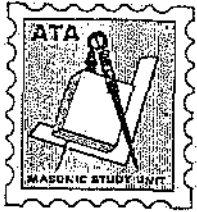


THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

VOL. 18, NO. 6

MARCH-APRIL 1995

WHOLE NO. 106

MASONS ASSOCIATED WITH STAND WATIE

Stand Watie was selected as one of the individuals to be included on the Civil War sheetlet being released in 1995 by the USPS. Although he apparently was not a Freemason, several of his associates were and can be related to this stamp.

Among the five civilized tribes of Georgia, Cherokee, Creek, Seminole Choctaw and Chickasaw, led by Chief John Ross, Watie was the dissident younger brother of Cherokee Chief Elias C. Boudinot. The Confederate Government sent Brigadier General Albert C. Pike and Colonel Douglas Cooper to persuade Ross to side with the Confederacy. John Ross wanted to remain neutral but Gen. Pike found ready recruits in Stand Watie and the force of approximately 5000 members of the tribes. They were organized into several regiments of mounted Riflemen by Pike and Cooper.



Ross, fearing that this force might be used in retribution against him and his followers, finally agreed to move west into Indian Territory, they were, in fact, pursued by Watie under the command of Pike. In Nov. 1861 they caught up with the fleeing group at night and the next day a pitched battle known as the Battle of Chusto Talasah resulted in 500 of the Union Indians being killed or wounded. After capitulation, John Ross was permitted to continue into Indian Territory where he lived out his natural life. The Mounted Riflemen under Watie and the other two Cherokee regimental commanders were later deployed in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March 1862 in which Union General S. B. Curtis soundly defeated the Confederate forces. Thereafter the CSA Indian regiments were relegated to the Kansas Indian territories and engaged in numerous minor skirmishes for the rest of the war. Watie was finally promoted to Brigade Commander in May 1864 under C.S.A. Gen. S.B. Maxey. He surrendered to Union forces in June 1865 and spent the rest of his days in the Indian Territories that he had opposed.

- C.S.A. Brig. Gen. Albert C. Pike - P.M. of Magnolia Lodge #60, Little Rock, Ark. Later famous as Sovereign Grand Commander of Scottish Rite.
 - Cherokee Chief Elias C. Boudinot - Mason in Belie Point Lodge #20, Fort Smith, Ark.
 - Cherokee Chief John Ross - Mason in Cherokee Lodge #21, Tahlequah, KS
 - Gen. Samuel R. Curtis - Acknowledged Mason given Masonic burial
- Article contributed by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Hazelwood, MO

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

- 248. Hugh Jay Gershon, 10 Hill Lane, Glen Head, NY 11545
- 270. Ferenc F. Sajgo, 2201 Rocky Knoll Dr., Charlotte, NC 28210
- 273. Ron Berger, 2 Shahravay St., Jerusalem, Israel
- 291. Gary F. Oshiro, 1301 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817
- 402. Terry Chateau, 377 Hansom Pkwy, Sanford, FL 32773
- 403. Rodney E. Small, 327 N. Church St., Robesonia, PA 19551
- 404. Erwin C. Spettel, 21 Japonica Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45218
- 409. Marcos F. Hernandez, 432 58th St., West New York, NJ 07093
- 415. Fred Umlauf, P.O. Box 310, Woodstown, NJ 08098

ADDRESS CHANGES:

- 65. Lucas L. Lee, Jr., 2062 Ayershire Lane, The Greens of Prestwick, Myrtle Beach, SC 29575
- 72. Kit Carson Price, 5535 Esmond Ave., Richmond, CA 94805

CLOSED ALBUMS:

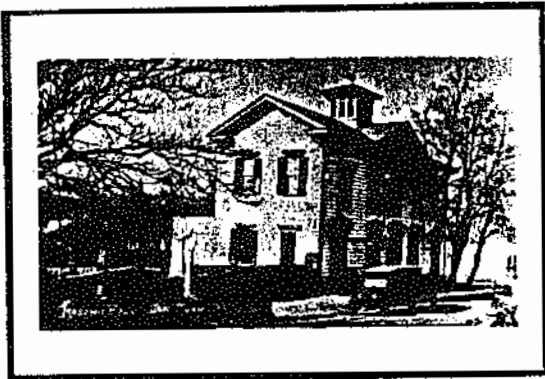
- 478. Jess W. Gern, late of Denver, CO

It is with sorrow that I pass along the information provided recently by Bro. Jim Adams of the Denver Masonic Stamp Club. He was instrumental in forming the Club in 1948 and served as its first President. The Club grew to a peak of 65 members but time has taken its toll. He has announced that the Club is suspending operations until more local membership can be obtained to manage the organization. Thank you for your efforts in supporting and promoting the hobby, Bro. Jim.

Bro. Jim Brommer, member No. 232 of Mechanicsburg, PA, just finished serving as Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge No. 302 in his home town. He states "The year was a great opportunity and tremendous experience I recommend to any Freemason."

Bro. "Mac" Collison, member No. 373 of West Bank, B.C., was re-elected (appointed) Chaplain for his Lodge - Trepanier No. 83; he has had this job for several years. Because of the limited population in the area of Peachland and West Bank, the Lodge members have become ecologically inclined and many of the Officers are being recycled.

MASONIC POST CARD OFFER



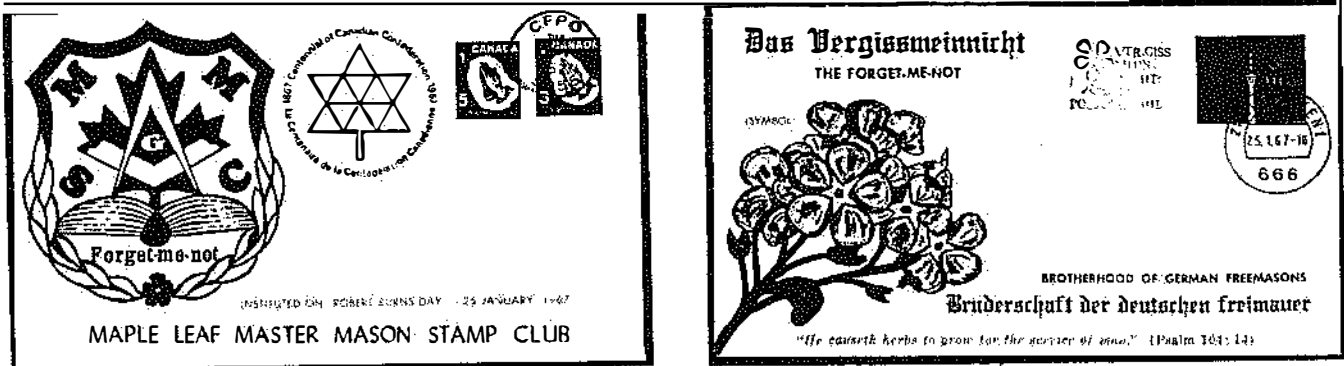
Bro. Rick Wright is providing another Masonic post card for sale. This one pictures the Texas Lodge #46 Masonic Hall which is located directly across the street from 'The Mission' in San Juan Bautista - about 15 to 20 miles east of Monterey, CA. As with Bro. Wright's previous offers, the cost of the card is \$1.00 plus a S.A.S.E. (All proceeds will be donated to a Masonic Charity in the name of the MSU.) Order from him at: 13675 N. Hartley Lane, Lodi, CA 95242.

This is the time when a majority of the memberships become due - check the date code on the mailing label to see if your membership is about to expire. Remit today before you put it out of your mind and forget.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ALBUM

"LEST WE FORGET"

A half century ago the war in Germany was nearing its end. The two covers illustrated are reminders of the problems which faced our Brethren during the Nazi regime. Both were issued at the Zweibrücken, Pfalz, January 25, 1967. One bears Canadian stamps with a Canadian Forces Post Office cancellation; the other has a West German stamp. Are there any members of the Maple Leaf Master Mason Stamp Club still active? (Can you field this one Bro. Golding?)



The ML.MM.SC (Maple Leaf Master Mason Stamp Club) was instituted on 25 January 1967 (Robert Burns Day) at 3 (F) Wing, RCAF, Zweibrücken, Pfalz, Germany, as a "Canadian Centennial Project" for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and, in particular, to promote brotherhood and good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for such a club proved itself by the many brethren seeking and imparting light through the media of Masonic topical and thematic stamp collecting in other countries.

DAS VERGISSMEINNICHT - THE FORGET-ME-NOT

A small boraginaceous plant (myosotis palustis) which bears a light-blue flower of five petals commonly regarded as the emblem of **CONSTANCY** and **FRIENDSHIP**.

boraginaceous - a genus of herb with hairy leaves and stems, with blue flowers, sometimes used in salads, for flavoring beverages and sometimes medicinal.

myosotis palustis - the petals of the flower are mouse-eared shape and the herb normally grows in the vicinity of marshes.

In 1934, the German Grand Lodge of the Sun in Beyreuth (one of the pre-war Grand Lodges) realized the imminent problems facing them and elected to wear a little blue flower, the Forget-Me-Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compasses as a mark of identity for Masons. It was felt that the new symbol wouldn't attract attention from the Nazi's who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges and property. Masonry had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some readily recognizable means of identification.

In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened in Beyreuth, a little blue pin, in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was proposed and adopted as the official emblem of the first annual convention of those who survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again into the Temples. In 1948, the pin was officially adopted by the newly-formed VGL (Vereinigte Grosslogen von Deutschland - United Grand Lodges of Germany, A.F. & A.M.),

FREEMASONS ON ISRAELI STAMPS

Bro. Ron Berger, member No. 273 of Jerusalem, Israel, has submitted an extensive document titled "Freemasonry on Israeli Postal Stamps and Cancellations". Excerpts from that work are included here.

Axelrod, Nathan (1905-1987) Well known as the "father" of the Israeli film industry, Nathan Axelrod almost single-handedly built this industry. His drive and dedication are well attested in the monumental archives he left to posterity, including a filmed documentation of every moment of importance in the history of the Jewish people in his land during the formative years of the nation. He was the photographer (and practically the creator) of the first feature film pictured here, "Oded the Wanderer". This feature film is commemorated in the NIS2.70 stamp from the "Hebrew Film" set issued in 1992. Bro. Axelrod was initiated in "Barkai" Lodge #17 in Tel Aviv and later affiliated with the "Ahidan" Lodge #23 in Ramat Gan.

Jabotinsky, Ze'ev (1880-1940) Ze'ev Jabotinsky was a prominent leader in the Zionist movement, the founder of the "revisionist" trend in modern Zionism, and a publicist and writer of high expressive ability. He appears on three stamps: the first, issued in 1970 (Scott #410), commemorates his part in organizing the Jewish Legion in the British Armed Forces during the First World War and the defence of Jerusalem in 1920; the second, issued in 1978 (#706) is one of the "Zionist history personalities" series; the third, issued in 1990 (#1071), commemorating the 50th anniversary of his death. Bro. Jabotinsky was initiated in the "L'Etoile du Nord" Lodge of the Grand Orient de France, and was an active member for some years.

Montefiore, Sir Moses (1784-1885) Sir Moses Montefiore was an Italian born English Jew. He became very wealthy through his activities in the London Stock Exchange. Throughout his life he was a benefactor of the Jewish people, giving a helping hand wherever and whenever needed. Among other things, he saved the Jews of Damascus during the 1840 pogroms, and built the first suburb of Jerusalem outside the walls of the Old City. He was one of the most influential Jewish personalities of the 19th century, and was the first Jew ever to be knighted in England. A stamp commemorating him was issued in 1981 (#777). Sir Moses was an active Freemason and a member of "Mt. Moriah" Lodge 124 in London. There are two Lodges named "Montefiore" after him; one in London (#1017), one in Glasgow, Scotland (#753).

Netter, Charles (1826-1882) Charles Netter was a French Jew who, in 1870, founded the first agricultural school in the Holy Land (also the first school where the official language was Hebrew), "Miqve Israel". He was a close friend and associate of Baron Adolph Cremieu (later Grand Master of the Grand Orient de France). Two stamps were issued in 1970 to commemorate the centenary of "Miqve Israel", the ILO.40 one (#417) showing Netter. Bro. Netter was an active Freemason in France and a founding member of the first regular Lodge in the Holy Land, "The Royal Solomon Mother Lodge" #293 (Canadian Constitution).

Yellin, Prof. David (1864-1941) Prof. Yellin was a well known scholar, linguist and teacher. In 1889 he was one of the founders of the "Hebrew Language Committee" and from 1912 to his death was the chairman of the committee. He was also the general manager of the Jerusalem Teachers' Training College, a professor of medieval poetry and a prolific writer. He appears on a stamp issued in 1989 (#1028) to commemorate the centennial of the committee. (He is first on the left, wearing a fez) Prof. Yellin was initiated in King Solomon's Quarries in Jerusalem and in 1940 was elected and installed Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Palestine, holding this office when he died.

MASONIC CARTOONISTS

Clifford K. Berryman was born in Versailles, KY, April 2, 1869. Self-taught, he became a draftsman at the U.S. Patent Office. He was an illustrator for the Washington Post 1896 to 1907 and an Editorial Cartoonist for the Washington Evening Star from 1907 to 1949. He originated the "Teddy Bear" Pulitzer Prize in 1943. He died on Dec. 11, 1949. He was a member of Temple Noyes Lodge No. 32, a Past Master, Knight Templar and Shriner.

George McManus was born in St. Louis on Jan. 23, 1882. His cartooning career began with the St. Louis Republic in 1899. In 1905 he joined the New York World and in 1912 the New York American. He created the comic strips Let George Do It, Panhandle Pete, The Newlyweds and Their Baby, Rosie's Beau, Snookums and Bringing Up Father. The story of Jiggs and Maggie was syndicated in 750 newspapers and translated into 27 languages; it was made into a radio series and filmed for the movies. He died Oct. 22, 1954. He was raised in Dirigo Lodge No. 30, New York City, Oct. 22, 1908; was a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

William Morgan (Billy) de Beck was born in Chicago April 16, 1890. He graduated from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and joined the Chicago Daily News in 1908. From 1912-1916 he was in Pittsburgh then returned to Chicago to work for the Hearst papers. His cartoons were Married Life, Barney Google, Spark Plug, Bunky, Snuffy Smith, Feather Merchants and Yard Bird. He died Nov. 11, 1942 and was a member of North Shore Lodge No. 936 of Chicago.

Harold Lincoln Gray was born in Kankakee, IL, Jan. 20, 1894 and died May 5, 1968 in La Jolla, CA. He graduated from Purdue University in 1917 and joined the staff of the Chicago Tribune where he assisted Sidney Smith in drawing "The Gumps". He served in the army during the First World War. In 1924 he created "Little Orphan Annie" which was in 400 newspaper at its peak. He was a Charter Member of Lombard Lodge No. 1098, Lombard, IL.

Milt Gross was born March 4, 1895 in New York City. He started as an office boy and worked for the New York American, Journal, Tribune and World. He served in the Army in World War I and created the cartoons Banana Oil, Gross Exagerations and Nize Baby. He died on Nov. 29, 1953 and was a member of Dirigo Lodge No. 30, New York City.

Tom Little was born near Franklin, TN, Sept. 27, 1898. He started his career working for the Nashville Tennessean in 1916. He drew the King Features cartoon Sunflower Street from 1934 to 1949; he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1957. He was raised in Buena Vista Lodge No. 639, Nashville, Jan. 19, 1923. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner.

Chic Young who created Blondie was a DeMolay but I do not believe he ever joined a Lodge.

Harry Hershfield 1885-1974 This humorist, columnist, author and cartoonist was a Mason but I do not have his Lodge at hand. He was perhaps best remembered as one of the panelists on the radio show "Can You Top This?"

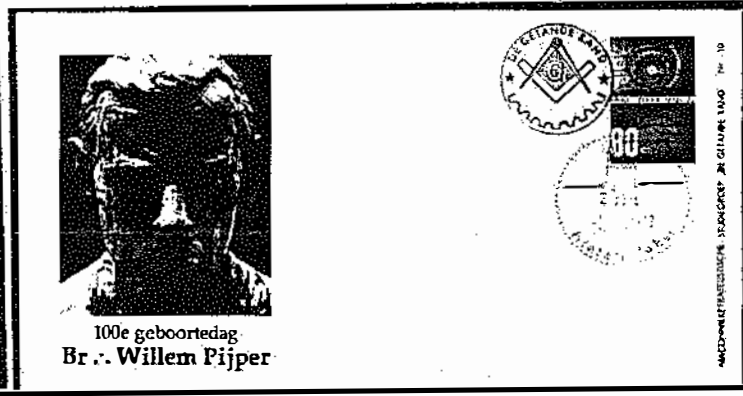
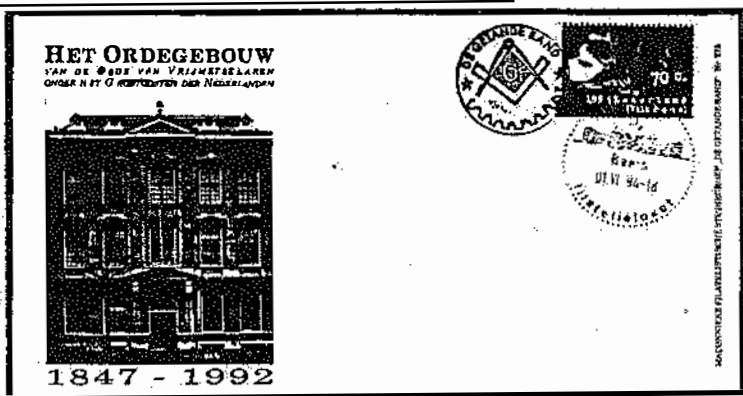
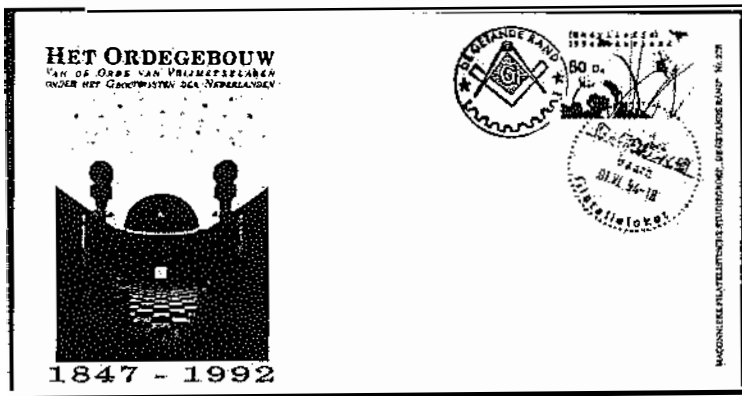
Ray O. Evans 1887-1954 Very well known in Columbus, Ohio, he was a cartoonist for the Columbus Dispatch from 1922 to 1954. A graduate of Ohio State University, he was a member of Humboldt Lodge No. 476, the Scottish Rite and Shrine.

-article provided by our President, Bro. Norman Lincoln.
These Brethren could probably be tied in with the USPS
cartoon issues of 1994.

Sorry this Newsletter is a bit late. Too many activities going on - including a week long trip to Saudi Arabia, a bit of Zurich on the way there and a few days of Paris on the way back.

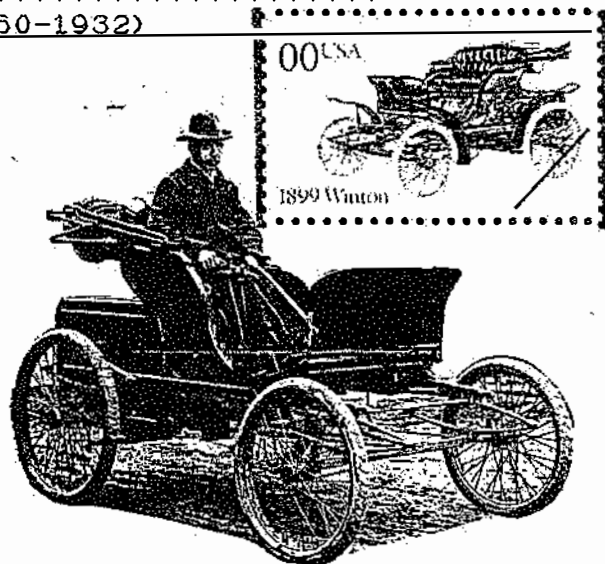
NETHERLANDS MASONIC COVERS

The remaining four covers issued by the Dutch Freemason Philatelic Study Unit that were not illustrated in the previous issue are shown here. They are available at a cost of \$5.00 each. Order from (with checks made out to) Fr. A.P. van Tricht, Bachstraat 3, 5283 KK Boxtel, the Netherlands. Each cover includes a descriptive enclosure.



ALEXANDER WINTON (1860-1932)

Alexander Winton, the quick-tempered inventor was born June 20, 1860, in Grangemouth, Scotland; died June 21, 1932. In 1890 he established the Winton Bicycle Co., Cleveland and the Winton Motor Carriage Co. in the mid 1890s. He is shown here at the tiller of his first commercially sold car in 1898 - a two-seater phaeton with a horizontal, single-cylinder engine, two-speed transmission and laminated wood frame which sold for \$1000. Twenty-five cars were sold in the first season with early customers including the Packard brothers. He elected to abandon manufacturing of cars in 1924 and switched to marine diesel engines - this effort became a division of General Motors. Bro. Winton was a member of Lakewood Masonic Lodge No. 601, Lakewood, Ohio, receiving his degrees on Oct. 15, 1917, Nov. 19, 1917 and Jan. 19, 1918.



-contributed by Bro. Norm Lincoln
 -1178-

STAMP FOR JACK DEMPSEY?

Bro. Rafeal Wulff, member No. 225 of Brampton, Ontario, Canada, has sent in this "Dear Abby" letter with the comment "As a Masonic widow should we help her out?"

"Dear Abby: I have enjoyed your columns for many years. My late husband, the heavyweight boxing champion, Jack Dempsey, also enjoyed them.

"I followed with interest the series of letters about the amounts charged for a baby's delivery. Jack told me that a mid-wife delivered him in Manassa, Colo., on June 24, 1895, for 25 cents.

"Jack was an inspiration to so many young athletes. He rose to the top of his field despite many obstacles and continued to set a shining example for young people throughout his life. He never had a formal education but lectured on the importance of getting one. He saved Boys Town from closing and helped many fine young students through school when they couldn't afford it.

"Would you please ask your loyal readers to write to Marvin T. Runyon, Jr. postmaster general of the United States, in Washington, D.C., and suggest that the Postal Service consider issuing a stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of Jack Dempsey's birth?

"(Unfortunately, the stamp would not be worth the same 25 cents it cost to bring this fine man into this world.)

"Thank you very much for your kind consideration and please keep up your wonderful work.

-Deanne (Mrs. Jack) Dempsey"

William Harrison "Jack" Dempsey was a member of Kenwood Lodge No. 800 near Chicago, IL. He was received into the Medinah Temple of the Shrine, Chicago, in September 1962 at the age of 67.

THE FREEMAN

Bro. Wulff also provided a copy of a stamp and cover from Great Britain which picture "The Freeman"



THE FREEMAN
They owned twenty-five percent of the land
and were often skilled craftsmen



The first good medieval survey, known as the Domesday Book, was created so that William the Conqueror could know what lay within his realm - and tax it accordingly. The survey revealed that freemen owned about 25% of the land. Many freemen were craftsmen who began their trade as apprentices. The apprentice was bound for years to a master who taught him the mysteries of his trade. At the end of his term, the apprentice would take an examination to become a journeyman. He would then present his masterwork to a committee and after a final examination would be qualified as a master.

HANCOCK THE SUPERB

Winfield Scott Hancock, one of the individuals pictured on the 1995 USPS Civil War Sheetlet, was born Feb. 14, 1824, at Montgomery Square, PA, of English and Scottish ancestors. He graduated from West Point in 1844 ranking 18th in a class of 25. He was first stationed at Fort Towson, Indian Territory. During the Mexican War he served at Chapultepec under his namesake Bro. Winfield Scott. At St. Louis from 1848 to 1855 he married Almira Russell. At Fort Myers, FL, in 1855 and in Kansas in 1857 he became an expert at ordnance and supply. He was sent to Utah in 1858 to put down a Mormon revolt. When the Civil War began, he was Quartermaster Captain at Fort Bridger in California. McClellan requested him to organize the First Brigade of the Second Division of the Fourth Army Corps. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and attacked brilliantly at Williamsburg where Bro. McClellan called his action superb. In reserve at Crampton's Gap, he assumed command of the First Division when Richardson was mortally wounded at Antietam Sept. 17, 1862. In November he was promoted to Major General and at Fredericksburg his division suffered two thousand casualties attempting to storm Marye's Heights. At Chancellorsville he provided the rear guard and prevented Hooker's Army from being overrun. Promoted to the command of the Second Corps in June 1863, he took command of all the Union forces on July 1st when Reynolds was killed at Gettysburg. He rallied the troops and formed the line along Culp's Hill and Cemetery Ridge which Lee tried in vain to breach. Seriously wounded during Pickett's Charge he was out of action for six months. He rejoined the Second Corps during the Wilderness Campaign and directed the May 6th assault from an ambulance. The Second Corps was in the thick of fighting at Bloody Angle at Spottsylvania and anchored the right of Grant's Army at Cold Harbor. On Aug. 14, 1864, he was only seven miles from Richmond but had to go into seige positions at Petersburg. His Corps suffered its only serious defeat at Reams Station Aug. 25 due to fatigue and losses. Hancock was made a Major General in the regular Army in July 1866. After the War he served in Missouri, Texas, New York and the Dakota Territory. His efforts to ease the burden of Reconstruction were not met kindly by the Radical Republicans. In 1880 he was nominated for President by the Democrats on the second ballot at Cincinnati; his running mate was Bro. William H. English. Though not a politician, Hancock ran a dignified campaign and lost to Bro. James A. Garfield by only 10,000 votes out of nine million cast. He died on Governors Island Feb. 9, 1886. Grant said he was a noble, high-minded man who served his country well.



Bro. Hancock received all three degrees in Charity Lodge No. 190, Norristown, PA, on October 13, 1860. He was also a member of Norristown Chapter No. 190 R.A.M. and Huchison Commandery No. 32, K.T.

-article provided by Bro. Norman Lincoln

Secretary-Treasurer

Otto Steding
1033 Hollytree Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45231

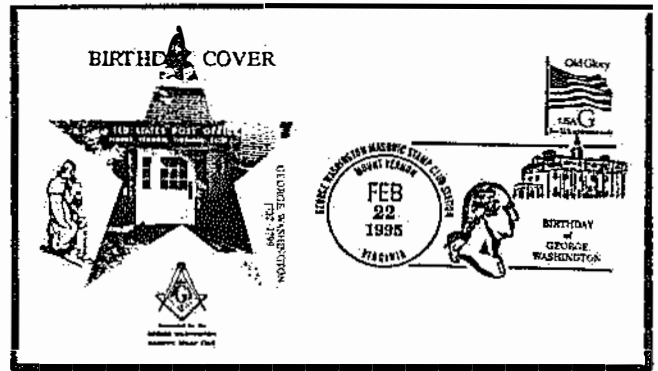
President

Norman Lincoln
P.O. Box 454
Eaton, OH 45320

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

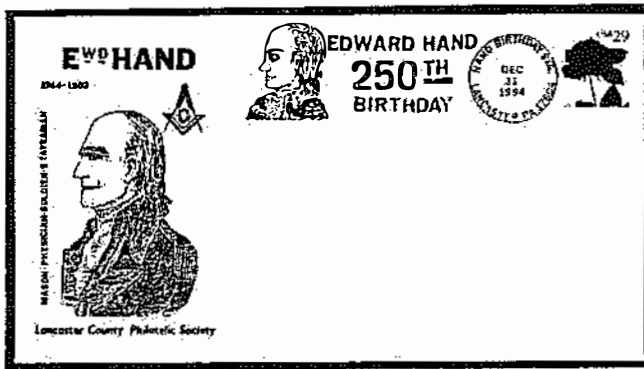
GWMSC COVER

The annual George Washington Birth-day cover issued by the GWMSC is shown here. It is available at a cost of \$1.50 plus SASE from Bro. Paul Williams
2364 Beaver Vally Pike
New Providence, PA 17560.



Bro. Stan Longenecker also points out that the cancel will be available for 30 days for those who wish to process their own covers.

EDWARD HAND MASONIC COVER



Another cover designed by Bro. Stan Longenecker has been published by the Lancaster County Philatelic Society. This cover also displays the special cancel designed by Bro. Stan for the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Bro. Hand. This cover is available at a cost of \$1.25 plus SASE from the Society at

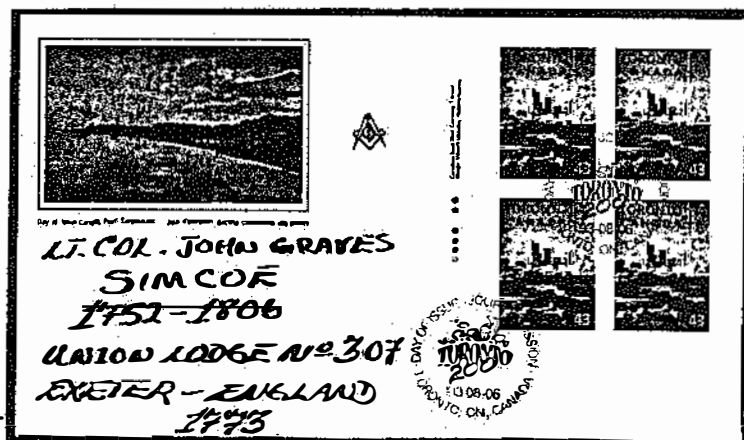
P.O. Box 982

Lancaster, PA 17608-0892.

Ask for the Masonic Cover as the Society also produced a non-Masonic version.

TORONTO 200 - BRO. JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE

Bro. Wulff has forwarded a FDC for the Toronto 200 stamp which pictures Toronto today. The cover cachet shows a view of the camp at Toronto July 30, 1793. The description on the reverse side of the cover includes:
People have lived in the Toronto region for thousands of years. However, the modern city of Toronto was born in 1793 when John Graves Simcoe began the process of permanent urban settlement at the site of today's Fort York. As lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, Simcoe established a naval base at Toronto in July 1793 and also moved the provincial capital "temporarily" to the new settlement. In August of that year he baptized his little community "York".



As indicated on the cover, Bro. Simcoe was a member of Union Lodge No. 307, Exeter, England.

FRANCE - WOMEN IN MASONRY

Bro. "Gene" Fricks, member No. 224 of Clementon, NJ, has provided a copy of an article dealing with the subject indicated above translated from the May 12, 1994, issue of L'EXPRESS, a magazine similar to TIME.

The Human Rights Lodge, founded in 1893 for men and women. It has 11,500 members of which 70% are women. It counts 430 lodges and a representation in 58 countries. No religious beliefs are required. Two dominant tendencies are noted: one is republican (as opposed to monarchist for instance) and lay (meaning in France a refusal to accept religious influences), the other tendency turns toward spiritual values but has less influence. (Ed. France issued a postage stamp commemorating this organization.)

The Grand Lodge of Women of France, founded in 1945, counts 9,000 members, women only, and has 250 lodges of which 80% are in the provinces. No religious beliefs are required. It puts the accent on feminine identity.

The Grand Mixed and Universal Lodge, founded in 1973, has 500 members in 30 lodges of which 50% are in the provinces. It was founded by dissidents of the Human Rights Lodge, they reproached their lodge for having strayed from its social ideals. No religious beliefs are required.

Finally, there is the Grand Mixed Lodge of France, founded in 1982. It has 1,150 members, 50% are women. It counts 50 lodges. It was born from a split in the Grand Mixed and Universal Lodge of which it remains a twin sister. This lodge is very closely linked to the Grand Orient which is atheistic. No religious beliefs are required. Priority of work is dedicated to urban life.

In all these lodges woman membership amounts to 17,000 strong, representing 18% of the Masons in France.

MASONIC PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

One of our members, Bro. Dick Potter of Woodstock, CT, managed to acquire a copy of an exhibition souvenir from Philadelphia which presented a display presented by another of our members, Bro. Irving Berg of Philadelphia, PA. His exhibit on Masonic Philately was developed for display at the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania in 1993. The cover of the souvenir brochure is shown here. How long was the exhibit held active, Bro. Berg? The brochure shows some very interesting pages.

A Souvenir of the
Exhibition



A VIEW IN MINIATURE OF



U.S. PHILATELIC FREEMASONS

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
TWIN PEAKS

Freemasonry and Philately have a lot in common. To begin, they are both four syllable nouns beginning with an "eff" sound and ending with an "ee". (so do fraternity and philosophy). The majority of Freemasons are probably aging white Protestant men. Although there are women and children who collect stamps, most serious philatelists are probably older men. Persons of all ages, races, sexes and geographical regions are welcome to join the Masonic Study Unit. No requirements are made other than an interest in Freemasonry.

The graying of our membership and the inevitable loss to the grim reaper have caused serious concern to the leaders of Freemasonry. A perusal of the stamp journals indicates this is seen as a problem for the leaders of the field of philatelics also. Youth are more interested in sports cards and computer games than stamps. The US and other governments lure collectors with an incessant flow of topicals until many quit in disgust. Masonry is continually attacked by the religious fundamentalists who have ever-increasing access to the media

Liberals contend Masonic ritual is obsolete and many jurisdictions have eliminated penalties and shortened the obligations and permitted classes to become Masons in an afternoon. The Shrine threatens to eliminate the Masonic prerequisite for membership. The increasing use of E-mail and private parcel delivery and metered mail causes many people to believe postage stamps are obsolescent. The increasing cost of government mail delivery together with poor attention to the needs of collectors causes many philatelists to search for other areas in which to invest their time and talents.

Will Freemasonry join Odd Fellowship and the Knights of Pythias as a curious relic of times now gone? Will philately fade away to become a museum exhibit next to the stereopticon and the Edison cylinder record player?

As I loaned out my crystal ball and my time machine is temporarily out of fuel, I cannot with certainty answer these questions. I can only repeat what the ancient Romans said: "Tempus fugit" (Time flies). The Twenty First Century will be different from the Twentieth. The human race has proved very adaptable to change. Our great grandchildren will live in conditions we can not even conceive of. Their needs and desires will be altered from ours. Their science and technology may conquer want and disease and usher in a paradise on earth. Conversely, environmental decay may lead to another Dark Age and retrogression to savagery.


We can only hope that Freemasonry with its enduring moral precepts will survive and philately will continue to enthrall, educate and delight its adherants. In my humble opinion, both are without question essential to the future of humanity. In the words of Jean Luc Picard "Let it be so!"

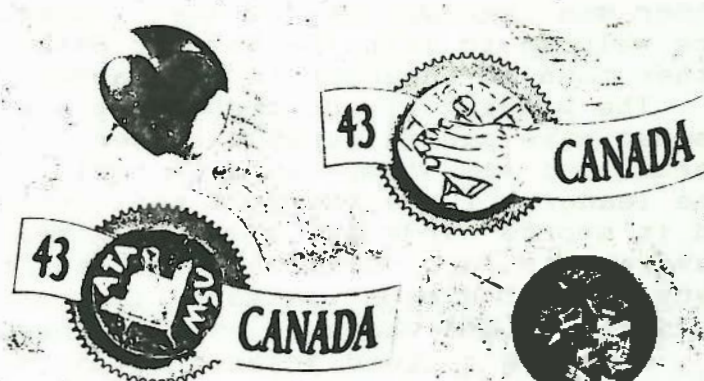
An extract from a 1926 copy of "The New South Wales Freemason" states: "It is not generally known but General Yudenitch who commanded the Northern Russian armies in 1919 issued the only postage stamps that have ever been printed bearing reference to Masonry. There are five stamps in the set of the value of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 50 kopeks. Upon each is a square and the words in the Russian language, 'Are you a Mason?'. The stamps are said to be in active demand by collectors all over the world." Catalog references to this issue appear to be non-existent - can any member shed light on these stamps?

- taken from the "Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine"

MORE CANADIAN MASONIC STAMPS

Ero. Rafael Wulff has added a wonderful artistic touch to his latest versions of the Canadian Masonic issue using the "do-it-yourself" adhesives. Shown here, they will make an excellent addition to your Editor's album. Thank you very much, Bro. Wulff.

 Rafael Manuel Wulff
65 Cheviot Cr.
Brampton, Ont.
L6Z 4G9



BRO. ROBT. A. DOMINGUE

JAMES KNOX POLK



One of the upcoming USPS releases for 1995 will be a definitive picturing Pres. and Bro. James K. Polk; it is scheduled for November issue. Bro. Polk was initiated in Columbia Lodge No. 4, Columbia, Tenn, on June 5, passed on Aug. 20 and raised on Sept. 4, 1820. He was elected Junior Deacon in Oct. 1820 and Junior Warden on Dec. 3, 1821. As President he attended the Masonic cornerstone laying of the Smithsonian Institute on May 1, 1847.

Bro. Bob Gilbert, member No. 337 of Robesonia, PA, has sent along some copies of more Masonic Post Cards.

