

## ASA PHILIP RANDOLPH

Bro. A. Philip Randolph was a member of Joppa Lodge No. 55, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York being raised there September 22, 1928. Joppa Lodge held a testamonial dinner for him in the Americana Hotel, Oct. 9, 1964; in attendance were then Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Hon. (Bro.) Hobart Taylor, Jr., Counselor to Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson and Grand Master E. Harrison Clark, as well as members of his beloved Lodge.

Bro. Randolph is shown on the 12th stamp in the Black Heritage series released by the USPS on Feb. 3, 1989.



Asa Philip Randolph, African-American union leader, was born in Crescent City, Fla. Educated at the City College of New York, he later edited "The Messenger" and wrote articles for "Opportunity" magazine. In 1925 he founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and led it to prominence as the strongest of the African-American labor unions. In 1935 he was a member of Mayor (Bro.) LaGuardia's New York City Commission on Race. He was active in the protests which led to the Executive Order ending discrimination in defense industries during World War II. After the war he effectively lobbled for a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee.

In 1947 Bro. Randolph and Grand Reynolds organized the League of Non-Violent Civil Disobedience Against Military Segregation. He led a delegation of African-American leaders in conferring with Pres. (Bro.) Harry S. Truman in March 1848 and told him that African-Americans would refuse to register for the draft if it meant serving in the Jim Crow army. He later told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he would personally aid draft resisters, which he did. In 1957 he became a vice-president of the AFL-CIO and later a member of the executive council. At the 1959 AFL-CIO convention he charged organized labor with discrimination, provoking the anger of Pres. George Meany and censure by the AFL-CIO executive committee. In this same year he met with more than 75 African-American union leaders and chaired the National Steering Committee of the Negro American Labor Council (NALC). He directed the organization until 1963. He was a leader of the 1963 March on Washington; he was 74 at the time. In March 1964 Bro. Randolph and Bayard Rustin led a march by 3,000 on Albany, N.Y., to demand equal civil rights and social reforms from Gov. Rockefeller and the New York Legislature. He died May 16, 1979, in New York City at the age of 90.

> - Article contributed by Bro. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., Vice President of our Unit.

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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

#### NEV MEMBERS:

234. Allen Downes, P.O. Box 83, Ingle Farm, 5098 So. Australia.

- 237. Pierre Normand, 2902 Brothers Rd., College Station, TX 77840 (Bro. Normand is Curator at the Brazos Valley Masonic Museum)
- 240. Dr. Ephraim F. Eliezri, 3800 Upton Ave So, Minneapolis, MN 55410
- 243. Juan Sabater Pie, Ronda Guinardo 28-3-1,08024 Barcelona, Spain

248. George Krissinger, 590 Church St., Hazelton, PA 18201.

#### REINSTATED:

456. Hubert P. Tougas, 99A Topsfield Rd., Ipswich, MA 01938.

#### ADDRESS CHANGES:

- 116. Richard A. Koch, P.O.Box 420218, Del Rio, TX 78842.

### MASONIC CACHETED COVERS FOR SALE

In the last Newsletter, your Editor announced that he had Bro. John Cunningham's cover stock/accumulation available for sale and offered price lists of these covers in return for a #10 SASE. There are still many of these covers still available although many have been sold.

Within the past few weeks, I have also made arrangements to handle the sale of Bro. Rev. Silas J. Hirte's Masonic Cover Collection. This collection consists of 3100 covers, U.S. and foreign, with very little duplication. Because of the large number of covers, it will be a little while before a listing is obtained. In the meantime, please send me your want lists and I will see what I can do to fill it. The coverage is broad and the costs will be competitive.

### NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been noted in the recent philatelic media:

10/26/88 - Bangladesh - 125th Anniversary of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; 2 values - 10 taka value shows blood transfusion.

11/7/88 - Philippines - Birth Centenary of Dona Aurora Aragon Quezon (wife of Pres/Bro, Manuel Quezon); 2 values - portraits. See article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding cover of this issue.

11/11/88 - Cook Islands - Christmas/Paintings by A. Durer; 4 values + S/S - 4 different paintings of the Virgin and Child, S/S is "The Nativity"

2/27/89 - France - Famous People of the French Revolution; six semipostals: Emmuanuel-Joseph Sieves - ? Comte de Mirabeau - ? Vicomte de Noailles - ? Marquis de Lafaqyette - Yes Antoinne Barnave - ? Drouet - ?

### NEW GWMSC COVERS

The covers shown below have been issued by the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club. Information on their purchase can be obtained from the Cover Chairman, Bro. Stan Longenecker, P.O.Box 7244, Lancaster, PA 17604.



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# EDWARD P. JOHNSON

Edward P. Johnson was born August 22, 1878, in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He was graduated from the University of Toronto where he was a member of the fife and drum corps. Possessing a fine tenor voice, he studied in New York and made his Broadway debut in "A Waltz Dream" in 1908. He then studied in Italy and made his operatic debut in Padua in 1912 in "Andrea Chenier". He sang "Parsifal" at La Scala in 1914 and then toured to Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Madrid and Lisbon. He sang "Fedora" at the Chicago Opera in 1919 and made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Avito in "L'more dei tre re" Nov. 16, 1922. He continued singing at the Met in a variety of roles for the next thirteen years including world premieres of "The King's Henchmen", "Merry Mount" and "Peter Ibbetson". His best role was said to be Pelleas. In 1935 he was appointed general manager of the Met - a post he held for fifteen years. It was a period marked by commercial and artistic success; the Opera Guild was started as well as the Auditions of the Air. He died on April 20, 1959.

Bro. Edward F. Johnson received his degrees in Adelphic Lodge No. 348. New York City, on February 18, March 4 and April 1, 1902.

Because of his thirty year connection with the Met, it is appropriate to remember Bro. Johnson in connection with U.S. Scott No. 2054, issued on Sept. 14, 1983, for the Centenary of the Met.



<u>A. B. GRAHAM</u>

On Jan. 15, 1952, the U.S. issued a stamp to honor the 4-H club movement in the U.S. and to honor its founder, A. B. Graham.



Bro. Graham was born on March 13, 1868, and died on January 14, 1960, being buried at Fletcher, Ohio, with Masonic ceremonies. He was the county school superintendent in Springfield, Ohio. he later worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was Superintendent of Extension in Ohio and at Ohio State University being the first to hold this position in the U.S. from 1909 to 1914. He received an honorary Doctor's degree from Ohio State University and Marietta College. At the age of 89, he took part in the dedication of Graham High School in Saint Paris, Ohio, named in his honor.

Bro. Graham was initiated on July 1, 1889, passed on August 8, 1889, and raised on January 2, 1890, in Social Lodge No. 217, Lena, Ohio, -Article contributed by Bro. Donald McKinney

# ROBERT ALLEN STRANAHAN, SR.

Robert Allen Stranahan, Sr., (1886-1962) was an automobile pioneer. He was President of Champion Spark Plug Co. from 1910 to 1954 and Chairman of the Board of Directors of that company from 1954 to 1962. He developed the technique of installing gaskets between the metal and porcelain parts of the spark plug dentering the porcelain in the shell preventing breakage and sealing off gas leakage. In 1980 he was inducted postumously into the Automobile Hall of Fame at Midland, Michigan. In 1921 he was elected the first "manufacturer" president of the Automobile Equipment Association. He was a 1908 graduate of Harvard College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Robert A. Stranahan was raised a Master Mason in Barton Smith Lodge No. 613, Toledo, Ohio. He was a member of Toledo Consistory and received his 33rd degree in 1947. He was also a member of Chapter, Council, Commandery, St. Thomas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Zenobia Temple, AAONMS, and Royal Order of Jesters.

The USPS 17 cent auto issue can be used to illustrate this Brother on a Masonic collection album page.

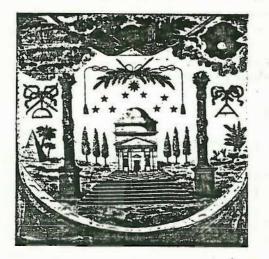


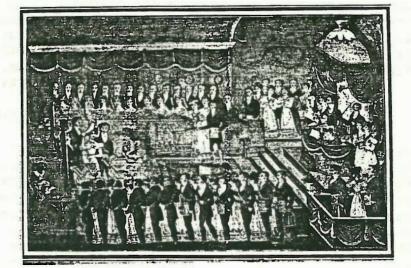
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-Article contributed by Bro. Dwight D. Seals

### MASONIC POST CARDS FROM FRANCE

Bro. Michel Khayat of St. Germaine en Laye, France, has sent in two Masonic postal cards from the Museum of the Grand Orient of France. Shown below, one pictures the Masonic apron belonging to Voltaire which was presented to him by the widow of the French philosopher and Brother, Helvetius, on the day of his initiation. The other depicts a reception ceremony of a young woman in a "loge d'adoption" of the First Empire, originating from the 19th Century.





#### ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 1 BIBLE FOR BUSH INAUGURAL

The St. John's Lodge No. 1 Masonic Bible was used at the inauguration of George Bush as the 41st President of the United States. On January 20, 1989, R.W. Clifford E. Green and the honor guard from St. John's Lodge escorted the Bible from the White House, where it was on display to the inaugural stage for the ceremonies. Barbara Bush, wife of the president, held the Masonic Bible while the oath of office was administered to her husband.

#### SPECIAL AUSTRALIAN MASONIC CANCEL

A special Masonic cancel will be applied in Australia at a temporary postal annex at the Masonic Centre, 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne. It will read "Centenary Celebration of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, East Melbourne Vic., 12-21 March 1989".

Government servicing of fully stamped and addressed covers will be performed when they are sent to the proper address in an outer envelope endorsed in the upper left corner with the name of the postmark required. Some serviced covers may be available at the postmarking station at a cost of 59 cents (Austr.) each. Orders must be received before the last day of use of the cancel. The proper mail address for this cancel is the Masonic Centre cited above or the Postal Manager, East Melbourne Vic. 3002 Australia.

#### PREVIOUS ERRORS ON PRES. JAMES POLK MASONIC DATA

In preparing a collection page for President James Polk, Bro. Juris Raudins uncovered a major discrepancy between two different articles on this Brother which have appeared in previous issues of "The Philatelic Freemason". (Pages 266 and 398). After checking the situation with the late Bro. Marshal Loke's files, Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons" and "The History of Freemasonry in Tennessee", let me now provide the "correct" Masonic biography of this Masonic President. Bro. James Polk received his degrees in Columbia Lodge No. 4, Columbia, Tenn., being Initiated on June 5, Passed on August 7 and Raised on September 4, all in the year 1820.

Thank you for pointing out this error Bro. Raudins.

#### DUES WILL BE DUE SOON

The next newsletter will signify the start of another year for the Unit. For most of the members, it will also be dues time. Why not make this year different by surprising our Secretary-Treasurer with early dues payment. Such an action would reap two-fold benefits - it will make him smile and it will keep our coffers strong by not requiring a notice to be sent requesting dues payment. The dues will remain at \$5.00 per year for U.S. members and those living in Canada and Mexico and \$10.00 for all of our overseas members. Bro. Otto Steding lives at 1033 Hollytree Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231.

# PHILIPPINE MASONIC COVERS

Bro. Vicente Antonio Cu of Manila, the Philippines has provided a copy of two recent First Day Covers from his country. The Nov. 7, 1988 cover and stamp honors the centenary of the birth of Dona A. A. Quezon, the wife of Bro. Manuel L. Quezon, the fifth Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Althyough not Masonic in itself, it can be used to compliment a set of pages for Bro. Quezon.

Nov. 30, 1988 was Philippine National Hero Day in honor of the 125th birth anniversary of the greatest Philippine hero, Bro. Andres Bonifacio. This cover is also shown below. Information on obtaining copies of these covers can be obtained from Bro. Cu at P.O. Box 1443, ZIP 1099 Manila, Philippines.



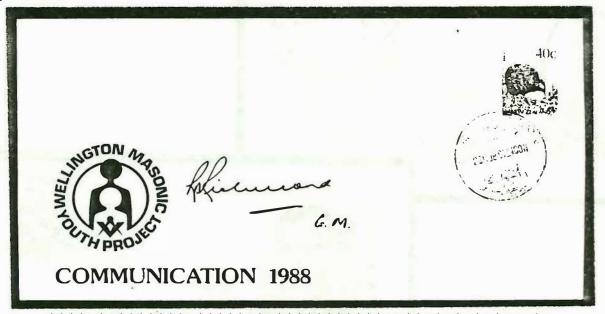
#### OLIVER NORVELL HARDY

The article on Bro. Hardy in the most recent newsletter in which I solicited the Masonic biography of this noted Brother resulted in several letters. One, from Bro. Frank Cochrane, reminded me that he had previously submitted the data and that I had prepared an article using that data. Brothers Norman Lincoln and Charles W. GGeelan also wrote providing information. The previous article was on page 525. Bro. Hardy received his degrees on May 22, September 25 and October 26, 1916, in Solomon Lodge No. 20, Jacksonville, Fla. Thank you, Brethren.

## WELLINGTON MASONIC COVERS

As part of the activities associated with the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of New Zealand, held in Wellington November 22-24, 1988, sets of philatelic covers were produced for the Wellington Masonic Youth Project. This set of 5 covers was franked on Nov. 23, the formal date of the communication and investiture of the new Grand Master. Four of the covers are signed individually by M.W.Bro. J. McManemin, outgoing Grand Master, M.W.Bro. R. Richmond, new Grand Master, R.W.Bro. D. Hercock, outgoing Provincial Grand Master, Wellington and his successor, R.W.Bro. J. M. Pope; an unsigned cover completes the set.

Of the 100 sets made, about 30 remain and are available at a cost of \$NZ10.00 per set. They can be obtained from Bro. A. L. Hart, 9 Camrose Grove, Kingston, Wellington 6002, New Zealand. All proceeds will go to the project.



# KENA COMPUTER CLUB

The Nobles of the Kena Shrine Temple in Fairfax, Va., have developed an electronics bulletin board dedicated to receiving, storing and exchanging Masonic information. Called "Hiram's Oasis", the one year old computer bank provides access to all Brethren who are "on line" with their own computer and telephone modem. (dial (703) 938-4990 using N,8,1 protocol.) Instantly, the caller will be connected to a data base dedicated to Masonic information. He can make announcements, ask questions, get answers, store or receive articles, search Masonic records and, in effect, tap into a large and growing mass of data on all aspects of Masonry, current and past.

For further information on this free service, contact Bro. Preston Burner at 2500 Flint Hill Road, Vienna, Virginia 22181-5449.

# GFORGE ROGERS CLARK AND WILLIAM CLARK BROTHERS, SOLDIERS, HEROS AND MASONS

During the search for Masonic Philatelic material, the major theme or person on a cover is mot always the qualifier as to its applicability to the topic; sometimes the background or ancillary feature of the philatelic item will make it Masonic. A specific case in point is the Francis Vigo, Vincennes, 1779, commemorative postal card. Commemorating this Italian-American Patriot, joint issues were released by the U.S. and Italy on May 24, 1986. The American postal card, designed by David Blossom, was the superposition of a portrait of Vigo on the background of George Rogers Clark and his men. This Clark design had been produced by Blossom back in 1979 to honor the 200th Anniversary of the capture of Fort Sackville (now known as Vincennes, Ind.) by Clark and his brave men. It depicts George Rogers Clark and 130 hand-picked men wading icy waters during their midwinter drive on the British occupied Fort. George Rogers Clark had also been honored philatelically by the U.S. on Feb. 25, 1929, on an issue which shows him accepting the surrender of the British Forces at the main gate of Fort Sackville.

George Rogers Clark was said to have been a Mason although the details of his membership have eluded positive identification. There is no evidence that Francis Vigo was ever a Mason. What was the connection between these two individuals?: F. Vigo was a St. Louis fur trader who made loans, provided supplies and encouraged others to do the same. He provided Clark the information that the British Commander had dispatched his Indian Allies to the east and only had a small detachment of 80 men at Fort Sackville. This information induced General Clark to initiate his attack and capture the fort.

George R. Clark's younger brother, William, was also a Mason being a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 111 of Illinois. He is best remembered for his part in the famed Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803-06 which was, in Jefferson's words, "To explore even to the western ocean" and "to study the Indian Tribes, the botany, the geology and the animals of the region". William Clark is also honored on a U.S. stamp - that issued on July 28, 1954, for the Expedition.



Francis Vigo, Vincennes, 1779





-Article submitted by Bro. Jack Welch

#### RESPONSE TO "EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS"

The response I received to my rather lengthy "Editor's Ramblings" of the most recent newsletter was quite gratifying. It proved that the membership is reading, thinking and desirous of providing full support. Thank you to all who responded.

#### RESPONSE (Cont'd)

For example, Bro. Trevor Fray restated his position that I was free to use any information that appears in the newsletter of his group, the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain. The same holds true for Bro. Sid Martin of So. Australia. Both agree, however, that it is much more interesting and productive to be able to print new information. Bro. Chris Murphy of Canada provided a great deal of information which can be used for articles; one such appears in this issue.

Bro. Dwight D. Seals advocated that attention be paid to the Masons of today who may be the subjects of tomorrow's stamps. A bit of advance preparation for future pages; in the meantime, associated stamps can be used. Examples of "Modern Masons" who he would like to see covered are professional baseball and football players who are/were Masons. The Religous Freedom stamp could be used for Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, Rev. Jessie Jackson, etc. Since Bro. Roy Clark was just made a "Mason at Sight", he could be used with the American Music stamp or the guitar stamp. The potential list is endless. I am sure we can all come up with a list of individuals who could be written up in this manner of association with applicable stamps.

I appreciate these suggestions and hope that the rest of the membership now sees avenues of research to pursue. I look forward to more inputs along these lines and will also conduct such research on my own behalf.

## RANSOM E. OLDS

Ransom E. Olds (1864-1950) was a pioneer in the automobile field. He was the first American to build a three wheeled horseless carriage - that event occurred in 1886 and the product was fashioned after the German built 1885 gasoline powered Benz. In 1893 he introduced a practical four wheeled automobile. The Oldsmobile is named for him. He was president of the REO Motor Car Company from 1904 to 1924 and Chairman of the Board from 1924 to 1936.

Brother Olds was a member of Capitol of S. O. Lodge No. 66 of Lansing, Michigan, where he was raised on May 20, 1908. He was a member of Chapter, Council and Commandery of the York Rite as well as the Shrine. Also a Scottish Rite Mason, he achieved the 33rd degree on September 15, 1925.

Brother Olds' three wheeled auto is shown on a stamp issued by Mongolia.

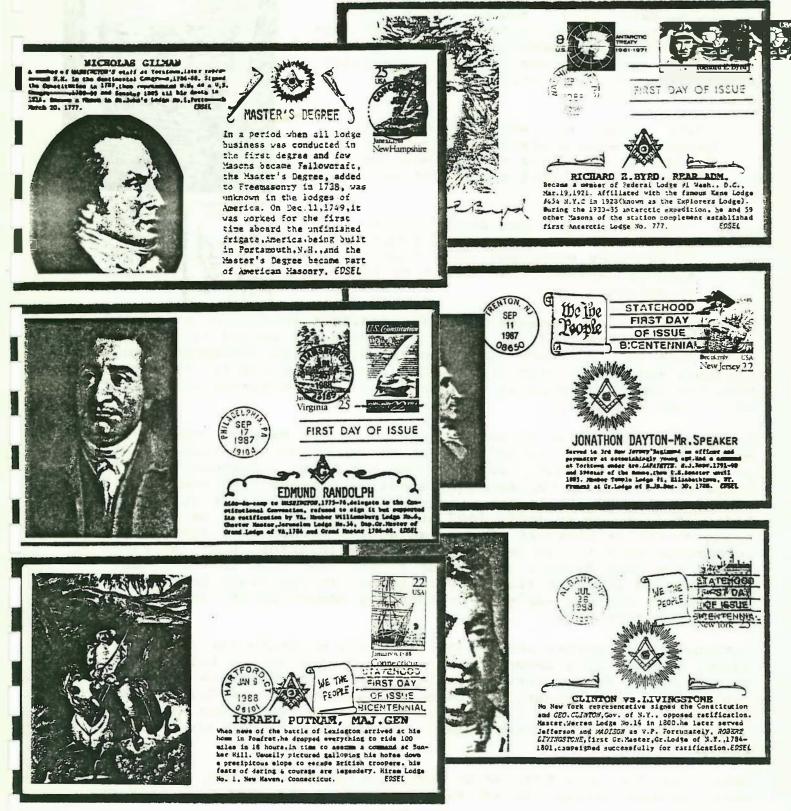


- Article contributed by Dwight D. Seals

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# EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

Bro. Edsel Hatfield has not gone out of the Masonic cover producing business as might have been thought by the absence of his productions on these pages in the past few newsletters. The examples shown below demonstate the continuation of his capabilities in this field. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from him at P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, Mo. 63042.



## HENRY CLAY

Bro. Christopher L. Murphy has submitted a detailed article on Bro. Henry Clay, The following paragraphs are extracted from that work.

Upon visiting "Ashland", Clay's famous estate in Lexington, Ky., during Sept. 1988, the Executive Director of the estate, Bettie Kerr, showed me Henry Clay's Masonic Apron, which had never been placed on display. It had just been donated to the Memorial Foundation and is in a plain picture frame with ordinary glass. Above the apron there are two notations embroidered in cloth:

"This apron was worn by General Lafayette when assisting in the Masonic Ceremonies at laying the cornerstone of Bunker Hill Monument and presented by him to Henry Clay."

"This Apron lay upon Henry Clay's coffin, 1852 when the Grand Lodge of Kentucky performed their highest Masonic Ceremonies in honour of the illustrious dead."





Although the apron appears to be in excellent condition (it is 163 years old), it needs to be properly mounted and sealed to minimize deterioration. The Henry Clay Memorial Foundation (Richmond Road at Sycamore Road, Lexington, KY,, 40502) requires funds for this project. When the apron is properly contained, it will be placed on display for all to see and enjoy.

Henry Clay found time to be very active in the Masonic Order. His membership, however, is not unusual as many prominent people of that period were Freemasons. Clay received his Masonic Degrees in Lexington Lodge No. 1, Lexington, Kentucky sometime between 1798 and 1801. He served as the Master of this Lodge and was Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1806, 1807 and 1809. Later (1820) he became the Grand Master of Kentucky. He was an active member of a Masonic conference held in the Senate chambers, Washington, D.C., on March 9, 1822 - the only Masonic meeting on record ever held in that room. Records also indicate that he was present at the Grand Lodge sessions in 1829 and that he was made an honorary member of St. John's Lodge No. 1, New York City.

Although he supported and became Secretary of State for John Quincy Adams, a noted Anti-Mason, Clay never deviated in his belief of the principles of Freemasonry. He said "I would not denounce and formally renounce it (Freemasonry) to be made President of the United States". He passed to the Grand Lodge above on June 29, 1852, and was buried with Masonic honors. His monument was Masonically dedicated on July 4, 1858.

Henry Clay has been honored on five U.S. postage stamps, two of which have the same design. He was also honored on the 1869 U.S. banknote.