

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

VOL. 17, NO. 6

MARCH-APRIL 1994

WHOLE NO. 100

The Antigua & Barbuda stamps shown on a First Day cancelled card in the previous issue of the Newsletter are shown here as the mint set. They were acquired from the Inter-governmental Philatelic Corp., New York City (a wholesale distributor).



As indicated previously, this issue was released on August 16, 1993, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of St. John's Lodge. The 10 cent value pictures Very Wor. Bro. W.K. Heath, Grand Inspector, Leeward Islands, 1961-1982. The 30 cent value pictures the present Masonic Hall used by St. John's Lodge, Antigua, since 1961 while the 40 cent stamp shows the first Masonic Hall used from 1876 to 1960. The top value of the set, the 60 cent issue, depicts Very Wor. Bro. J.L.E. Jeffery, Grand Inspector of the Leeward Islands, 1953 to 1961.

Your Editor has been successful in acquiring a sufficient quantity of these sets to be able to offer them to the membership. They are available at a cost of 75 cents per set plus a SASE or 29 cents postage per order (U.S.). Unfortunately, there are no First Day Covers available through the outlet used. The address is at the top of this masthead.

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Secretary-Treasurer  
Otto Steding  
1033 Hollytree Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45231

President  
Stanley Longenecker  
930 Wood St.  
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Membership:  
\$8.00 - No. America  
\$14.00 - All Other

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS:

- 306. Thomas H. Reilly, 70 Oak Ridge Dr., Haddonfield, NJ 08033
- 396. F. Leak, P.O. Box 524, Essex Junction, VT 05453
- 397. Romy C. Go, % C.A.B. Hardware, 467 McArthur Highway, Balibage, Angles City, Philippines 2009

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

- 161. J. H. Dietz, Brouwershavenstraat 5, 5043 WR Tilburg, Netherlands
- 221. Donald L. Omdahl, P.O. Box 962, Thompson Falls, MT 59873
- 303. Kit Carson Price, 836 Lexington Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530
- 347. Harold J. Spelan, 2 S. 361 Angeline Ct., Warrenville, IL 60555
- 366. Donald A. Wilder, 11682 S.W. 79th Circle, Ocala, FL 34481 (after March 17)
- 423. Dale E. Kinley, 20281 Cedar Lane, Escondido, CA 92029

### CLOSED ALBUMS:

- 197. R.W. Simon L. Alpern, late of Bronx, NY (Jan. 18, 1994)
- 312. Richard A. Bruder, late of Louisville, KY (Sept. 27, 1993)
- 386. George L. Schmidt, late of Houston, TX (Dec. 5, 1993)

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Bro. Richard Wright, Member No. of Lodi, CA, has accepted the presidency of the Lodi High Twelve Club, International.

Any other achievements we should know of?

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## ELECTIONS

It is that time of the decade again and, honestly, it has caught your Editor off-guard. This issue of the Newsletter should, and does, include a ballot. The previous issue, however, should have included a call for nominees for the positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Masonic Study Unit. In the absence of any inputs, I have selected a slate of candidates based upon incumbents and participation in the Unit activities. Spaces are also provided for write-in selections.

There is one additional point which should be pondered by the membership for potential voting and action. Back in the early days of the Masonic Study Unit, there was quite a bit of activity on several fronts and there was a strong need for the various elected and appointed positions. Lately, the responsibilities of these roles have diminished to the point where they can appear to be in title only. I am not sure how to handle this reversal - I would like to see the situation reverse and the Unit to take on the active leadership role it once held (and perhaps still does since we do enjoy a meaningful membership and publish a very informative Newsletter). The most significant alternate would be to have the Unit revert back to a single-driver organization such a was run by Bros. Clarence Beltmann and Nick Koutroulis. I personally don't want to see that happen and think there must be some middle ground we could achieve. The elected officers could select a small but elite corps designed to pursue new members and public exposure. I seriously entertain inputs from the members to trigger a restructuring of the formal organization of the Masonic Study Unit. Thank you.

## MASONS IN GOVERNMENT

Bro. Don Wilder, presently of Peaks Island, Maine, soon to be located in Ocala, FL, has been working on a total integrated index of the various newsletters of the various MSUs - an admirable task indeed. In his spare time he decided to research the field of Masons in Government. He has come across the listings which have been prepared biennially by the Masonic Service Association - these include Master Masons who are Members of the Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives of the Congress in session. These listings can provide a valuable source for a specialty collection which could involve related covers and autographs since most are not pictured on stamps, nor are they likely to be. It is surprising to note the strong showing of Masons in the various roles but it is disturbing to note that most of them are of an advanced age - but that appears to be the trend of Masonry today.

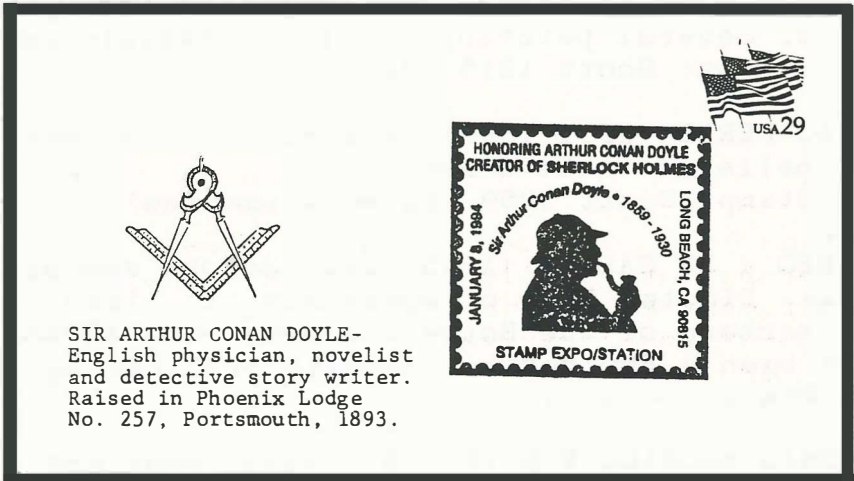
Bro. Don has also turned to a copy of Bro. Ronald E. Heaton's booklet titled "Justices of the Supreme Court Identified as Masons" which is also published by the Masonic Service Association. This booklet presents the biographical and Masonic data on 35 Members of the Craft who were Masons. In this instance, several of these distinguished brethren have been honored by their own postage stamp releases or can be very closely associated with the design of a stamp such as the Supreme Court issues. Bro. Edsel Hatfield has provided a good coverage of these members in his various cacheted cover series. The specific Masonic Supreme Court Justices identified by Bro. Heaton are:

Henry Baldwin	Stephen J. Field	Wiley B. Rutledge
Hugo L. Black	John M. Harlan	Potter Stewart
John Blair	Robert H. Jackson	Noah H. Swayne
Samuel Blatchford	Joseph R. Lamar	William H. Taft
Harold H. Burton	John Marshall	Thomas Todd
James F. Byrnes	Stanley Matthews	Robert Trimble
John Catron	Sherman Minton	Willis Van Devanter
Thomas C. Clark	William H. Moody	Frederick M. Vinson
John H. Clarke	Samuel Nelson	Earl Warren
William Cushing	William Paterson	Levi Woodbury
William O. Douglas	Mahlon Pitney	William B. Woods
Oliver Ellsworth	Stanley F. Reed	

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The cover shown here was purchased from:

Bro. Ross Wetreich  
P.O. Box 1300  
Valley Stream  
Long Island, NY 11582



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE-  
English physician, novelist  
and detective story writer.  
Raised in Phoenix Lodge  
No. 257, Portsmouth, 1893.

## MASONS OF SPAIN

Bro. Norm Lincoln, our Research Chairman, has provided the following listing of Spanish Freemasons pictured on the stamps of Spain. The list was developed by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, Member No. 243 of Barcelona, Spain

MANUEL RUIZ ZORILLA (1833-1895) Politician and President of Spain. Grand Master and Supreme Grand Commander, Grand Orient July 21, 1970.  
Stamp: Scott 534

FRANCISCO PI I MARGALL (1824-1901) Politician, minister, President of Spain briefly, 1873. At Supreme Council Elections, Scottish Rite 1884.  
Stamp: Scott 516, 532

NARCISCO MONTURIOL (1819-1885) Politician and inventor of a submarine "The Ictineo". One of his pictures has Masonic symbols, Lodge unknown.  
Stamp: Scott 2527

NICOLAS SALMERON (1838-1908) Professor of Philosophy and Metaphysics, Central University. Politician, President of Spain 1873. Lodge unknown  
Stamp: Scott 518, 523, 550

JOSE DE ECHEGARAY Y ELIZAGUIRRE (1832-1916) Politician and dramatist: "El Gran Galeoto" 1881 - a tragedy; "EL Hijo de Don Juan" 1892 - romantic realism. Awarded Nobel Prize for Literature 1904. Member of the Supreme Council Scottish Rite, 33rd Degree.  
Stamp: Scott 673

GUMERSINDO DE AZCARTE (1840-1927) University professor and founder of Institute of Free Teaching. Lodge details unknown.  
Stamp: Scott 548

EMILIO CASTELAR (1832-1899) President of Spain 1873-1874. Apparently he was not a Mason but name remains in register of the Grand Orient.  
Stamp: Scott 522, 528

TOMAS BRETON (1850-1923) Composer of zarzuela music: "La Verbena de la Poloma", "La Dolorosa" and "Los Amantes de Teruel". Member of Lodge "Fraternidad Iberica No. 90" in Madrid. Member of Scottish Rite, 1884.  
Stamp: Scott 2288

JOAQUIN SOROLLA (1863-1923) Impressionist painter known throughout world. Several paintings included Masonic devices - details unknown.  
Stamps: Scott 1215-1224

ISAAC PERAL (1851-1898) Inventor of a submarine. Lodge details unknown but believed to be a Mason.  
Stamp: Scott 1259 (shows submarine)

AMADEO I DE SABOYA (1845-1890) Second son of Victor Emmanuel, Duke of Aosta. Elected King of Spain Nov. 16, 1870. Abdicated in 1873. Most of the members of the House of Savoy were Masons and Amadeo is thought to have been a Brother but details are lacking.  
Stamp: Scott 178-189

ANTONIO MACHADO Y RUIZ (1875-1939) Poet and philosopher. "Campos de Castilla", 1912. Condemned as "heretic and Mason" by Franco regime.  
Stamp: Scott 2086

## MASONS OF SPAIN

JAIIME FERRAN CLUA (1852-1929) Physician and bacteriologist. Initiated in Lodge "Lealtad No. 1" (Loyalty) in Barcelona.

Stamp: Scott 794

SANTIAGO RAMON Y CAJAL (1852-1934) Doctor of Anatomy and Physiology. Awarded prizes in Moscow 1900 and Berlin 1904. Shared the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1906. Initiated in Lodge "Caballeros de la Noche No. 687" (Gentlemen of the Night) in 1877 which belonged to the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido from Zaragoza.

Stamp: Scott 493, 545

ALEJANDRO LARROUX (1864-1949) Politician and founder of the Radical Republican Party. Initiated in Lodge "Betonica" of Madrid. In 1917 affiliated with Lodge "Adelante No. 360" (Forward) in Barcelona.

Stamp: Scott 560, 564, 568

VINCENTE BLASCO IBANEZ (1867-1928) Novelist and politician. Born in Valencia. He studied law and was frequently arrested for his radical views. He later attacked the government of Alfonso XIII and the dictatorship of Primo del Rivero. His novels include La Barraca (the Cabin) 1898, Canas y barro (Reeds and Mud) 1902, Los cuatro jinetes del Apocalipsis (The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse) 1916, Sangre y Arena (Blood and Sand) 1908, Mare Nostrum, The Torrent and the Temptress. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Washington University in 1920 and received a gold medal from the Hispanic Society of America. He was a member of Lodge Acacia No. 25, Valencia, Orator of the Grand Orient.

Stamp: Scott 526, 528

JUAN DE LA CIERVA (1893-1936) Engineer who invented an autogiro (helicopter with wings) in 1924. Killed in a plane crash in 1936. Member of Lodge "Vigilancia" No. 35 of Murcia.

Stamp: Scott C77, 80, 82, 84, 100-108, 109-116; 1040

JUAN GRIS (1887-1927) Real name was Jose Victoriano Gonzalez. Painter born in Madrid, studied with Picasso in Paris, member of the Cubist School. He died in Boulogne, France. Initiated in Lodge Voltaire, Paris, Feb. 2, 1923.

Stamp: Scott 2485

RAMON FRANCO BAHAMONDE Brother of Anti-Mason Francisco Franco. He was a pilot who flew from Spain to Buenos Aires Jan. 21, 1926, in the seaplane "Ne Plus Ultra". He was initiated in Lodge "Plus Ultra" in Paris in 1931.

Stamp: Scott CB1-5; 1041

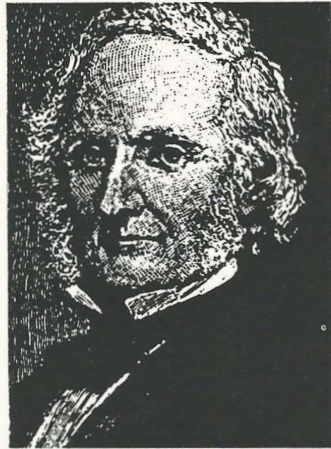



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## CAMPAIGN FOR STAMP(S) FOR SHRINE

Bro. John M. Cunningham, Member No. 13 of Washington, DC, points out that the year 1995 will mark the 75th anniversary of Shriners Hospitals and the 125th anniversary of the Shrine. He suggests that each member of the Unit write to the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee requesting at least a commemorative stamp for the Hospitals, perhaps a pair for the Hospitals and the Shrine. Could someone provide the proper address for such a contact so we can follow through on this suggestion?




EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

The covers shown here have recently been published by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Member No. 21. Information on their purchase may be obtained from him at P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 1993  
BURBANK, CA 91505

**AMOS KENDALL (1789-1869)**  
PATRON SAINT OF GALLANDET COLLEGE  
His initial gift of 2 acres of land with house and a subsequent \$5,000 gift to Gallandet College gave the school its start. When it needed support and funding from Congress, KENDALL successfully wielded his influence to secure that aid. KENDALL was Postmaster General of the U.S., 1835-40. Member and later V.N. of Kiwanis Lodge #4 Frankfort, KY, subsequently affiliated with Mt. Vernon Lodge #14, Georgetown, KY. Edsel

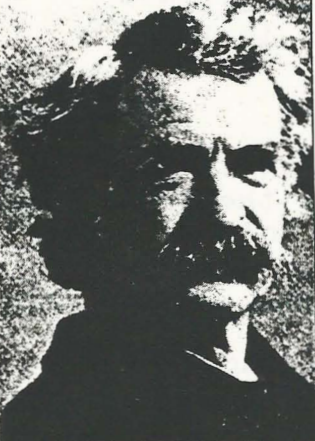






*S. Clemens  
Mark Twain*

HANNIBAL, MO  
OCT 13 1972  
63401

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

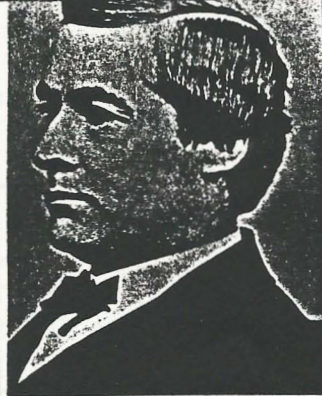
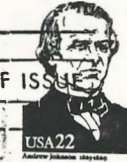
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN  
By MARK TWAIN  
SAMUEL CLEMENS second best novel, after Tom Sawyer, has withstood the assault of powerful censorship groups for over 20 years but remains popular fare in libraries all over the U.S. M.M. in POLAR STAR Ldg.# 79 St. Louis, MO EDSEL

LOUISVILLE, KY  
OCT 23 1993  
40231

*S. Clemens  
Mark Twain*

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN  
By MARK TWAIN  
SAMUEL CLEMENS second best novel, after Tom Sawyer, has withstood the assault of powerful censorship groups for over 20 years but remains popular fare in libraries all over the U.S. M.M. in POLAR STAR Ldg.# 79 St. Louis, MO EDSEL

CHICAGO, ILL  
MAY 22 1986  
60607

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**EDMUND G. ROSS** U.S. Senator from Kansas Civil War Hero, He voted not guilty in the Impeachment of Pres. ANDREW JOHNSON, though he knew it meant political suicide. Moved to Albuquerque NM, studied law and practiced there. U.S. Sec. of Immigration 1894-96 Member of Topeka Ldg. # 17, MS EDSEL

## CHARLES AUGUSTUS LINDBERGH

The U.S. has issued a variety of postage stamps associated with Bro. Charles Augustus Lindbergh but none have been dedicated directly to him. The first two depict his aircraft; on July 30, 1993, the USPS finally published an issue which pictured him but across the bottom of the stamp is printed "National Postal Museum" - was this to honor Bro. Lindbergh? The June 18, 1927, stamp which pictures his Ryan Monoplane, "The Spirit of St. Louis", is annotated "Lindbergh Airmail". The May 20, 1977, release again pictures Lindbergh's plane but has no mention of him whatever - only the phrase "50th Anniversary Solo Transatlantic Flight". This was apparently because of the requirement that "Persons other than U.S. Presidents may not appear as postage stamp subjects until ten years after their death". (Where was this ruling in 1927?)



Brother Charles A. Lindbergh started his flying career at a flying school at Lincoln, Neb. In 1924 he enlisted as a flying cadet in the U.S. Army flying school at Brooks Field, Texas. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserves and was promoted to Brigadier General by President Eisenhower in 1954 for services rendered and contributions he made to the war effort during World War II. Spain 6-1-1

Charles A. Lindbergh received his Masonic degrees in Keystone Lodge No. 243, St. Louis, Mo., on June 9, October 20 and December 15, 1926. He was also a member of St. Louis Chapter No. 33, National Sojourners. He received medals, citations and other honors from Grand Lodges around the world. On his historic flight he wore the Square and Compasses on his jacket. His aircraft also bore a Masonic tag during the flight across the Atlantic to Paris. Both displays were given to him by his home Lodge.

-article submitted by Bro. John Welch, Member No. 126 of La Grange, TX; card from collection of Bro. Robert Krueger.



## WANTS AND OFFERS

The following "Wants and Offers" have been submitted by our members.

Bro. Alan R. P. Golding, Member No. 11, has been able to secure a supply of the Manitoba Masonic seals which were illustrated on page 1081 of the November-December 1993 Newsletter. He is selling them for \$2.00 for the strip of seven seals - postpaid worldwide. He states he would like to correspond with any Unit members who also belong to the American Legion. His address is:

RR-1, 2008 Chemong Road, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6X2, Canada.

Bro. Steve Kapp, Member No. 355, 1180-B Okinawa Lane, Yigo, Guam 96929 still has Masonic issues from the Philippines that he wants to trade for other postage stamps with Masonic designs.

Your Editor still has some copies of the Israel cover shown on page 1080 of the November-December 1993 Newsletter. They are available at a cost of \$6.00 each.

Bro. Richard Wright, Member No. 139, has provided cost and availability information on some offers made in the previous issue. He was able to acquire the Antigua & Barbuda Masonic set from County Stamp Center, P.O. Box 3373, Annapolis, MD 21403. Their cost was 85 cents per set plus 29 cents postage. (This will remain a good source in the event that I am unable to get any new issues yet to be released.) The cost of the Freemasons at Gettysburg booklet announced on page 1098 retails for \$10.95 - this includes postage and handling.

Bro. Wright is looking for a set of Honduras C501-4 - the Masonic overprint set. Should any member have an extra set he will part with, Bro. Wright will pay well over Scott value or make a donation to their charity. Contact him at 13675 N. Hartley Lane, Lodi, CA 95242.

Bro. Christopher L. Murphy, Member No. 226, has released the third installment of The Masonic Specialist. It continues the high degree of quality and excellence exhibited by the first two releases and would be a fine acquisition for any Masonic Philatelist. Details can be obtained from him at Pyramid Publications, Dept. 291 - 720 Sixth St., New Westminster, British Columbia V3L 3C5, Canada.

A reminder that your Editor still has a wide selection of U.S. and foreign Masonic Cacheted Covers for sale. If you are interested, request a copy of the latest price list - updates and additions are frequent.

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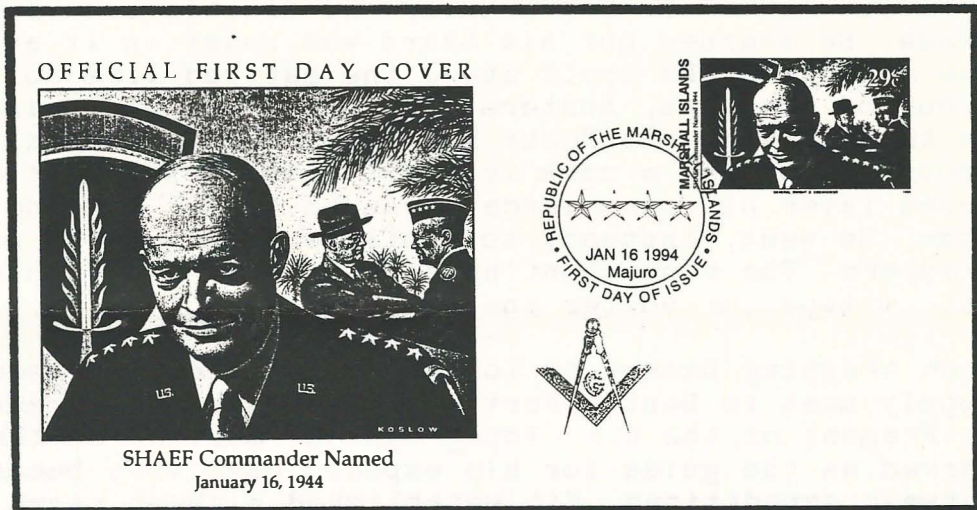
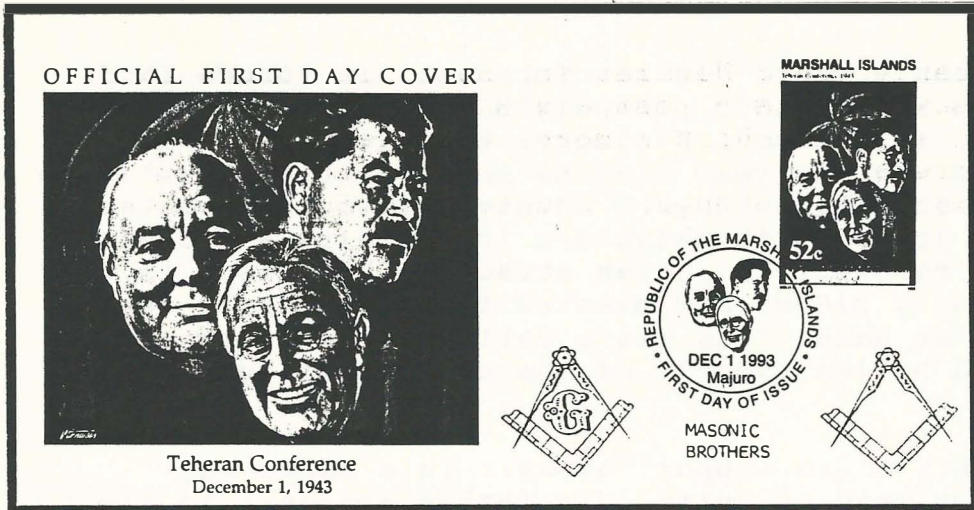
## DUES ARE DUE

A strong majority of the members of our Unit have a dues expiration date of April. The numbers after your name on the mailing label identify your Unit Membership number and your dues expiration date (Year, Month). If your dues are up for renewal now or in the very near future, please remit them to our Secretary-Treasurer. His address and the dues rate are printed on the front page of this Newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation.



## WETREICH COVERS

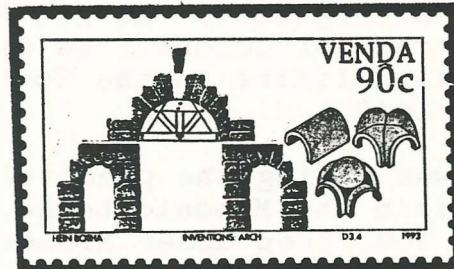
The two covers shown here were enhanced Masonically by Bro. Ross Wetreich. His address is found earlier in this Newsletter.



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## NEW ISSUE - MASONIC SYMBOL

A new issue from Venda could be considered applicable to a Mason's stamp collection. Bro. George Wettach has provided data on a 90 cent issue of the Third Inventions set released on Nov. 5, 1993 - it pictures an arch. Approximately 4000 BC, the Egyptians succeeded in building arches. However, it was the Romans who revolutionized architecture through their development of the arch.



In building their arches, they used a semicircular wooden framework as support. The stamp shows an arch of wedge-shaped stones which leaned on one another and locked themselves together by compression. The keystone was fitted in the center of the arch. The Roman method enabled architects to increase the span of roofs and construct larger interiors. The semicircular arch was also used in the construction of bridges and aqueducts. The stamp features three examples of the use of the arch in architecture - the barrel vault (top left), the cross vault (top right) and the Byzantine dome (bottom).

## CHRISTOPHER "KIT" CARSON

The following article on Bro. Kit Carson is excerpted from one written by Bro. Robert C. Bernard of Bloomington, IL, which appeared in the January 1994 issue of the Knight Templar magazine.

Kit Carson's birth and early years did not forecast his future fame. He was born on Christmas Eve in 1809, the sixth child of Lindsay and Rebecca Robinson Carson, in Madison, Kentucky. Lindsay Carson was a poor farmer and when Kit was one year old, he moved with his family in search of better land, settling in Howard County, Missouri, located on the wild frontier. They joined with neighbors in building a picketed log fort to try to find refuge from Indian attacks. They slept in the fort at night and carefully plowed and planted their fields by day, with loaded rifles near at hand. Thus Kit's childhood was spent in hostile surroundings and he learned all of the secrets of survival on the frontier.

At the age of fifteen, Kit could support himself in a dangerous environment but could not read or write. His father apprenticed him to a saddle maker, David Workman, who did his best to teach Kit the trade. He learned but his heart was never in it and in 1826, when he was seventeen, he could stand the settled life no longer and joined a group of trappers, hunters and mountain men passing through Missouri on their way to the Rocky Mountains. After several months with this group, he became a cook in the trapper settlement of Taos, NM. Two years later his conscience began to bother him and he left to return home. He went, instead, to Santa Fe with a party of traders and trappers. The group continued west on to California and Kit developed into a superior hunter and trapper.

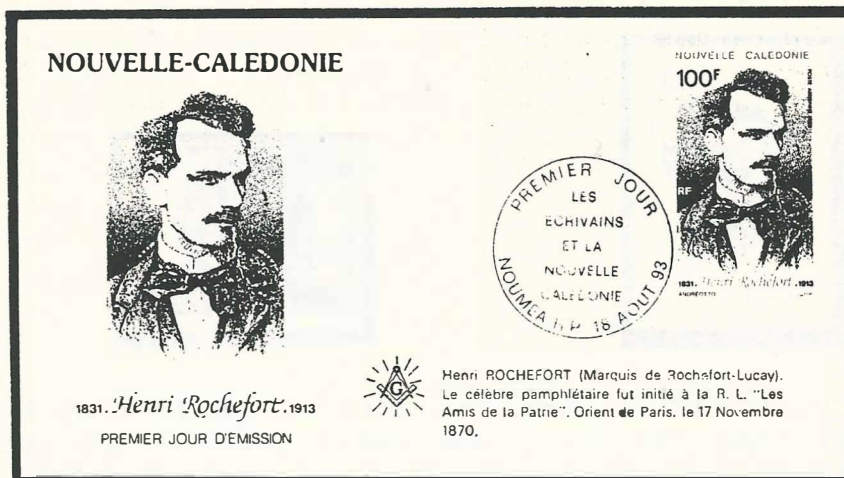
When trapping became no longer worthwhile, Kit became a hunter to supply meat to Bent's Fort in southeastern Colorado. He met Lt. John C. Fremont of the U.S. Topographical Service in the summer of 1842 and served as the guide for his expeditions; they became lifelong friends. Between expeditions, Kit established a sheep ranch near Taos. In 1845 Carson and Fremont played vital roles in the Mexican War; Kit teamed with General Kearney later to provide even more support to the effort. Congress refused to reward Kit with a commission so he returned to sheep ranching. This commission was later granted during the Civil War and he organized the New Mexico Volunteer Infantry, leading it with the rank of Colonel. He served the government as superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southwest after the Civil War and died on May 23, 1868.

It was during the peaceful years of ranching that Kit had opportunity to join the Masonic Lodge. He received his degrees in Montezuma Lodge No. 109, then under Missouri charter although in New Mexico, being initiated on March 29, passed on June 17 and raised on December 26, 1854. When Bent Lodge No. 204, named after Kit's friend, Charles Bent of Bent's Fort, was chartered by Missouri in Taos on December 15, 1859, Carson demitted to it and became its first Junior Warden. When that Lodge surrendered its charter, Kit returned to Montezuma Lodge and remained a member until death.

It is hoped that the USPS straightens out its present problems with the "Legends of the West" sheetlet so that we can place this Brother in a prominent place in our collections.

## FRENCH MASONIC COVER

Bro. Jean Prouteau, Member No. 109, has provided the latest Masonic cover issued by his group, the J. T. Desagulier Club. It is available from him at a cost of \$3.00 each, postpaid. His address is:  
1 rue Verlaine, 17000 La Rochelle, France.



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## SPECIAL MASONIC CANCEL

The special cancellation shown here was used on December 27, 1993, in Freehold Township, NJ, to commemorate Olive Branch Lodge No. 16, F. & A.M. celebrating Freehold Township's Tercentenary. This particular cover was embellished with a Masonic emblem by Bro. Ross Wetreich; your Editor has written to the Lodge involved to determine if there were any covers prepared by them. Do any of the members know of such?



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## SULTAN OF PERAK

Sultan Idris Iskander Shah, the Sultan of Perak, was initiated many years ago at his college Lodge, probably in Cambridge. He was Wor. Master of Napier Lodge No. 3418, Tiger Lane, Ipoh, Perak in Sept. 1976 and Past District Senior Grand Warden in 1978. He died on Jan. 31, 1984. The Sultan of Perak is shown on a Malaysia/Perak stamp issued in 1963 to commemorate his installation as Sultan as well as later definitive issues.

-information extracted from The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine, January 1994.

## AUSTRALIAN EXPLORERS - MASONS?

Bro. Ernest Stermole, Member No. 258 of Australia, has been researching famous Australians on stamps and has uncovered data which indicate that Ludwig Leichhardt and Sir Thomas Mitchell, noted explorers, were Freemasons.



Unfortunately, your Editor has no biographical data on Ludwig Leichhardt other than his birth and death years which appear on the stamp: 1813-1848.

Sir Thomas Mitchell was born June 16, 1792, in Craigend, Stirlingshire, Scotland. A distinguished surveyor in the Peninsula War, he was appointed surveyor general of New South Wales in 1828. He explored northern and western New South Wales, discovered "Australia Felix", the western district of Victoria and attempted to travel overland from Sydney to the Gulf of Carpentaria. He published several journals and books, was knighted in 1839 and died in Sydney on October 5, 1855.

Bro. Stermole's discovery is highlighted in the Queensland publication, "The Centennial Story" - the history of Freemasonry in Queensland. Quoting from page 26 of that document:

Throughout these early years in Morton Bay, (as the Colony was then known) from the first Oxley settlement of 1824 to the proclamation of the State in 1859, no properly constituted meetings of Freemasons were held - so far as records yet discovered have been able to prove. This is not to say, however, that there were no gatherings of members of the Craft.

It is possible to speculate, in fact, that such did take place. As we have seen earlier a considerable number of the soldiery and colonial officials were Freemasons. The historian of Prince of Wales Lodge No. 3 (U.G.L.Q.) says that Allan Cunningham, together with Logan and the explorers Leichhardt, Mitchell, Kennedy and Gregory were Freemasons, although this statement is not further documented.

But it can hardly be doubted that there were Freemasons resident in Morton Bay settlement before 1859, and that they would meet to discuss matters of common interest.

Bro. Stermole concludes that if we accept Captain Charles Sturt, the South Australian explorer as a Freemason, without Masonic proof, then we should also accept these two individuals. He would like to hear the views of his overseas Brethren on this subject. His address is:

12 Radford Court, Hoppers Crossing, Victoria 3029, Australia.