL

Charles B. Hall was the first President of the American Bankers Association in 1875. He served three terms and asked to be relieved of a fourth.

He was a member of Revere Lodge, Boston, Mass. in 1858. He died in 1883.

The American Bankers Association stamp was issued in 1950, Scott No. 987, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its founding.

WILHELM EMANUEL VON KETTELER - ANTI-MASON

Bishop of Mainz, Germany. A disputed ecclesiastical prince of the German cultural revolutionary period. As leader of German catholicism he turned against Freemasonry in his polemic treatise, "Freedom, Authority and Church" published in 1862. This treatise generated several important anti-thesis which Ketteler answered in a counter-thesis; "Can a Believing Christian be a Freemason ?", 1865. Ketteler's writing have been translated into most civilized languages and are

frequently quoted in anti-masonic polemics.

Ketteler is pictured on Germany Scott No. 847 issued December 22, 1961.

Submitted by Bro. Paul S. Levie, MSU #217, Riverside, R.I.

MATTHIAS CLAUDIUS

German Poet. Attained fame through many German songs. In 1774 he was initiated into the Lodge "Zu den 3 Rosen" (Three Roses) in Hamburg, Germany; Passed and Raised the same evening. He also held membership in the St. Andrew's Lodge "Fidelis" (4th-6th degrees of the so-called Scottish or Swedish Rites) and translated a number of Masonic books from the French into German. He also composed several Masonic songs for Table Lodges. b. 1740. d. 1850.

A stamp issued January 21, 1965, Scott No. 917, illustrates the Works of Claudius and commemorates the 150th anniversary of his death.

Submitted by Bro. Paul S. Levie, MSU #217, Riverside, R.I.

HOWARD J. GASTON - BIO-SKETCH

Past Master of Wisdom Lodge, West Stockbridge, Mass. (1953 and 1954). Massachusetts is the only Jurisdiction in the USA which does not have numbers for any of its lodges. After leaving the East I served eight terms as Secretary of the Lodge, before Grand Lodge duties made it requisite for me to give up that post, due to inability to make each and every meeting as needed. I am an honorary member of many other Blue Lodges throughout the USA as well as in a few foreign countries. Perhaps the one I value the most is my Life Honorary membership in Gaston Lodge #382, A.F.M. of South Carolina, the home of my ancestors who first came to this country from France. My higher bodies include the Scottish Rite bodies in the Valley of Hartford, Conn., my 3rd Degree Consistory is the Valley of Norwich, Conn. I am one of the only two USA Masons belonging to both the Southern and Northern Jurisdictions, being the Ambassador from the South Columbia Consistory, Columbia, S.C. to the North. Naturally, the Ambassador from the North to the South, is also an Honorary member of the Northern Consistory in order to represent them in an official capacity. I have always been extremely active in Blue Lodge Masonry, which takes the majority of my time, attending from 4 to 5 Lodge meetings weekly, leaving little time for any active work in the higher bodies. My Masonic collection include such items as Masonic Cancellations on stamps (older US, Canada, etc.); famous Masons on Stamps; Masonic cachets on the more modern covers, etc., as well as Masonic Lodges, buildings, symbols, signs, etc., as shown on stamps of the world.

I am a life member of APS; Regional representative in New England for SPA; regional vice-president for ATA; founder, first president, and for the past 9 years, secretary-treasurer of the Jamaica Study Group; (an international society with members in 38 countries); American Philatelic Congress; Philatelic Literature Association; V.P.S.; Past President of our state society (Conn. Philatelic Society) as well as many smaller societies and clubs. I also belong to the British West Indies Study Circle of England. I am, also a member of Masonic S.C. of New York. Member of A.I.J.P. (Associations Internationales des Journalistes Philateliqes); and the A.P.S. Writer's Unit #30.



**SALUTING
APOLLO 8 MISSION**

U. S. First Manned Lunar Orbital Flight

"In the beginning God Created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and God said, 'Let there be Light,' and there was light." These were the quoted words spoken by crew member Lt. Col. William A. Anders of the Apollo 8 spacecraft when he read from the Book of Genesis during the historic flight orbiting the moon. These words are too familiar to a Mason.

The stamp also depicts other familiar Masonic symbols: Globe, Moon, Heaven.

**MASONIC FIRST DAY COVER
— KOUTROULIS —**

— No. 11 —



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

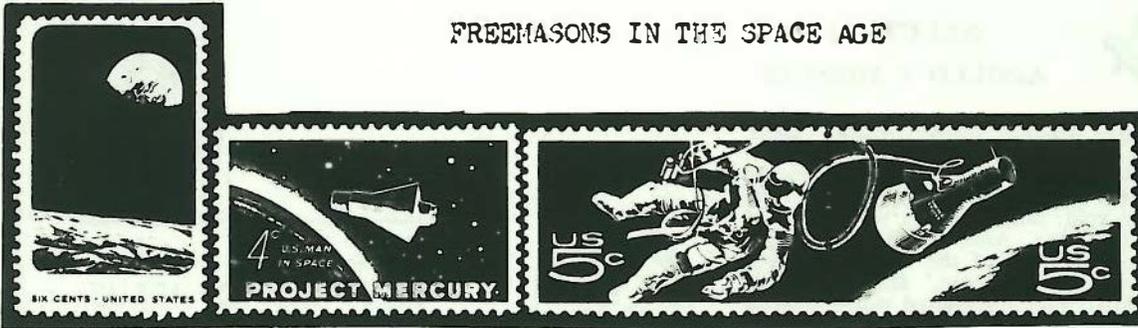
This is a typical Masonic First Day cover issued by the Masonic Cover Club. The color of the cachet on this cover is blue to match the stamp. It is the latest in the series of Masonic first day covers to honor Masonic events or persons with Masonic connection. Covers from the No. 1 issue are still available but some of them only two or three each issue. Covers issued to date are as follows:

No. 1 - Illinois Statehood (Shadrach Bond)	35c each
No. 2 - F. D. Roosevelt re-designed coil	35c "
No. 3 - U. S. Airmail 10c (Morris Sheppard)	40c "
No. 4 - Law and Order (J. Edgar Hoover)	35c "
No. 5 - Flag series (set of 10)	3.50 set
No. 6 - Henry Ford	41c each
No. 7 - Walt Disney	35c "
No. 8 - Art Series (Thos. Grosvenor)	35c "
No. 9 - EFIMEX Souvenir Sheet (Miguel Hidalgo)	1.00 "
No.10 - American Legion (Tho. Roosevelt, Jr.)	35 "
No.11 - Apollo 8 (In the beginning God ...)	35 "

Any or all of the above covers may be had by writing to the editor.

Future Masonic covers: The next Masonic cover to be issued will be to honor the first step on the moon by the two Astronauts particularly Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. a Mason. The covers will be affixed with the Apollo 8 stamp and cancelled on the day of the great historic event. Not only the first men to land and step on the moon but also the first Mason. The next cover to be issued is the "Dartmouth College Case."

FREEMASONS IN THE SPACE AGE



(Editor's note: Bits of information have been written about our Masonic brethren in Space at various times in this paper as well as other Masonic Philatelic journals. This article presented here is a very comprehensive and most informative allowing a better perspective of all our Masonic Astronauts. We present this article for a ready reference for all our members. Many countries issued stamps to honor the various space projects as well as the men involved in many cases. Our own Country issued the above stamps to honor the significant steps in out of space. This article is a re-print from the July issue of the Knight Templar magazine. Background material were compiled by Lt. Col. Hugh E. May of Brevard Commandery No. 24, Cocoa, Florida. We are proud to include this article as part of the permanent record in the Masonic Stamp Collector.)

A little more than 10 years ago the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, chose seven astronauts for the Gemini Program to provide scientists and engineers with information required to achieve the goal of "a man on the moon."

This goal is becoming a reality. Apollo 11 is scheduled for a lunar landing on the week of July 20, at which time, two Americans, 20th Century Homo sapiens, will set foot on the moon.

The space program, which has cost 24 billion dollars, has reached its pinnacle, and even the cost conscious taxpayers are holding their breaths for this centuries old dream to come true.

The astronauts, who have grown to number 55, are the men we associate with as being responsible for these feats, requiring skill, courage and endurance. Eight of these men (one deceased) are highlighted in this month's Knight Templar Magazine in connection with their Masonic affiliations. Among these men are participants in Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery and Shrine. We present them here with pride and respect for their deep commitments to American ideals and Christian beliefs.

GORDON L. COOPER, JR.: The first astronaut to be honored with a statewide York Rite class was Gordon L. Cooper, Jr., January 18, 1963, when 167 candidates were knighted in Brevard Commandery No. 24, Cocoa, Fla. S. K. Cooper was one of the original seven astronauts and has been awarded the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, Air Force Commander Astronaut Wings, the Scottish Rite 33rd Degree and has received several York Rite recognitions. Many Americans know him for establishing a new space endurance record and becoming the first man to make a second orbital flight, winning for the United States the

lead in space manhours, accumulating a total of 225 hours and 15 minutes. Cooper is a member of Carbondale Lodge No. 82, Carbondale, Colorado, a dual member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1270 in Clear Lake, Texas, a member of Indian River Chapter No. 27, R.A.M., Hiram Council No. 13, R. & S.M., Orlando Valley Scottish Rite and Arabia Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Houston, Texas, and Chapter No. 366, National Sojourners, Patrick AFB, Florida. He is the recipient of Honorary Legion of Honor, Order of DeMolay and a Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Cooper carried two flags with him on the MA-9 flight, a 22 orbit mission which he piloted. One flag was presented to his home lodge and the other was exhibited during the New York World's Fair.

VIRGIL E. GRISSOM: A second Templar class in honor of the late astronaut Virgil E. Grissom, was held in Orlando, Florida, October 12, 1963, wherein 351 candidates were knighted. Sir Knight Grissom lost his life during a simulated countdown at Cape Canaveral, January 27, 1967. A memorial class which knighted 401 candidates was held in Orlando, October 14, 1967. Grissom was also one of the original seven astronauts and commanded a three-orbit mission March 23, 1965. He was a member of Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Mitchell, Indiana, and Indian River Chapter A.A.R.O.N. Council, Brevard Commandery in Cocoa, Orlando Valley Scottish Rite, Arabia Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Houston, Texas, and Cape Canaveral Chapter No. 366, National Sojourners, Patrick AFB, Florida. Grissom was also a life sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

EDWIN E. ALDRIN, JR.: Aldrin, a member of Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Houston, Texas, is presently scheduled to be one of the first two astronauts to step foot on the moon in July, as part of the Apollo space team. Aldrin was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal and is an Elder and Trustee of the Webster Presbyterian Church in Texas. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Shrine. He is a member of Montclair Lodge No. 144, Montclair, N. J.

DONN F. EISLE: Selected an astronaut in October 1963, Donn F. Eisle is a member of Luther B. Turner Lodge No. 732, Columbus, Ohio. He has petitioned and been accepted by Brevard Commandery No. 24, Cocoa, but has not yet presented himself for the degree. Eisle is a member of Chapter No. 366, National Sojourners, Patrick AFB.

WALTER M. SCHIRRA, JR.: Our fifth astronaut, Walter M. Schirra, Jr., was made a Master Mason at sight by the Most Worshipful John T. Rause, Jr., Grand Master of Masons of Florida in Jacksonville, November 4, 1967. This was the third occasion of such an event in the history of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Schirra has received two NASA Distinguished Service Medals and an NASA Exceptional Service Medal. He occupied the command pilot seat on the history-making Gemini 6 flight, which made a rendezvous with the already orbiting Gemini 7 spacecraft. This was the first rendezvous of two manned maneuverable spacecraft, establishing another first for the United States. Schirra is a member of Canaveral Lodge No. 339, F. & A. M., Cocoa, Orlando Valley Scottish Rite, A.A.S.R., Governor General's College, York Rite, Sovereign College of North America, and has been honored by York Rite bodies nationally. He is the recipient of the Honorary Legion of Honor, Order of DeMolay and an Honorary member of Arabian Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Ft. Myers, member of Cape Canaveral Chapter No. 366, National Sojourners, Patrick AFB. Schirra has petitioned and been accepted by the Florida York Rite Bodies but has not yet presented himself for the degrees. He carried several Masonic items with him on his Apollo 7 flight. Among them were two 12x15 inch flags--one he presented to the Scottish Rite Museum, Washington, D. C., in October.

THOMAS P. STAFFORD: Stafford, who was Commander of the Apollo 10 team which orbited in May to prepare for the forthcoming moon flight, is affiliated with Western Star Lodge No. 138, Weatherford, Oklahoma. He was awarded two NASA Exceptional Service Medals and the Air Force Astronauts Wings. Stafford also participated in the Gemini 6 mission which rendezvoused with the orbiting Gemini 7 crew.

EDGAR D. MITCHELL AND PAUL J. WEITZ: The two remaining astronauts with Masonic affiliations are Edgar D. Mitchell, a member of Artesia Lodge No. 28, Artesia, New Mexico and Paul J. Weitz, a member of Laurence Lodge No. 708, Erie, Pennsylvania. Mitchell and Weitz were two of the 19 astronauts selected by NASA in April 1966. They are currently involved in training for future manned space flights.

JAN SIBELIUS



With the death of Jan Sibelius, September 20, 1957, the world lost a great musician and philately lost a subject that fits into many topical collections.

In addition to his place in a general collection, or in a collection of the stamps of Finland, it cannot be denied that he has a place in a collection of famous men. Then, as a composer, he fits into a collection of music.

No collection of Masons on stamps is complete without the stamps honoring him. He was a member of Suomi Lodge No. 1 in Helsinki, and at the time of his death he was organist of the Grand Lodge of Finland. His likeness should also be placed in our collection of lawyers, for like many of the old masters, he studied law before giving his life to music.

It was his tone poem, "Finlandia," that made Americans feel that they knew Sibelius, even before he visited here early in the century. And it was this that had gotten him into trouble early in his career. The Russians ruled the Finns at the time it was written and the work was first performed for the benefit of journalists whose writings had been suppressed by the Czarist government.

Sibelius was poverty-stricken, to use the term loosely, early in his career, but his genius became so compelling that in 1925 the Finnish government granted him a pension of \$2,000 per year, which enabled him to spend all his time composing and putting around the garden of his villa, where he lived with his wife, Aino, who survived him.

His opera "The Swan of Tuonela", with its dark brooding philosophy of death and Hades, became second to "Finlandia" in this country. His musical record includes thirteen symphonic sagas, seven symphonies, and seven works for piano and strings, as well as several hymns for male voices. He also completely re-wrote the music for the Masonic Grand Lodge of Finland.

Sibelius is pictured on Finland Scott Nos. 249 and 353.

Submitted by Bro. Louis F. Biehl, MSU #51, Norristown, Pa.