



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON



Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Affiliate #94



Editor
Robert A. Domingue
59 Greenwood Road
Andover, Mass. 01810

VOL. 12, NO. 2

JULY-AUGUST 1988

WHOLE NO. 66

IN MEMORIAM RICHARD M. NEEDHAM



It is with great sorrow that I report the departure of Richard M. Needham to the Celestial Lodge above. Bro. Dick valiantly fought cancer over the past five years but succumbed on the evening of April 28, 1988, at the age of 70. He had attended Ohio Wesleyan and Ohio State and was a graduate in police science training at Hocking Technical College, Nelsonville, Ohio. He was a Pacific veteran of World War II. A teacher at the Boys Industrial School for 31 years, he retired from the Ohio School of the Deaf in Columbus. Active in police work, he was a past president and 22 year veteran of the Fairfield County Special Deputies. He was also active in NRA work being one of the founders of the Fairfield Rifle and Pistol Club.

Bro. Needham was extremely active in the Masonic community being a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 57, a past Commander of Lancaster Commandery No. 2, K.T., a past High Priest of Lancaster Chapter No. 11, R.A.M., and a member of Lancaster Council NO. 88, R.& S.M.. He was a life member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, Aladdin Shrine Temple of Columbus and the M.Z.Kreider Chapter, OES. He was also a member of the national Masonic Philatelic Clubs - MSC of NY, GWMSC and MSU/ATA.

Bro. Needham was a Charter Member (No. 3) of our Unit and served for many years as the Secretary-Treasurer. His Masonic Philatelic efforts in the form of the Mahdeen covers which he published will go down in history. His first cover was that prepared on Jan. 12, 1950, for Lancaster Chapter No. 11 Charter Anniversary. Over the next 38 years he issued many covers which served as an education and an inspiration to many Masonic Philatelists. He was nominated for the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award in 1987.

Bro. Dick is survived by his wife, Ruth, a brother, step-brother and other relatives. He will be sincerely missed by all of us in this hobby and his friends in the fraternity. So mote it be!!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

- 151. Martin Davison, 19 Hurlingham, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3B 2P9.
- 184. William Ross, 9 Third Part Crescent, Glasgow, Scotland G13 4HP.
- 190. E.J.Richardson, 100 Southlands, Swaffham, Norfolk, England PE37 7PG.
- 192. Robert Galloway, 161 Gramling Ct., Dousman, WI 53118.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

- 130. Renato Boeri, Via Martiti Della, San Remo, Italy
- 203. Thomas Low, 12415 S. 28th Ave., Omaha, NE 68123.
- 251. Ralph Staley, Rt 1 Box 134, Louisburg, N.C. 27549.
- 483. Carl Schauer, 1010 Irwin Court, P.O.Box 526, Belen, NM 87002.
- 492. Lionel H. Goodsell, 194 Woodlands Rd., Holtwood, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7QF England.

RESIGNATIONS

- 419. Frank R. Benjamin, Birmingham, AL.
- 464. Peter J. Westbere, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

CLOSED ALBUMS

- 3. Richard M. Needham, Lancaster, Ohio.

MEMBER'S DOINGS

Bro. Frank Cochrane is now Grand Conductor of the Council of the Grand Council, R. & S.M., of Florida. He has also been made the Grand Representative of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas near the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida. To fill up his spare time he is serving the Grand Lodge of Florida as a Zone Chairman for the MH-100 Program which raises money for their Masonic Home.

Trevor Fray, Editor of the Newsletter of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain, is getting married on July 23, 1988, in Dartmouth. Best of luck and happiness to you and the new Mrs. Fray.

TREASURER'S REPORT 1987-1988

The following Treasurer's Report is submitted by our Secretary-Treasurer, Bro. Otto Steding:

Balance as of 4/30/87	\$ 4,291.98
Dues collected	1,893.00
Interest on savings	215.34

Cash Available	\$ 6,400.32
Expenses:	
Lowell Institute School - Printing	\$ 707.19
Mailing, Postage, Envelopes	982.46
Secretary expense - postage, printing, envelopes	119.00

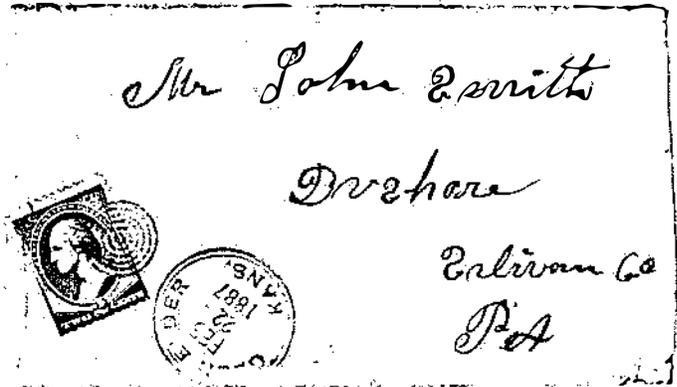
Total expenses	\$ 1,808.65
Balance on hand April 30, 1988	\$ 4,591.67

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY COVERS

Bro. Stanley Longenecker includes in his collecting interests, covers postmarked on February 22 - George Washington's Birthday. It has just been the past 35+ years that such covers have been embellished annually with a cachet by the GWMSC. Bro. Stan's collection reaches back further than that and he has provided a copy of his earliest such example - dated February 22, 1887 - shown below. He has also made up special pages for mounting these specialty items.

It is personal touches like this which make our hobby interesting and challenging. Thank you for sharing this topic with us, Bro. Stan.

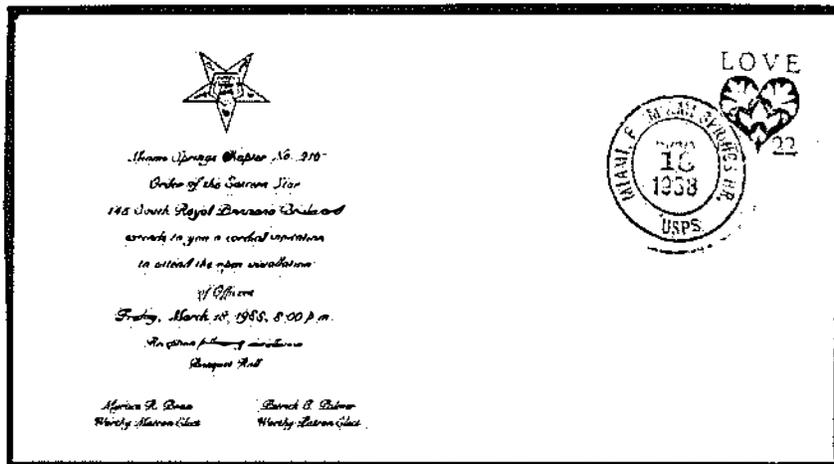
In celebration of the
Birth of Brother
George Washington



Masonic Covers

OES COVER

Bro. Patrick C. Palmer, Member No. 91, sent in this cover which he obviously prepared for his installation on March 18, 1988, as Worthy Patron of Miami Springs Chapter No. 216, O.E.S., Miami, Florida. Further information on it should be obtained from him at 128 Albatross St., Miami Springs, FL 33166.



JOSE BONIFACIO DE ANDRADA E SILVA

Brazil issued a stamp on April 6, 1988, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the death of Jose Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva. This stamp includes the Masonic Square and Compasses in the Design.



40
Jose Bonifacio was a towering figure (maybe the most important one) of the Brazilian Intellectual circles who participated actively in the movement towards the independence of Brazil as D. Pedro I's counsellor. This office gave him the cognomen of "Patriarca da Independencia". He was also the author of the abolition project in Brazil presented to the Constituent Assembly in 1823. He was born in 1763 in Santos - State of Sao Paulo - Brazil and spent part of his life in Europe. Graduated in Law and Natural Philosophy in Coimbra, he joined the Science Academy of Lisbon. In his trips around Europe he studied Chemistry and Mineralogy with very important scientists. He taught Geognosy at the University of Coimbra. Knowing twelve languages, he could speak four.

Back in Brazil in 1819, he continued to make scientific researches. A talented man with an unquiet temperament, he was also headed towards politics and participated actively in the activities concerning independence. He was appointed to be the head of the Ministry for Kingdom and Overseas affairs. His relationship with the prince became incompatible and he decided to join the opposition. In 1823 he was exiled and went to live in Bordeaux where, in 1825, he published his "Poesias Avulsas" (Sundry Poesies) using the pseudonym Americo Elisió. In 1831 when Dom Pedro I abdicated the throne, he was appointed by the former emperor to be the tutor for the sons of Dom Pedro I. Since he did not agree with the confused Regent's government he tried to reestablish the Empire. In 1833 he lost his duties of tutor and was accused of being a traitor but was later exculpated. He died on April 6, 1838, in Niteroi.

Bro. Bonifacio was a member of the Lodge "Commercio e Artes" in Rio de Janiero. In 1819 this Lodge had been revived and out of this a Grand Lodge was evolved. Jose Bonifacio was the first Grand Master of that Grand Lodge serving from 1821 to 1822 and again from 1831 to 1838. In August 1822 he suggested the initiation of Dom Pedro I.

- Article and cover submitted by Bro. Salum Jorge Nacif,
Member No. 73 of Laguna, Brazil.

BOOKS ON MASONIC PHILATELY

Two new books on our hobby have been identified since the last newsletter. In addition, I must admit I gave the wrong address for the purchase of Trevor Fray's latest Volume. The correct source is: Harry Hayes, 11 Chatsworth Drive, Towthorpe Road, Haxby, York YO3 8Q5, England.

CATALOGUE PHILATELIQUE DE LA FRANC - MACONNERIE

Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy, Member No. 475, of Nancy, France, has culminated many years of research and cataloging efforts with this publication. It is a well-done cross-referenced indexing of postage stamps of the world which are applicable to a Masonic Stamp collection. The stamps are identified by Yvert et Tellier catalog numbers. The 136 page, 8 1/4 X 11 1/2 soft cover book lists the entries in several categories: Personnages, Symbols, Masonic Origins, Masonic Principles, Specific Masonic Issues and listings by country.

This book seems to be a handy, valuable reference - especially for those working to the Yvert et Tellier system. (It has not yet been converted to the Scott No. identification). It is available for a cost of 130 Francs Francais (approximately \$22.50 U.S.) from Bro. Vilesy at: 4, place du Luxembourg; 54000 Nancy; France. This price includes postage.

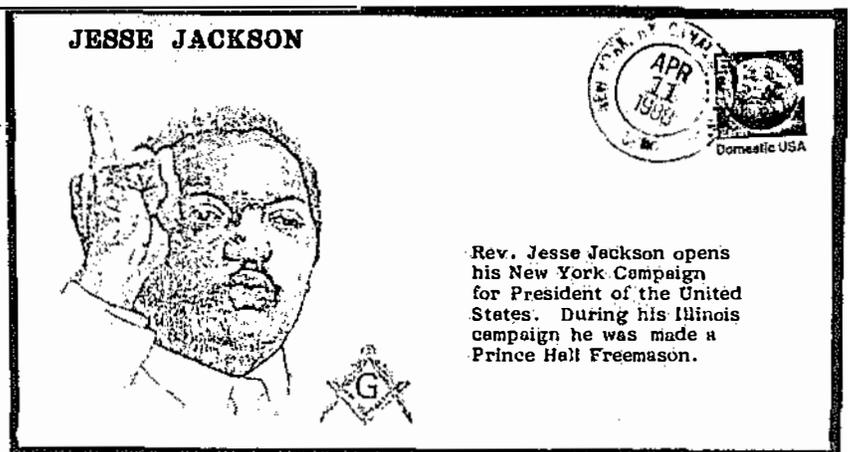
POSTAGE STAMPS & FREEMASONRY. GUIDE AND COMPENDIUM, US & CANADA

Some time ago we reviewed this book when first informed of its preparation. At that time the review copy was hard-bound but consisted of computer printing pages (non NLQ). The final version of this book by Christopher Leo Murphy has now been received and it is a commendable volume replete with fine line drawings, stamp illustrations and book print.

The book is divided into five parts: Chapters on Masonic Stamp Collecting, Illustrated Biographies, Additional Subjects, Masonic Symbols and References, Stamp Guides. The 432 page, 5 1/4 X 8" book is produced by the Carleton Press, New York, and will be marketed throughout the U.S. and Canada. It is also available through Pyramid Publications, Dept. 291 - 720 Sixth St., New Westminster, B.C., Canada V3L 3C5 for \$22.50 U.S. Postpaid (\$20.95 plus handling/postage).

RECENT WETREICH COVER

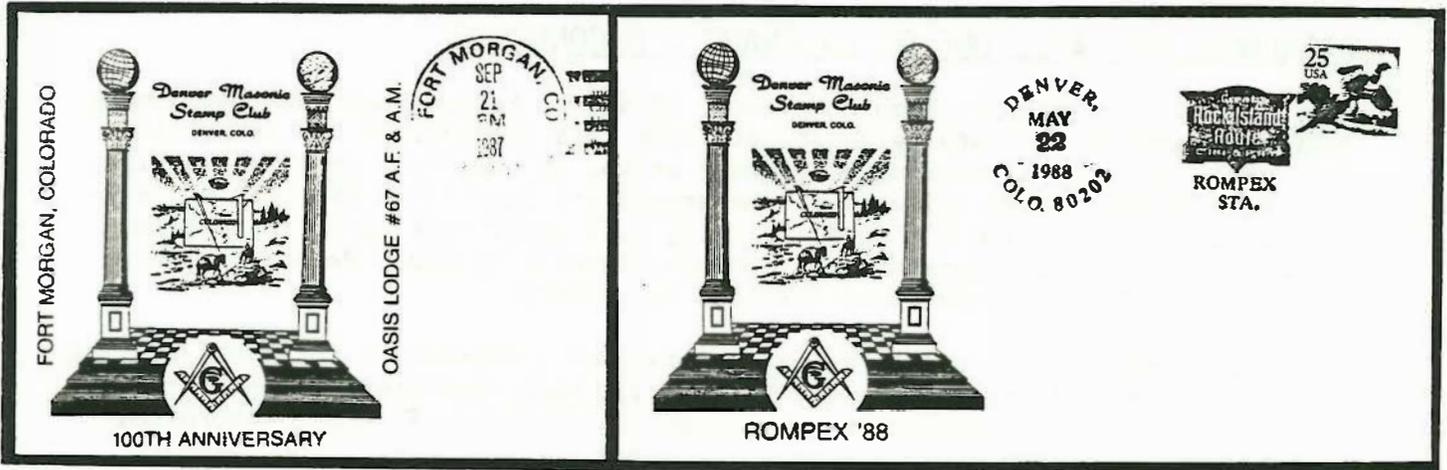
A recent Special Event cover prepared by Bro. Ross Wetreich identifies the fact that Rev. Jesse Jackson was made a Prince Hall Freemason. How about an article on this new Brother? Information on the cover can be obtained from Bro. Wetreich, P.O.Box 1300, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York 11582.



Rev. Jesse Jackson opens his New York Campaign for President of the United States. During his Illinois campaign he was made a Prince Hall Freemason.

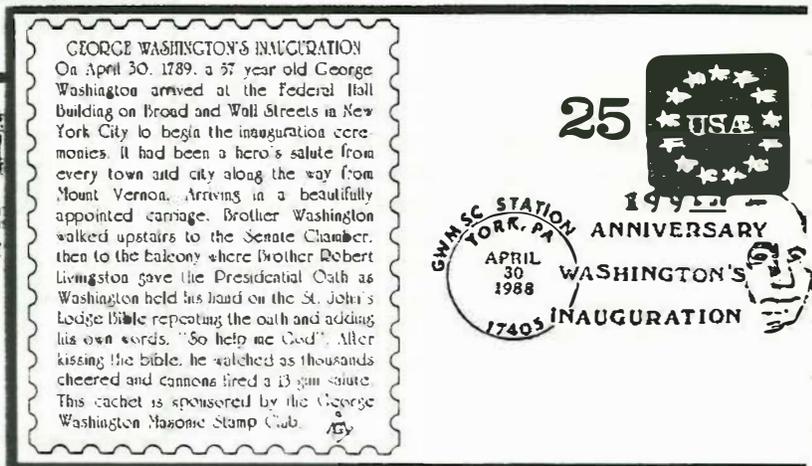
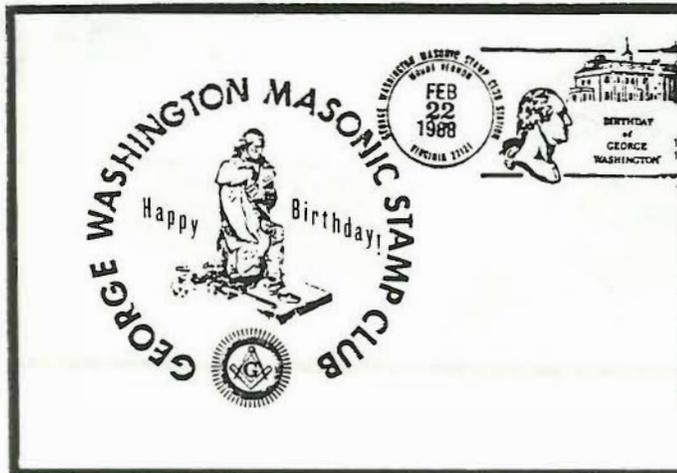
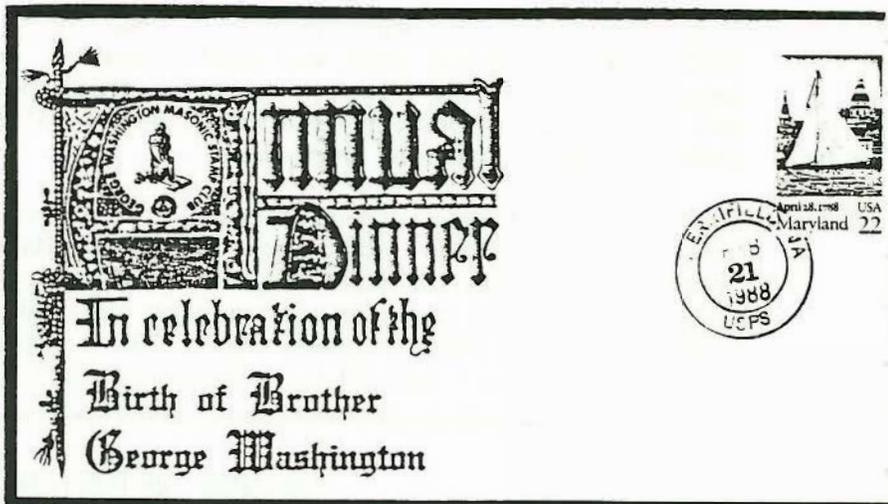
RECENT DENVER MSC COVERS

The Denver Masonic Stamp Club has issued a couple of new covers that have been identified to the Editor. Shown below, the 100th Anniversary of Oasis Lodge #67 is available for \$1.50 and the 1988 ROMPEX cover for \$1.25. Orders can be placed with Bro. Jim Adams (Member No. 440), 2685 So. Sherman St., Denver, CO 80210.



GWMSC COVERS

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club of Washington, D.C., has recently issued three new covers. The first, actually a "dinner card", was to note the Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner held this year on Feb. 21. The second is their annual Washington's Birthday Cover with the special cancel authorized by the USPS and the third to commemorate Washington's 199th Inaugural anniversary cover. All three are available from Bro. Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560.



NEW ISSUES OF MASONIC SIGNIFICANCE

The following new issues are noted:

- 3/15 - The Gambia - 40th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip - 4 Values + S/S - Prince Philip pictured.
- 3/21 - Tunisia - Declaration of Nov. 7, 1987 - 4 Values + S/S - 150 mill-imes value shows Scales of Justice.
- 4/6 - Brazil - Death Sesquicentennial of Jose Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva - one Value (includes Masonic symbol) - see article on Page 702.
- 4/22 - Italy - 500th Anniversary of the First Printed Hebrew Bible - one Value - shows 15th Century Soncino Bible.
- 5/5 - Taiwan - Flowers - 3 Values + S/S - N.T.\$7.50 value shows pomegranate.

Are the following issues of Masonic significance????

- 3/7 - India - G.B.Pant, political leader.
- 3/11 - Hungary - Monus Illes, journalist & revolutionary (birth cent.).
- 3/17 - India - D.V.Gundappa, scholar.
- April - Papua New Guinea - Chief Commissioner MacGregor of 1930.
- 4/7 - Ireland - William S. Cosgrave, Statesman.
- 4/7 - Ireland - Barry Fitzgerald, Actor (birth cent.).
- 4/8 - Wallis & Futuna - Maurice Quentin de la Tour, self-portrait.
- 5/5 - Berlin - Theodor Storm, poet (death cent.).
- 5/5 - Berlin - Jean Monnet, economist (birth cent.).
- 5/10 - France - Jean Monnet, economist & statesman (birth cent.).
- 6/6 Faroes - Writers - Jorgen-Franitz Jacobsen, Christian Matras, William Heinesen, Hedin Bru.

Any and all information on any of these who might be Brethren would be informative as well as sincerely appreciated by the entire membership.

ANOTHER MASONIC INSURANCE CARD

This card was submitted for ou reviewing by Bro. Al Resnick, Member No. 401 of Bayonne, N.J.

+ | ASSESSMENTS NOS. 110, 111, 112. MEMBERSHIP, 2,500. | +

Masonic Mutual Relief Association
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

Clerk's Office, Springfield, Mass. 01103, 1878.

DEAR BROTHER AND BROTHERS: You are hereby notified that BRO. W. SHOWN, of Mount Tom Lodge, Holyoke, died at Holyoke, July 24th, 1878, of Paralysis, aged 74 years; and BRO. JAMES G. SMITH of Globe Lodge, Chicopee, died at Chicopee, July 24th, 1878, of Paralysis, aged 44 years; and BRO. THOS. K. PLUNKETT, of Globe Lodge, Hinsdale, died at Hinsdale, July 24th, 1878 of Paralysis, aged 39 years.

You are therefore called upon to pay to the Association **Three Dollars and Thirty Cents**, within FIFTEEN DAYS after the date hereof.

JOHN C. TAYLOR, Clerk,
Shaw's Block, Over 324 Main Street.

EXTRACT FROM BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE V. If a member failing to pay his assessment within fifteen days after having been notified, shall forfeit his membership, and the amount assessed by vote of the Board of Officers shall be given to a charity except for his delinquency, and for the assessments due during interval between forfeiture and reinstatement.

READ! If you desire a Receipt, Return this Card, with a **THREE CENT STAMP** affixed.

Office Hours During Assessments: from 9 A. M. to 1 P. M., and from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 P. M. At all other times from 9 A. M. to 1 P. M., and 2 to 6 P. M.

WILLIAM FREDERICK CODY

* BUFFALO BILL *

One of the latest issues of the USPS Famous American Series, issued on June 6, 1988, honors William F. Cody. The design was taken from an engraved profile of him that was used on a dining car menu of a Burlington Northern train from Denver, Colo., to Cody, Wyo.



William Frederick Cody was born Feb. 26, 1846, in Scott County, Iowa. Cody's family moved to Kansas when he was 8 years old. His father died in 1857 when young Bill was only 11. To help his family, Cody rode a mule as a messenger for a freighting firm. At age 14, Cody became one of the youngest Pony Express riders when he signed up with Bros. Russell, Majors and Waddell, the originators of this short-lived service. As a Pony Express rider, Buffalo Bill's route encompassed about a 75-mile path along the north fork of the Platte River to the three crossings of the Sweetwater Creek in south-central Wyoming. This area was one of the most dangerous portions of the entire Pony Express route. Not only were there hostile bands of Indians, but robbers as well. After the Pony Express failed, Cody became a stage driver on the Overland Stage line, driving a team in 1865 between Fort Kearny and Plum Creek (about 45-50 miles).

After the Civil War, Cody was hired by the Kansas Pacific Railroad in 1867, to hunt buffalo to supply meat to the workers. During the 18-month period he hunted, it is estimated that Cody killed more than 4,280 buffalo, thus earning his name of "Buffalo Bill". By this time Cody was already gaining fame and in 1871 he took the Grand Duke Alexis, son of Emperor Alexander of Russia, on a buffalo hunt across Nebraska.

In 1872, Buffalo Bill was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery fighting Indians during a battle on the Platte River that same year. It was revoked in 1917 because Cody had not been a member of the military at the time it was awarded. His ability to travel relatively safely through hostile Indian territory captured the attention of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan who employed him as chief of scouts for the Fifth United States Cavalry - a position he held from 1868 to 1872. In 1872 Cody began his career as a showman, appearing in several Wild West shows.

In 1883 Cody formed his Wild West Circus which traveled throughout the country and abroad. In this show he staged Indian raids (with real Indians he had hired) stagecoach rides, hunts and other re-enactments of his earlier years. In addition, Cody showed off his shooting skills and featured a young Ohio girl who was handy with a gun. Her name was Phoebe Anna Oakley Mozee (Annie Oakley).

In 1894 Cody built a ranch in the Big Horn Basin in northwestern Wyoming although he continued to live part time at his ranch in North Platte until April 1913. Buffalo was consulted by every president from Grant to Wilson on matters dealing with the American West and was known worldwide. His friends included Frederick Remington the artist and writer Mark Twain. Cody's fame was won by fighting Indians and shooting buffalo but it was through this fame that he was

WILLIAM F. CODY - BUFFALO BILL

later able to speak out for the rights of Indians and women as well as plead for wise management of natural resources. Buffalo Bill died Jan. 10, 1917, at the age of 70. He is buried at Lookout Mountain near Golden, Colorado.

William F. Cody was a member of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, North Platte, Nebr., being initiated on March 5, 1870, passed on April 2, 1870, and raised on Jan. 10, 1871, after having failed to demonstrate proficiency on the Fellowcraft Degree, rebalotted and reelected. He only visited his own Lodge on one occasion-March 3, 1900. He was a member of Euphrates Chapter No. 15 at North Platte and when he received his Mark Master Degree on Nov. 14, 1888, he appropriately selected a buffalo's head as his mark. On April 2, 1889, he was knighted in Palestine Commandery No. 13, K.T., also of North Platte and may have been a 32° AASR (SJ). He was buried with Masonic honors on Lookout Mountain by Golden City Lodge No. 1 at the request of his home Lodge.

AUTOGRAPHS OF NOTEWORTHY MASONS

Several of us like to enhance the items in our Masonic Stamp Collection with the autograph of the person being noted, commemorated or honored. In many instances the applicable individual is quite willing to sign a cover or card on which the applicable stamp is mounted. I have several such items in my own collection and have only been refused an autograph upon request on two series of attempts - that for Charles A. Lindbergh and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Bro. Stanley Longenecker, Member No. 92, has provided the addresses of several Masons who he has written to for autographs and who are willing to comply with such a request. Happy hunting (don't forget the SASE) and thanks for the leads, Bro. Stan.

Gen. Jimmy Doolittle 33° Ret.
8545 Carmel Valley Rd.
28-A
Carmel, CA 93923

Whitey Hertzog
Busch Memorial Stadium
250 Stadium Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63102

Roy Rogers
10221 Riverside Dr.
N.Hollywood, CA
91602

Red Skelton
37-801 Thompson Rd.
Rancho Mirage, CA
92270

Roy Acuff 33°
2802 Opryland Dr.
Nashville, Tenn.
37214

Burl Ives
1880 Valley Rd.
Montecito, CA
93108

A.B.Happy Chandler
191 Elm St.
Versailles, KY 40383

Honorable Pres. Gerald Ford
Box 927
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale
Box 500A
Pawling, N.Y. 12564

Carl Hubbell
Suncrest Apt. #8
130 N. Lesever #1
Mesa, AZ 85203
(\$2.00 charge)

Bob Feller
P.O.Box 157
Gates Mills, OH 44040
(\$2.00 charge)

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE POINTE DE SABLE STORY

I recently received a pleasant letter from Bro. Terry Waghorn, President of the Masonic Philatelic Club of England, which provided, among other items, a further examination of the facts surrounding the Masonic membership of Jean Baptiste Pointe de Sable. The original article, prepared by Bro. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., appeared in the May-June 1987 issue of the Newsletter.

First Stephen Morin. Denslow's '10,000 Famous Freemasons' gives the date of his supposed patent as August 27, 1761, from the 'Deputies General of the Royal Art, Grand Wardens and officers of the Grand Sovereign Lodge of Saint John of Jerusalem' at Paris. We also know that he appointed M M Hayes a deputy inspector general for North America, who in turn appointed Isaac Costa a deputy for South Carolina which led to the creation of the Mother Supreme Council AASR. Thus Morin probably had some sort of authorisation.

The article says that the first place he stopped at was the island of Santo Domingo, but it does not say when. My belief is that it was not before 1763, since the Seven Years War between England and France did not end until the Treaty of Paris in 1763, when France lost all her American possessions. So the logical dates would be 1763, 1764 or 1765. We also know that Pointe de Sable was born circa 1745, which would make him about twenty, when Morin arrived in Haiti. Men mature rapidly in the tropics. Denslow states that Morin established bodies of the Scottish Rite in Santo Domingo and Jamaica, which means that he must have appointed local officers. We know from his subsequent career that Pointe de Sable ran a successful trading post and the fact that today a local school bears the name of 'Desable' shows that he was no ordinary man.

An alert, wealthy young man would be just the sort of person that Morin would select for his project and possibly he did. Next let us look at Henry A. Wilkinson's criticisms. Quite obviously the reference to the 'City' of Chicago was wrong, but how about if we say "He was the first coloured man to settle in Eschhikagou, an Indian village which eventually became the City of Chicago". As for the "Fort Dearborn" idea, that was a bad slip since Pointe de Sable settled in the village about 1774, long before Brother Henry Dearborn became Secretary of War in 1801.

The final paragraph states that no record has come to light to indicate the Scottish Rite connection of this gentleman. That is, of course, the crucial point. Without evidence we cannot acknowledge a Masonic connection. However, the story may very well be true as the known facts do not preclude it. It is a case of 'possible' but 'not proven' rather than impossible.

Thank you for your comments Rt. Wor. Bro. Waghorn.

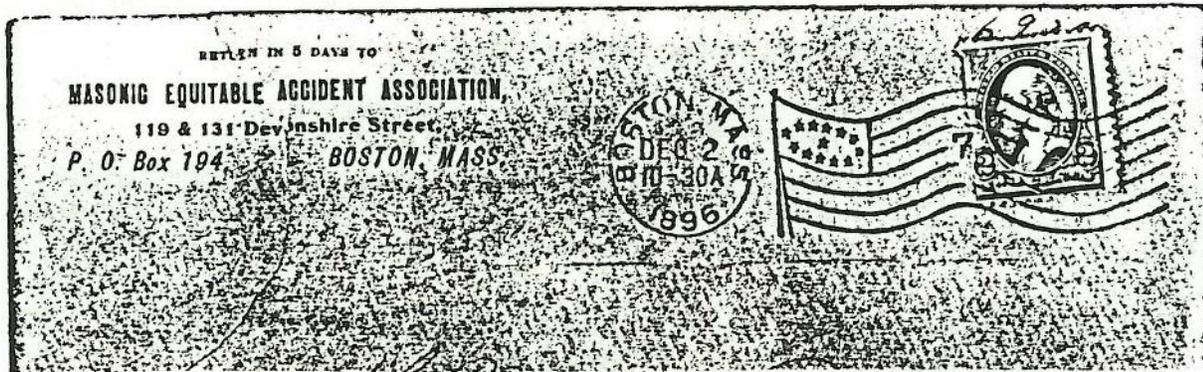
SHOULDN'T YOUR ARTICLE BE HERE???

MASONIC PHILATELIC FINDS BY JACK WELCH

Bro. Jack Welch, Member No. 126 of La Porte, Texas, has submitted copies of a couple of items he has come across in his search for Masonic Philatelic material. The corner card shown below adds to the series on Masonic Insurance Companies. He also included a copy of an ad which appeared amongst approvals offers for 1¢ and 2¢ per stamp that appealed to Masonic Philatelists.

"Attention DeMolays and Masons

Starting September 1, the National DeMolay Collector's Club will issue its own monthly publication. We have reduced our annual dues to 50¢, which also covers our new official organ. We have a Stamp Service department of which we are very proud. Masonic philatelists are becoming well represented in our club. In short, we have made wonderful progress, but there are still many stamp-collecting DeMolays and Masons who have not yet joined us, and we urge them to send to Richard Swearingen, 5940 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Mo., for an application form at once."



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EASTERN STAR ?

Being an Eastern Star means to me that all members of the organization have love for one another. It also means to me to have faith in God and a deeper committment to him. I have learned about the different women of the Bible and what it really means to be a daughter, wife, mother, sister and friend. Queen Esther Chapter #262, here in Clarkston, Georgia, is one of the oldest Chapters in Georgia. The oldest Chapter is Electra #6. In April of this year I was assigned as Elected Associate Matron of Queen Esther Chapter #262.

I wish that someone who makes and designs covers would have a cover or covers designed for the Eastern Star. I am working on an exhibit and I would like to have some Eastern Star covers. If any member knows of anyone who has Star covers, please contact: Dorothy Walker, 1915 Castleway Lane, N.E., Atlanta, GA. 30345.

-Submitted by Dorothy Walker, Member No. 213.

FURTHER INFO ON MATTHEW HENSON

Bro. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., sends his appreciative thanks for being re-elected Vice President of our Unit and sends the following article so that members can complete the information on the stamp of both Matthew Henson and Robert E. Peary.

Bro. Matthew Henson now can rest in peace where he belongs, in the garden of stone and graveyards of heroes, Arlington National Cemetery. So writes the Kansas City Star in its April 12, 1988 issue. Most history books report that Henson reached the North Pole with Cmdr. Robert E. Peary 79 years ago. Henson was Peary's Black valet - turned - navigator. But Henson did more than that. What many American history books do not report is that Henson got to the North Pole before Peary did. That would make Henson, not Peary, the first person - and American - to reach the North Pole.

Bro. Matthew A. Henson was a member of Celestial Lodge No. 3 F.& A.M., Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, initiated 5 November, 1904. Robert Edwin Peary received his degrees in Kane Lodge No. 454, Caucasian Grand Lodge of New York. Initiated 4 Feb.; passed 18 Feb. and raised 3 March all in 1896. One would think that the two Masonic Brethren shared the mysteries of the Craft together. Calculating his own course, Bro. Henson became the first man to locate and stand on the North Pole. Peary arrived 45 minutes later, and together they planted the American Flag. Bro. Henson received a Congressional Medal of Honor but was buried in New York, where he died. Peary who died in 1920 is buried in Arlington. Recently Ebony magazine brought the descendents of Henson from the Polar region to the United States for a visit.

-Submitted by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., Member No. 105

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN - MASON??

In the last Newsletter I commented upon the report that Pres. Ronald Reagan may have been made a "Mason-at-Sight". I received further information on the event of question from nine of the members - one even called me to set the record straight:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 13. John M. Cunningham | 242. Harry Brahmstadt |
| 23. Gladys M. Vogel | 388. Frank Cochrane |
| 45. Otto Steding | 433. Edwin Long |
| 56. Louis A. Morris | 484. Kenneth Gibala |
| 92. Stanley R. Longenecker | |

The article on the event was carried by "The Northern Light", the "New Age Magazine" and "The Voice of Freemasonry of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia".

At a special ceremony at the White House on Feb. 11, Masonic leaders presented Pres. Ronald Reagan a Certificate of Honor from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. Scottish Rite leaders also presented him a certificate that conferred the title of "Honorary Scottish Rite Mason" and he was made an honorary member of the Shrine of North America's Imperial Council. This certificate of honor should not be confused with the "Mason-at-Sight" ceremony performed by a number of Grand Lodges. The citation merely recognizes the President for "his firm belief in brotherly love, relief and truth, tenets of our institution since time immemorial, and whose service, civic and public, has broadened the application of our cardinal virtues to the benefit of all mankind".