

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Affiliate #94



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

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WHOLE NO. 108

SQUARE & COMPASSES HANDSTAMP ON ROMANIAN POSTAL CARD

When I first saw the Square and Compasses magenta on the 10 bani UPU 1915 postal card from Romania, I wondered just how widespread the Masonic Order was in the country. Evidently "SIGMUND STEIN/Representant BRAILA" was pleased and proud to display his name and affiliation on the postal card. Dated 6 October 1915, the card was sent prior to Romania's entry into WWI in 1916 on the side of the Allies. However, postal communications with Germany must still have been open in 1915 as the card is addressed to Neustrelitz, Germany, with the message a business communication in German.



According to the book "Freemasonry in the Eastern Hemisphere" (by Ray V. Denslow, 1954) many attempts were made in the middle 1800s to establish Lodges in Romania by Masons from the various Grand Lodges/Orients of France, Hungary, Italy and Germany but only with limited success. Eventually in 1880 a National Grand Lodge was constituted and according to reports lasted until 1916. Another report states that at the beginning of WWI there were four active Lodges, three under France and one under Germany. However, due to the unstable conditions in Europe, Masonry did not establish a real foothold in Romania. This data points out that the use of the Square and Compasses handstamp on the Romanian postal card in 1915 must be a Masonic related rarity. We are not aware of any reinstatement of the fraternity yet within that country.

-article provided by Wor. Bro. Charles A. Fricke,
Philadelphia, PA.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

- 418. Ted Thomas, 134 Kensington Ave., Middleton, OH 45022
- 422. Phnayis Ch. Lagoussis, P.O. Box 88426, Mombasa, Kenya

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 34. Walter C. Emery, 525 Delaware Ave, Box 425, Portland, PA 18351
- 35. Al D. Taylor, 32-26540 Hwy 11, Red Deer County, Alberta T4E 1A3
Canada
- 230. Donald L. McClenahan, 101 Old Valley Rd., Brewster, MA 02631
- 240. Ephraim Eliezri, 3026 Ewing Ave. S Apt 301, Minneapolis, MN 55416
- 279. Edward S. Kerr, 571 Seyton Dr., Nepan, Ontario K2H 9B5 Canada
- 379. Corodon S. Fuller, 1055 Lithia Springs Rd., Moravian Falls, NC
28654

RESIGNATIONS

- 312. James A. Reynolds, Chicago, IL
- 463. Leroy H. Curtis, Wooster, OH

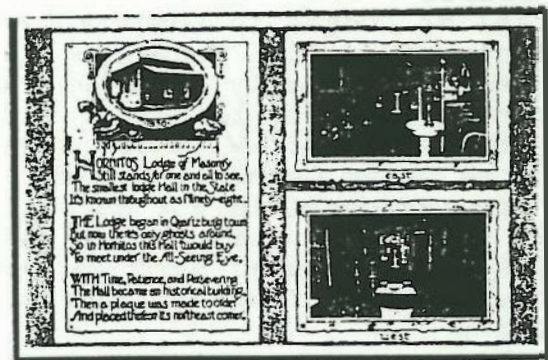
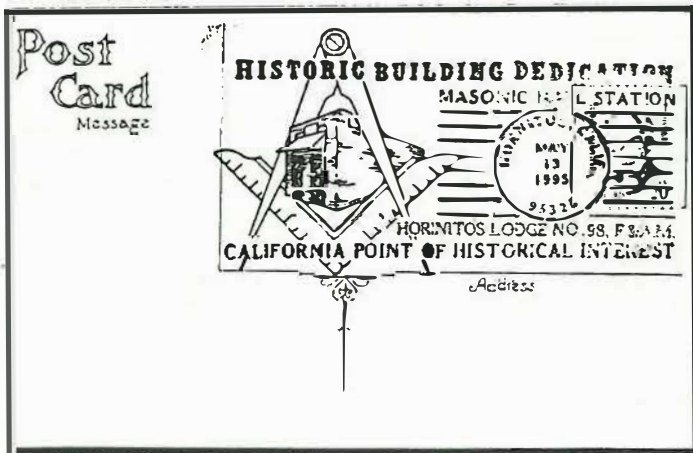
Members' Doings

Bro. David M. Carlson, member No. 482 of Nashwauk, MN, informs us that he is retiring from his job as Secretary of his Blue Lodge after the first meeting in September. He has been an Officer or Trustee since 1963. He will remain active in the Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and York Rite, is Director of Work for Lodge of Perfection and will be Master of Kadosh in a few years. What will you do with your new-found spare time, Bro. Dave?

Bro. Maurice Beazley, the MSU/ATA European Representative, and member No. 302 of Redcar, England, was hit by a passing car in June and is undergoing extensive relaxation, therapy and rehabilitation. It will be several months before he is back toward normal. Take care of yourself and turn the "idle" time into productive efforts, Bro. Maurice. (For those wishing to extend their thoughts, his address is: 215 West Dyke Rd, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4JS England.)

HORNITOS LODGE POSTAL CARD WITH SPECIAL CANCEL

The special cancel and card announced in the previous issue of the Newsletter is illustrated here. It is available at a cost of \$.25 (plus SASE) from Bro. Kenneth N. Cooper, 941 W. 21st Street, Merced, CA 95340.



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
DON'T RAIN ON MY REVIEW

Pete Normand's "American Masonic Review" has ceased publication; he was not able to obtain enough subscriptions from Masonic leaders to continue. The Grand Lodge of Ohio Bulletin ended when Ohio Brethren refused to ante up \$1.00 apiece. Only one issue of "The Cryptic Scholar" came out. The lesson to be learned from these and other failed efforts is not to attempt to inform Masons. "The Northern Light" just suggested the "Ten Best Masonic Books" - I have only seven of them. Am I only 70% Masonic? Bro. Normand complained that most Masonic publications only list the latest spaghetti dinner and the brother who got a sixty year pin; they do not educate or inform us or make us better Masons.

There are many reasons for becoming a Mason. Despite its many detractors, Masonry attracts members because people see it as a society which does good things. Not every Mason wants to read about events affecting the Craft. Are they any less brethren? Not every Mason collects stamps, but many do. Hopefully those who do are or will become members of our Unit. If you like what we do, tell others about it. Go to a stamp club and take along our Newsletter. Go to a Lodge meeting and talk about the Masons who have been honored on stamps.

It is not necessary for our review to reach 5000 Masons. Hopefully, our members are well educated and thoroughly informed about their Fraternity and about their hobby. Let us not hide our light. Let us be missionaries to spread the word and ambassadors of good will. We must be doing something right because we have been here for eighteen years now. Organizations survive because members want them to. If you want our publication to continue then you need to contribute to it. Send the Editor something he can print. Complaints and criticism are also welcome. Let us know what you think.

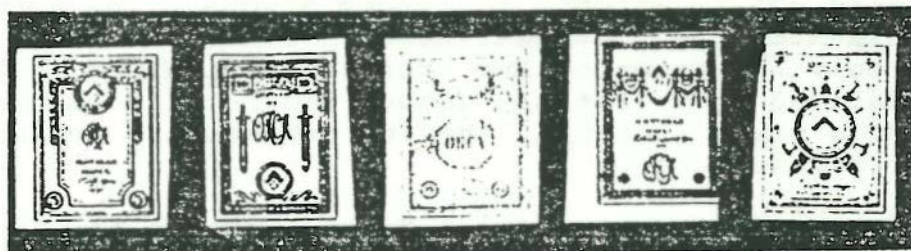
THE PRESIDENT'S ALBUM

Several Years ago PNCs (Philatelic/Numismatic Covers were quite popular. They consist of a stamp, a first day or special cancellation and a coin or medal or wooden nickel enclosed in the envelope. Three of my fifteen George Washington 1932-1982 covers are of that type. When I visited the old Masonic Museum in Fredericksburg, I noticed dozens of this issue but few of them were Masonic in nature. I was the only tourist that October afternoon - even Mary's Heights were nearly deserted. The cover shown has the George Washington Masonic Memorial cancellation and on the back is the five cent Famous Americans stamp cancelled with a Mount Vernon CDS. The elongated cent shows the 1851 Ten Cent Washington series. This is certainly an unusual and distinctive souvenir of our first President.



ANSWER TO QUESTION ON MASONIC STAMPS FROM RUSSIA

Some issues ago, the question was posed for more information regarding some apparent "Masonic" stamps issued by Russia. This question was repeated from The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine (of Great Britain). The response was provided by Gordon Hall and was included in a recent issue of that publication. Under their kind blanket permission, it will be repeated here.



The stamps are imperforatè, lithograph printed on rather thin white or cream-tinted paper, by B. Mans of Reval. Each bears a square and the letters OKCA which stand for "Osoby Korpus Severnoy Armii" which translated is "Special Corps Northern Army". The stamps were issued in September 1919 and are listed in Gibbons "Stamps of the World" under North West Russia, numbers 1 to 5. The catalog values of 10p mint and 25p used for each value would indicate little scarcity or no demand.

The Northern Russian Army, under Gen. Rodzianko, was formed in February 1919 and captured Pskov, Gdov and Yamburg in May of that year before being incorporated into the North Western Army. Gen. Yudenitch was made C. of C. of all anti-Bolshevist forces in the area of the Baltic on 15 June 1919. He was responsible for the issuance of these stamps and they supposedly bear the question (in Russian) "Are you a Mason?". His army operated south west of Petrograd until its collapse in November 1919.

Bro. John M. Cunningham has provided copies of the Masonic Information Center pamphlet titled "There Is No Sin In Symbols". He strongly endorses the content of this booklet as a major combatant to the accusations levied against the Fraternity which result from ignorance of our ideals, principles and teachings. We are trying to provide a copy to all individual members - especially those within the US. If you did not receive a copy and want one, please let your Editor know.

This issue of the Newsletter will be about two weeks late. I am preparing it essentially on time but have been summonsed back to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from July 3 to 12. I apologize for the delay.

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

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

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

Please note your membership expiration date on your mailing label. If it is 9504 or earlier, your annual dues are now delinquent. We hate to dun but must maintain the income to permit publication and mailing. Please watch your membership expiration date and remit as appropriate. Thank you.

MORE ON HANCOCK THE SUPERB

Bro. James E. Brommer, member No. 232 Of Mechanicsburg, PA, offers the following information in addition to that published in the March-April Newsletter. To Wor. Bro. Brommer, one of the greatest examples of Brotherly Love is the incident during the Battle of Gettysburg involving Gen Hancock and the Confederate General Lewis B. Armistead. Gen. Armistead was also a Mason and had been a good friend of Gen. Hancock before the Civil War. In fact, the two had been serving together in California when they received word of the outbreak of war. After a fond farewell, each departed to serve as their conscience dictated.

Upon arriving at Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 1, 1863, Gen. Hancock saw how the Union troops were being pushed through the town of Gettysburg. As previously stated, he rallied them and directed the formation of a defensive position along Cemetery Hill. On the second day of battle Gen. Hancock was actively involved in keeping the Union line reinforced, shifting men as necessary to repel the Southern attacks. At times he anticipated the need for reinforcements by sending men based on the sounds of the guns alone.

On the third day, as fate would have it, Gen. Armistead commanded the soldiers at the head of Bro. Gen. Pickett's charge that initially struck into Gen. Hancock's II Corps. Armistead's hat was held up by his sword and with a small group of men briefly penetrated the Northern defenses for what has become known as the High Water Mark of the Confederacy. Of course we all know that the Union forces closed in on the Graycoats driving them back and mortally wounding Gen. Armistead in the process. Armistead asked if Hancock was nearby as he had a few personal items he wanted to ensure would be returned to his wife. Unfortunately, Gen. Hancock had just been seriously wounded and had to send a member of his staff, Gen. Bingham, who was also a Pennsylvania Mason, to assist Gen. Armistead. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania commissioned a statue dedicated in 1993 called "Friend to Friend" that portrays the dying Gen. Armistead being attended to by Bro. Bingham.

NEW CASES REPORTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

It is not very often that new cases of Masons pictured on stamps are identified so it is with pleasure that we repeat some of the recent finds published by The Masonic Stamp Club (of Great Britain).

Ejnar Mikkelsen (1880-1971) ^{inspector of East Greenland} Danish explorer and author of "Conquering the Arctic Ice" which was about an expedition he led across the Beaufort Sea and "Lost in the Arctic" about an expedition he made to eastern Greenland. He was initiated in Lodge Christian, Copenhagen, on Feb. 25, 1914, later affiliating to Absalon Lodge, Copenhagen, in 1917. He eventually progressed to the 10th Degree. The stamp pictured is a 1980 Greenland issue to mark his birth centenary (SG 127) *Sc 135*



Herman Theodore Vildenvey (1886-1959) Norwegian poet. He was raised in St. John Lodge "Oscar til den Kronede Bog" No. 7 in Larvik. He later progressed to the 6th Degree. The associated Norway stamp was part of a 1986 set of four commemorating various anniversaries (SG 986) *ct. 891*



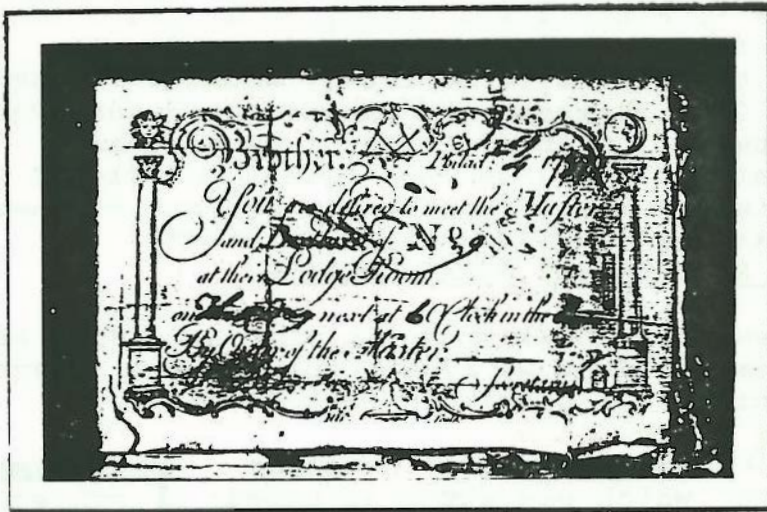
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A LODGE No. 9 200TH ANNIVERSARY POST CARD MOMENTO

Lodge No. 9 F. & A.M. of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has been continuous since constituted on August 3, 1780, and is, in fact, six years older than the Grand Lodge. It is one of the few Lodges in Pennsylvania that has no name although it is recognized as a friendly Lodge. Several years before the 200th anniversary a planning committee was formed with myself as a member. But, in fact, I had done some planning years before by purchasing 10 sheets of the Military Uniforms issue of 1975, comprising a set of four figures in Revolutionary Uniforms (Scott 1565/8).

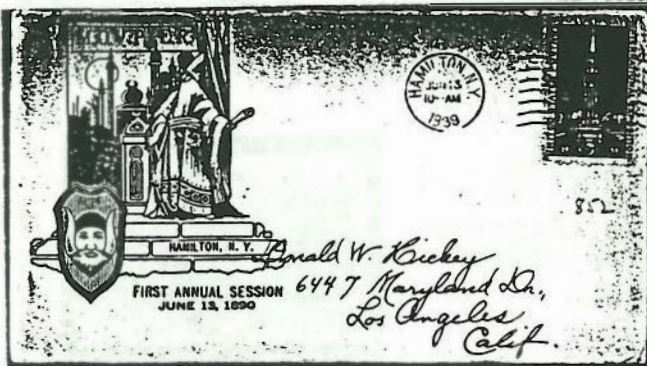
During our planning sessions many ideas were offered as part of the celebration, mine being the sending of a special momento to each member by mail especially for those members not residing in the vicinity of our Temple. I suggested using a copy of what is considered the oldest Lodge No. 9 notice known in America which is dated 1787; it had appeared in the front of previous Lodge No. 9 history books and is now in the possession of the Grand Lodge Museum.

Working with the Secretary, we decided to use the Lodge notice on the message side of a post card and on the address side to send a Masonic greeting to the Lodge member. Fortunately, the post card rate was 10 cents so the stamps purchased previously were ideally suited - the Revolutionary Military Men carried the mail and recalled the early history. The crowning point of the momento was to have it postmarked on August 3, 1980, exactly 200 years after the Lodge was constituted providing a Masonic Momento to each member.



-article and card provided by Bro. Charles A. Fricke

Bro. David M. Carlson has provided illustrations of two covers - one which he purchased (a MOVPER cover of 1939) and one which he prepared.



GRAND MASTERS HELP TO FOUND REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL

(Continued from last Newsletter)

Jose Mendes Riberio Norton de Matos Born in Ponte de Lima on March 23, 1867, he pursued a military career and rose to the rank of general. He also served on the faculty in the Instituto Superior Tecnico. After a brilliant colonial record, he embraced the October revolution and joined the Partido Democratico. He was named governor-general of Angola (1912-15) but was dismissed by the dictatorship of Pimenta Castro. He returned to the mainland where he actively participated in the movement to overthrow the dictator. Subsequently, he served as minister for the colonies (1915) and minister of war (1915-17). He was one of the first proponents of Portugal's declaration of war against the Central Powers, an action that resulted in his exile during the Sidonio period (1917-19). He then served as a member of the Portuguese delegation to the Peace Conference (1919) and high commissioner to Angola (1921-24), advocating the development of the colony. During 1924-25 he served as ambassador to Great Britain. In 1948 he agreed to be the Opposition's candidate to Carmona, but withdrew in February 1949 when it became apparent that the election was rigged. He died in Ponte de Lima on January 2, 1955.



Norton de Matos was elected Grand Master from 1930 to 1935 and is shown on Scott 1452 issued March 19, 1980.

Sebastiao Magalhaes Lima Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on May 30, 1850, Sebastiao moved with his family to Eixo, Portugal, five years later. He was graduated from Coimbra in 1875 with a law degree and practiced for four years. In 1879 he turned to journalism as a way to disseminate his fierce Republican ideals. He joined "Comercio de Portugal", founded "O Seculo" in 1881, spent one year running "A Folha do Povo" (1890) and finally directed "A Vanguarda", a periodical advancing the Republican cause for the next nine years. During this period, he was drawn into politics and attended congresses all over Europe, becoming one of the best-known Portuguese citizens. In 1907, Sebastiao was elected Grand Master, a position he was to fill until his death in 1928.



With the budding of the Republic approaching, he joined Jose Relvas in obtaining guarantees of non-intervention from France and Britain. In 1910 he was elected a deputy in the Constituent Assembly of the new Republic and later became a senator. In 1915 he was appointed minister of public education, a post he only held for a month as his fortunes followed the disordered politics of the time. Attacked and slandered by the Sidonio Paes regime, he was arrested. In 1919, however, he was awarded the Order de Torre e Espada. In 1922 he founded the Portuguese League for the Rights of Man. In 1923 he stood for the presidency of the republic, only to be persecuted again a few years later. He died on December 7, 1928, disappointed in Portugal's latest political turn away from liberty.

Scott 1410 was issued on December 5, 1978, with 5 million phosphor overprinted copies in sheets of 50.

USPS COMIC STRIP CLASSICS

The USPS has released the design of the Comic Strip Classics sheetlet to be issued Oct. 1. Shown here, the particular stamps which relate to Masons - identified in the March-April Newsletter - are highlighted and the Masons are in bold print in the listing. Can anyone out there help with any of the others?



- Richard Outcort 1863-1928
- Rudolph Dirks 1877-1968
- Winsor McCay 1867-1934
- George McManus 1884-1954**
- George Herriman 1880-1944
- Rube Goldberg 1883-1970
- Fontaine Fox 1884-1964
- Frank King 1882-1969
- Billy DeBeck 1890-1942**
- Harold Gray 1894-1968**
- E. C. Segar 1894-1938
- Chick Young 1901-1973**
- Chester Gould 1900-1985
- V. T. Hamlin 1899-1933
- Ernie Bushmiller 1905-1982
- Alex Raymond 1909-1956
- Al Capp 1909-1980
- Milton Caniff 1907-1988
- Harold R. Foster 1892-1982
- Dale Messick 1906-

Any others that are Masons or former Demolay?

INTERESTING MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK COVER

Bro. Robert Gilbert, member No. 337 of Robesonia, PA, has sent in a copy of an interesting cover from his collection. The MSC of NY Cover is usually seen with the TIPEX Sheet and show FDC cancel; this example was franked for and flown on the Hindenberg and was receive-stamped in Frankfurt-am-Main. Thank you for sharing it.

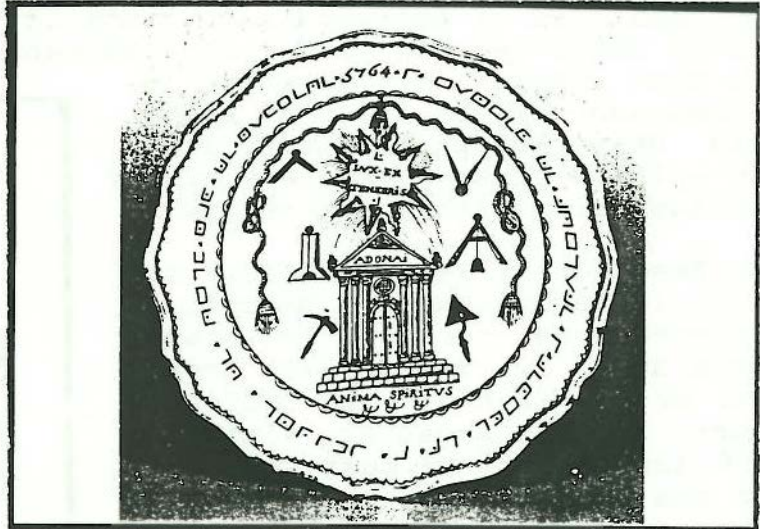


FRENCH MASONIC POST CARD

Prior to his accident, Bro. Maurice Beazley sent in a French Masonic post card he has acquired which depicts a plate honoring three saints - Saint Julien of Brioude, Saint Benigne (Benigne) and Saint Amable de Riom. The code is translated "Saint Julien de Brioude, Saint Benigne, Saint Amable de Riom, L'An de Lumiere 5764". He has copies of this card which are available from him at a cost of \$1.50 each plus a self-addressed envelope. His address is: 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4JS England.

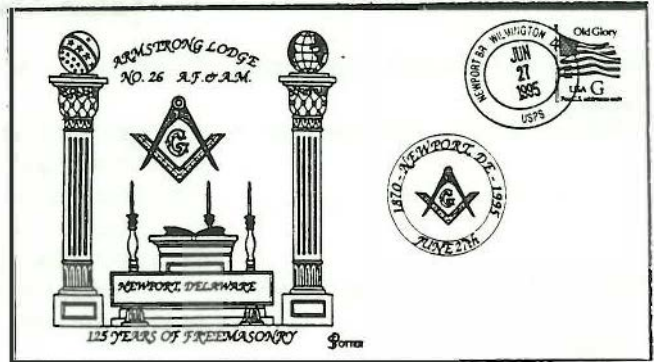
The key for the translation is:

ab.	cd.	ef.	
gh.	il.	mn.	
op.	qr.	st.	



CACHETED COVER FOR ARMSTRONG LODGE NO. 26

Bro. Stephen D. Potter, Jr. Warden of Armstrong Lodge No. 26, Newport, DE, has announced that his Lodge has issued a limited edition collectors cachet cover to commemorate their 125th Anniversary. They are available from him at P.O. Box 9700, Newark, DE 19714-9700 at a cost of \$3.00 each plus a SASE large enough to cover the order. Shown here is a sample of the cover which your Editor had serviced by the Newport, DE, P.O.



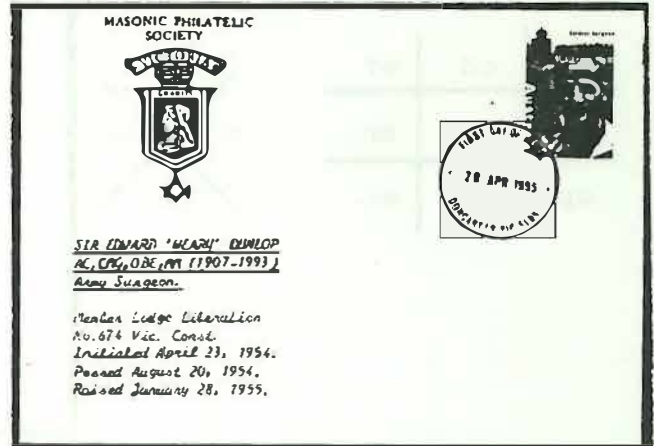
BRIEF EDITORIAL

It is with a sense of sadness that I note various Masonic Philately Editors leaving their posts. The President's article commented on Bro. Pete Normand terminating his Newsletter. The Masonic Stamp Club of Denver has ceased active operations and their annual Newsheet. A few months ago, Bro. Sid Martin ceased publication of the Newsletter of the Australian Masonic Philately group. The latest addition to the list of departees is Bro. J. H. Kernick who has written his Editorial "swan-song" for "The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine" in Great Britain - the group must find a replacement for him. Perhaps I am different or crazy but I realize a great deal of personal enjoyment from the job as Editor and as long as the Unit will support me as you have been doing, I will continue to try to issue a viable, informative Newsletter. As the President said, we welcome criticism - I want to know what you want.

SIR EDWARD "WEARY" DUNLOP

On April 20, 1995, the Australia Post issued a stamp depicting Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop (1907-1993). "Weary" Dunlop spent three and a half years as a prisoner of the Japanese. An Army surgeon, he was sent with 900 men to work on the Thailand-Burma railway. In primitive conditions, Dunlop tried to help the sick, to save those unfit for work from the labor gangs and to maintain the prisoners' will to live. His care for the men under his command and his leadership and courage in conditions of extraordinary brutality are legendary. After the war Dunlop continued his career as a surgeon. He was knighted in 1969 for his many public activities and is a Companion of the Order of Australia. He worked particularly for the welfare of ex-prisoners of war and Australian-Arian friendship.

The Masonic Philatelic Society of Victoria has released a Masonic Cacheted Cover for this new stamp. Shown here, it is available from Bro. Erhard Stermole, 12 Radford Court, Hoppers Crossing, Victoria 3029 Australia. The cost is US\$3. for one envelope and one stamp - postage included. Payment in US notes preferred.



NEW ISSUES

New issues of Masonic interest as announced in the philatelic press:

1994

Sept. 24 - Slovenia - stamp saluting the 200th anniversary of the Ljubljana Philharmonic Society - it pictures Ludwig von Beethoven, Joseph Haydn and Niccolo Paganini.



Dec. 5 - Guyana - eight stamps and two S/S for Christmas - scenes on two include St. John the Baptist.

1995

Apr. 7 - Russia - 50th Anniversary of end of World War II - 6 stamps which include W. Churchill and F. D. Roosevelt

Apr. 28 - Brazil - Famous Brazilians - 15c stamp honoring the 150th birth anniversary of Barao do Rio Branco.

Apr. 28 - Spain - One value honoring 100th death anniversary of Jose Marti.

May 5 - Germany - One value honoring 100th anniversary of the German Schiller Society - pictures Frederick Schiller.

May 5 - San Marino - World Tourism Organization's 20th Anniversary - pictures "All Seeing Eye".

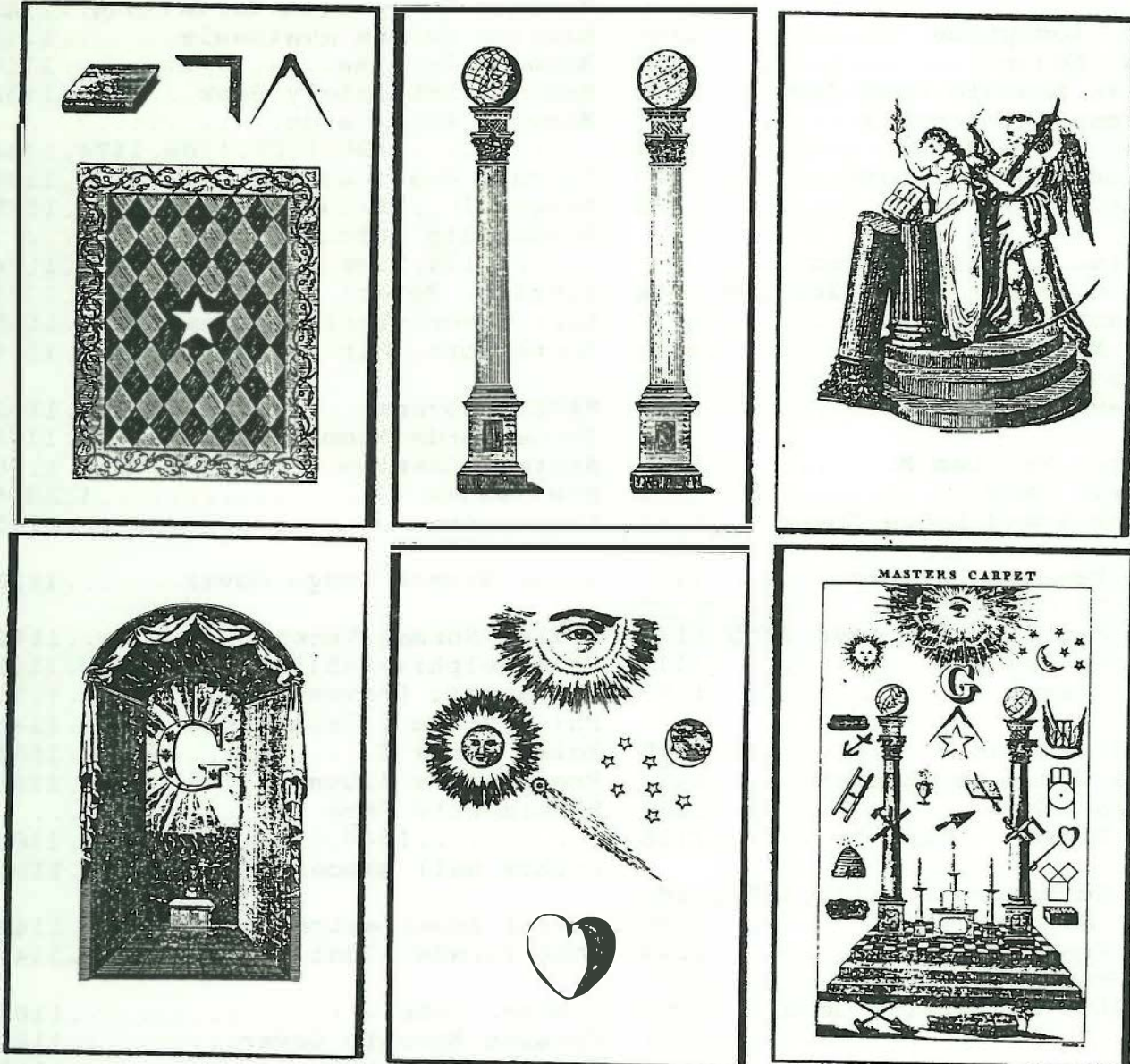


May 8 - Isle of Man - World War II Victory Celebrations - four pairs of se-tenant stamps, one 40p stamp shows King George VI.

May 9 - Guernsey - 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guernsey - five values - 16p shows W. Churchill.

MORE MASONIC POST CARDS

Bro. Stephen Hill, member No. 323 of Seaside, CA, has sent in a set of post cards which depict illustrations from Jeremy Cross's Hieroglyphic Monitor. They are offered by Knickerbocker Publishing, 1348 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308. They are sold in sets of 16 cards each of the six designs - 96 total cards - for \$11.50.



Johan Petter Falkberget (1879-1967) Norwegian novelist who was the self-educated son of a miner. He worked in the copper mines from the age of eight until he was 27, learning to write at the same time. His novels about the hard lives of the mountain peasants, miners and railway workers deal realistically with their lives, culture and antagonism to the more comfortable and prosperous valley settlers. He was raised in 1913 in St. John Lodge "St. Olaus til den hvide Leopard" No. 1 in Oslo. No date given for his initiation or whether he progressed in any other of the Norwegian degrees. Falkberget was a pseudonym, his real name being J. P. Lillebakken. The applicable stamp is a Norway release of 1979 to mark his birth centenary.



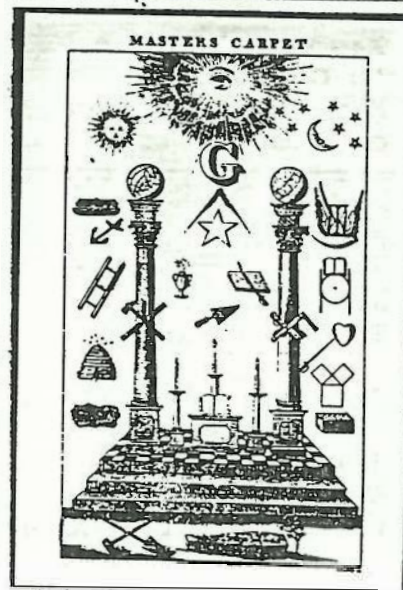
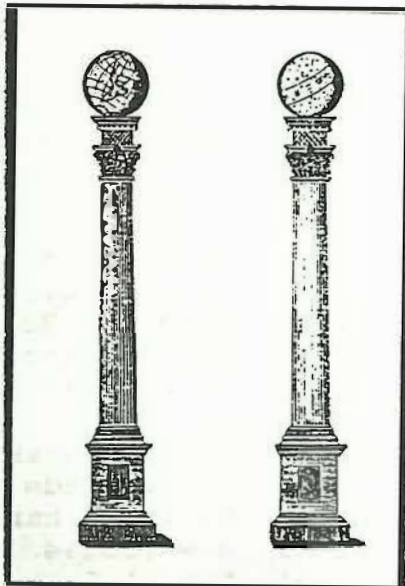
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