

The late Prime Minister and Defence Secretary of Israel, formerly a Freedon Fighter, Commander in Chief of the Israel Defence Forces and Ambassador to the United States was a Freemason. In 1968, just before he assumed his office in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin was made a Mason "on sight" by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel at the time, the late M. W. Brother Shalom Kassan.

For quite a few years I was aware of the following story: In order to assist the hero of the Six Days War in establishing friendly relationships abroad, Yitzhak Rabin was invited to the Grand Lodge and during a special communication held by the G.M. and some of his Senior Officers he was invested with the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry in the course of one evening. Shortly after that Brother Rabin went to the U.S., never becoming a member of any private Lodge and never becoming an active member of the Craft. I first heard this story a decade ago from the late R.W.Bro. Zvi Neustein who told me that he participated in that ceremony and served as the Junior Deacon. Unfortunately, no one in the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel was ever willing to confirm or deny the story officially, so that we can only rely on hear-say and clues. Further collaboration of the story was established in 1992. Several members of the Labour (Rabin's) Party were initiated in my Mother Lodge, RASHBI #8. During the last elections' campaign they approached Bro. Rabin with questions regarding the rumor. He confirmed the information and also expressed some interest in the state of the Craft in Israel. (Continued)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

125 Grace T. Burton, 153 Summit Ave., Eagleville, PA 19403

139. James D. Parmiter, 242 Brock Rd., Springfield, PA 19064

175. John W. Hillemeyer, 5015 Westminster, St. Louis, MO 63108

- 241. LTC Thomas M. StuhrIII, 12 Lordship Lane, Dover, DE 19901-0130
- 271. Monsieur Ratfer, 82 Bis rue Crevier, 76000 Rouen, France
- 397. Romy C. Go, c/o CAB Hardware, 467 McArthur Highway Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines 2009
- 432. Sherman Hayhurst, P.O. Box 31204, Stockton, CA 95213-1204 ADDRESS CHANGES

345. Roy L. Manly, Rt 2 Box 321, Bowie, TX 76230

389. Christopher F. Grippo, 14 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901 CLOSED ALBUMS

253 Coorgo Dichardson late o

253. George Richardson, late of the Masonic Home, Charlton, MA. MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Bro. Joseph Ashkenazi, member No. 330 of Haifa, Israel. was installed on January 23, 1996, as one of the Grand Stewards of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel under Most Wor. Bro. Ephraim Fuchs. Congratulations, Bro. Ashkenazi.

Yitzhak Rabin (Cont's from cover page)

It is interesting to note that in all the obituary notices in Grand Lodge publications the deceased is called "Mr. Rabin". All except one, that is: The speech of the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Ephraim Fuchs, on the grave of Bro. Rabin was published in the Grand Lodge newsletter, <u>Al Ha'Peles</u> No. 9 (December 1995). In it he says: "...the terrible murder of the prime minister of Israel our Brother the late Yitzhak Rabin". A slip of the tongue?

The death of Brother Yitzhak Rabin, the champion of the more tolerant part of Israel society, is a great loss to the country and to those who uphold the principles of Freemasonry and Democracy. One can only wonder whether the personal friendship between Prime Minister Rabin, President Clinton (a member of DeMolay in his youth), King Hussein of Jordan (Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Jordan) and Prince Hassan (Grand Master) was in any way facilitated by Rabin's Masonic involvement.

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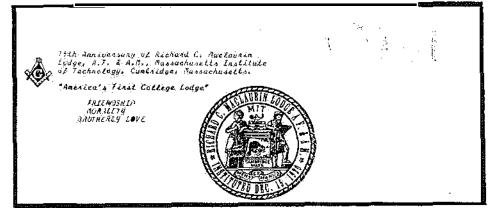
In addition to the stamp issued by Israel on December 4, 1995, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia have issued the stamps shown above.

-article provided by Bro. Ron Berger, member No. 273 of Jerusalem, Israel

INFORMATION ON THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG CASE

While researching through some previous data, I found a statement on page 188 of Bro. Clarence Beltmann's Masonic Newsletter of the 1960s that Bro. Harry W. Armstrong, a musician, was a member of Montgomery Lodge #68. It is quite possible that the individuals reporting Louis Armstrong as a member of Montgomery Lodge #18 may have made two simple errors: Harry W. = Louis and 68 = 18. At least there is a possible answer here.

COVER FOR RICHARDC. MACLAURIN LODGE



Bro. William G. Otenti, member No. 87, 4 Crystal St., Wakefield, MA 01880 has prepared a cover for the 75th Anniversary of Richard C. MacLaurin Lodge A.F.& A.M., located at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. This Lodge is unique because, technically, it is the first of the so-called college lodges in the U.S. and limits it membership to those directly connected with the institution. It was the outgrowth of a club formed at Tech about 1919, "Masons of M.I.T.", and was named for the M.I.T. President who had just recently passed away. Wor. Bro. MacLaurin was a Past Master of Aorangi Lodge No. 2300, English Constitution, in Wellington, New Zealand, having received his degrees in 1901.

There are a very limited number of these covers available from Bro. Otenti at a cost of \$2.50 each plus a #10 SASE.

KINDRED PHILATELY

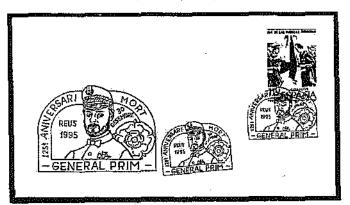
Fifty years ago at the age of ten, 1 noticed in Grandmother's open desk, her mail with stamps that I had never seen before. They became mine and my hobby of philately was started.

Many years later with marriage came one daughter and three sons who all entered scouts - so I helped them earn their stamp merit badge. However, soon after they quit scouts they also seemed to lose interest in their stamp collecting habits. The oldest son did keep his collecting a little longer to become an Eagle Scout and later, at 21, a member of a Masonic Lodge. Now at 38 he does not attend Lodge any more and has other interests than stamps.

By now my four children have presented me with five super grandchildren and this year for Christmas one of the gifts from me was a comic strip sheet inside a picture frame. Will this gift spark an interest or a pastime of stamp collecting? Or will baseball cards win out? At stamp shows I have attended, I only see older men and women in attendance. Our youth of today and yesterday love to party away all their free time and that takes away any hobby time they may have started as a youngster.

Our Masonic stamp clubs are not getting younger persons to join. A recent letter from the MSC of NY tells the story. Prior to that was a letter from the Denver Masonic Stamp Club stating that they were now an inactive club. I understand that the GWMSC has now cut down to 2 or 3 meetings a year and their past presidents and officers are re-going the club offices for the next four years.member anonymous

JUAN PRIM Y PORATS Reus 1814 - Madrid 1870



Juan Prim y Porats, a military leader and Spanish politician was born in Reus (Tarragona). He started his military career in 1830 in the Throwers Batallion of Isabel II. He exhibited distinguished valor in the Civil War and in the War in Affrica and served bravely in the battles of Castille jos, Sierra Bullones, Tetuan and Wad-Ras. He served as General of the expedition to Mexico and was a leader of several revolutions in the Spanish peninsular. He affiliated with the progressive Party because of his liberal ideas. He was active in the revolution of 1868. He was President of the Council of Ministers and supported Amadeo of Savoia (another important Mason) as the new King of Spain. He was assassinated by unknown persons on Turcos Street, Madrid, three days before the arrival of the new King in Spain. He earned the title of Count of Reus and Marquis of the Castille jos.

According to the book "Masoneria Intima" by Jaime Montoya Candamil, Bro. Prim was a member of "Tolerancia y Fratemidad" Lodge of the Grand Spanish Orient. He was elevated to the 33rd degree of the S.R.A.A.

-submitted by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, member No. 243 of Barcelona, Spain

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP MANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DECEMBER 15, 1994 DECEMBER 15, 1994 DEC 15 1994

COVER FROM FOR TITUDE LODGE NO. 19

500 of the cover shown here

were produced for the 195th

Anniversary Celebration of Fortitude Lodge. They are

available at a cost of \$3.00 each, plus a #10 SASE, from: R.W. Jay A Cohen

317 Forest Ave.

Woodmere, NY 10016

1248

MARIANO NECOCHEA ZARAZA (1792-1849)

Mariano Necochea Zaraza was an active military Argentine Patriot He was sent to Spain by his father to study for a military career and upon returning to Argentina was appointed Captain of the patriotic troops in 1813. He fought at the Battle of San Lorenzo under the direction of General San Martin. He joined the troops of the Alto Peru and the Andes and fought at the battles of Chacabuco, Cancha Rayada, Maipu, etc. After the seige of Callao he was promoted to the rank of general. As General chief of the Cavalry corps he fought in the battles of Junin and Ayacucho. Following the war, he returned to Lima where he occupied many positions in military and civil life



Seott 1052ú 1974

Bro. Zaraza stated that he was initiated in "Lautaro Lodge" in Buenos Aires. He was also a member of "Ejercito de los Andes Lodge", "Los Andes y la Perfecta Union Lodge" and "Regeneration Chapter" - all in Lima, Peru. He was a founder and first Worshipful Master of "Virtud y Union" Lodge No. 3 of Lima, founded on September 12, 1823.

-submitted by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, member No. 243 of Barcelona, Spain

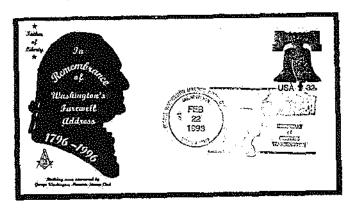
A new USPS postal card to be released this year pictures buildings at St. John's College in Annapolis, MD. This college - supposedly founded by a Masonic Order in 1696 as King William School - will celebrate its 300th anniversary this year. The school was chartered as St. John's College in 1784. Does any member have any information on the Masonic aspect of this school?

ELECTIONS

Your Editor has fallen a bit behind in planning for the elections which are to take place this year in accordance with our By-Laws. I wish to solicit nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The function of Editor is not an elected position - but if anyone wants it, they are welcome to take over. Please forward your nominations to me so I can prepare a ballot for the next Newsletter.

GWMSC COVER

The latest GWMSC Washington Birthday Cover is shown here. It is available at a cost of \$1.50 each, plus a #10 SASE from: Paul M. Williams 2364 Beaver Valley Pike New Providence, PA 17560



OSCAR R. BENAVIDES

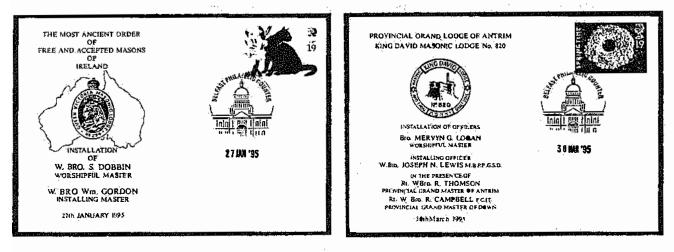
A November 1939 Paraguay stamp issued for the Treaty of Peace of Chanco in Buenos Aires, Scott No. C119, pictures Bro. Benavides. He was an active member of the "Virtud y Union" Lodge No. 3 of Lima - according to the magazine "La Cadena" (Year II, No. 10 - August-September 1995). He served as Master of this Lodge in 1903.



Oscar R. Benavides was a military and political Peruvian who was President of that country during the years 1914-15 and 1932-39. His regime was noted for his struggle against the APRA which, many times, was really a Civil War. The concentration of important social sectors in the low and middle classes near the APRA, combined with an openly armed revolutionary force, showed his government the necessity of implementing restrictive measures such as the creation of the "Guardia de Asalto" and the promulgation of the Law of Social Defense to maintain order within the country.

-submitted by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, member No. 243 of Barcelona, Spain Can anyone help by providing more information on the biography of this Brother?

MORE OF BRO. FRANK ELLIOTT'S COVER CREATIONS Information on their acquisition may be obtained from him at 11 Wood End, Holywood Belfast BT18 9PN Northern Ireland.



MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

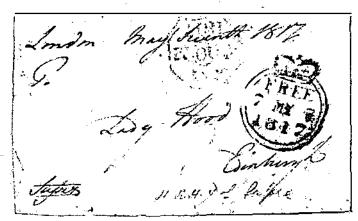
Secretary-Treasurer Otto Steding

1033 Hollytree Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45231 President Norman Lincoln P.O. Box 454 Eaton, OH 45320

Membership \$8.00 - North America \$14.00 - All Other

FREE FRANK - H.R.H., PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK DUKE OF SUSSEX

Lodge Zur Seigenden Wahrheit, Berlin Initiated 1798 Grand Master, Grand Lodge of England Captain General, Grand Conclave, Order of Knights Templar, 1812 Grand Master, United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and Provinces Overseas (Knights Templar), 1814-43 Grand Master, Red Cross of Palestine, 1814



London, MY 7 1817 Received Edinburgh MY 10 1817 -provided by Bro. Gene Fricks, member No. 224, Clementon, NJ

MASONIC COVER FOR BRO. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

Bro. John Cunningham has sponsored another Masonic cover - this one for Bro. Stephen A. Douglas. Shown here, it is "not for sale" but will be available in return for a donation to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation - a donation which is considered tax deductible. A minimum of \$5.00 has been set and the check, money order or bank payment should be made out to K.T.Eye Foundation, Inc.. The payment should be sent to the editor, Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Rd., Andover, MA 01810, who will provide the covers.

Key events in the life of Bro. Douglas are:

- 1813 April 23 Born in Brandon, VT
- 1833 Moved to Illinois
- 1835 Elected State's Attorney
- 1836 Elected to Legislature
- 1840 June 26-Raised to Master Mason Springfield Lodge No.4 Oct. 20-Appointed Grand Orator Dec. 28-Elected Junior Warden
- 1841 Elected Supreme Court Justice
- 1842 Received Mark Master Degree Springfield Chapter No. 1, R.A.M.
- 1843 Elected Rep. to Congress
- 1846 Elected U.S. Senator
- 1853 Reelected to Senate
- 1858 Campaigned against A. Lincoln

AUG 27 AUG 27 9-AM 19-BAN

1859 Reelected over A. Lincoln

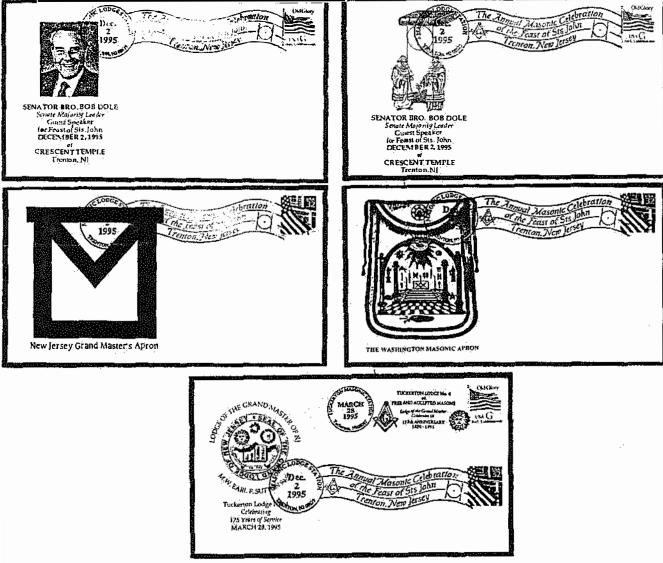
- 1860 Defeated by Lincoln for President
- 1861 June 3 Died

June 6 - Masonic Services

1866 G.L. of Illinois laid cornerstone of Douglas Monument

FEAST OF ST. JOHN - CANCELS AND COVERS

Bro. Michael R. Mekenian, member No. 363, of 711 5th Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ 07762, is again serving as the distributor of some New Jersey Masonic covers. Thgis time they are cancelled with the special cancel prepared for the Feast of Sts. John, Trenton, NJ. Two of the covers honor Sen. Bro. Bob Dole, Guest Speaker. The other three are the same cachets that were provided for the 175th Anniversary of Tuckerton Lodge No. 4 earlier in 1995; they are available with this single cancel (in black red or blue) or with a dual cancel from March 28 as shown below. The single cancel covers cost \$5.00 each; the duals are \$6.00. Order from Bro. Mekenian.



Over the past several weeks I have been trying to consolidate my Masonic Philately reference files and have been working with those developed by Bro. Marshall Loke which I acquired a number of years ago. They are a treasure trove of information and will provide the basis for several new articles over the next batch of Newsletters.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been reported in the philatelic press. May 19, 1995 - Cuba - 100th Death Anniversary of Jose Marti, 5 values. Marti and Maximo Gomez are pictured

June - Costa Rica - Founders of Latin America, 2 values. Antonio Jose de Sucre and Jose Marti are shown

Aug. 16 - Dominica - 50th Anniversary of the U.N., se-tenant strip of three stamps. Winston Churchill is pictured

Sept. 14 - Albania - Discoverers, se-tenant block of four. Roald Amundsen and Robert F. Scott are shown

Oct. 18 - So. Korea - 100th Anniversary of the Korean Bible Society, I value which shows an open Bible

Nov. - Nicaragua - 100th Anniversary of Nobel Prizes, two panes of nine se-tenant stamps. Carl von Ossietzky is included

Nov. 3 - Grenada-Grenadines - 100th Anniversary of Cinema/Romantic Movies, pane of nine se-tenant stamps. Clark Gable is included

Nov. 14 - Israel - 100th Anniversary of Cinema, 5 stamps in sheelet of 15. Peter Sellers and Al Jolson are shown

Nov. 15 - Chile - 50th Anniversary of Gabriela Mistral's Nobel Prize, I value

Nov. 30 - Marshall Islands - In memory of Yitzhak Rabin, 1 value

Nov. 30 - Micronesia - In memory of Yitzhak Rabin, I value

Dec. 27 - Philippines - 100th Anniversary of Independence in 1998, se-tenant strip of three stamps. J. P. Rizal, A. Bonifacio and A.Mabini are pictured

Feb. 21, 1996 - Micronesia - Pioneers of Flight, eight se-tenant stamps. James H. Doolittle

shown.

ALFONSO UGARTE VERNAL

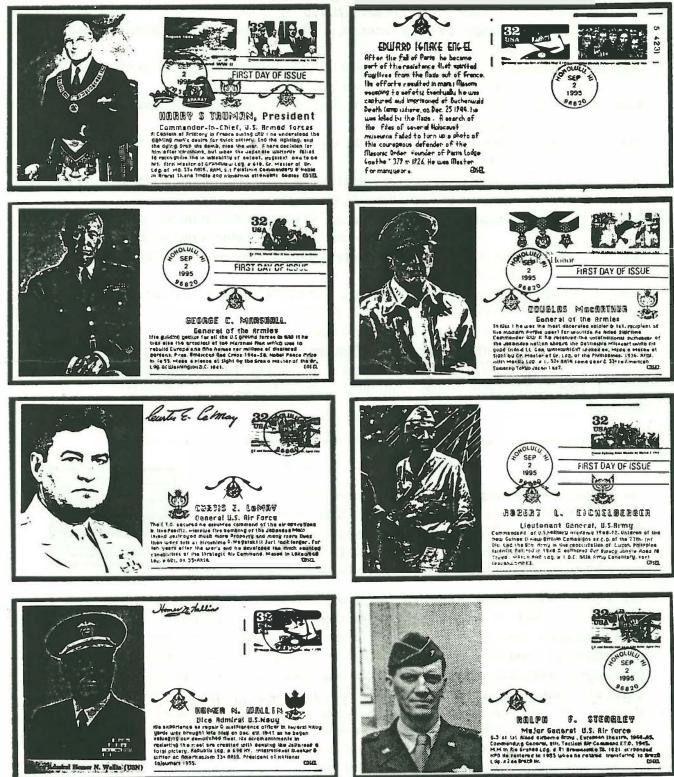
Bro. Ugarte was initiated in Fraternidad y Progresso Lodge No. 18 (now No.28) of Lima on March 17, 1875. He later served as Junior Warden. In 1877 he affiliated with Cruz Austral Lodge No. 5 (now No. 12) of Callao. Alfonso Ugarte Lodge No. 45 in Valle de Canete is named for him. He is pictured on Scott #698 issued by Peru in 1979.



Bro. Ugarte was a philanthropist, military leader and national hero of Peru. He was born on August 2, 1847, to a rich family involved in the saltpeter business. He joined the family business and also served as Warden of Tarapaca becoming a respected philanthropist. Upon the start of the Pacific War between Peru and Chile, he enlisted in the national troops and was commissioned a lieutenant colonel. His special order was to organize a corps of national solders with the batallion name of "lquique"; he was to fund the cost of the equipment and armaments. Facing a much stronger emeny at Leucade he grabbed his country's flag, spurred his horse and shouting "Hurrah to Peru", became mortally wounded, fell into an abyss and died in the waters of the Pacific Ocean on June 7, 1880, rather than surrender to the Chilean troops.

EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

More examples of recent Edsel Masonic Covers are shown here. They can be acquired from Bro. Edsel Hatfield, member No. 21, at P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042.



SHRINE COVER AND ITS USER



This envelope bears the emblem of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the corner card of Charles Cary. The franking of this envelope was that required for third class mail, yet it was marked "Personal"; the year was 1893. Research showed that Charles Cary was a member of Lu Lu Temple in Philadelphia, the 16th Shrine Temple chartered in North America. The date of the Charter was June 4, 1884. Charles Cary was elected Recorder of Lu Lu Temple in 1887 when the organization had a membership of just over 500; he served in that office until 1898. The membership had grown to 2100 by 1892. This cover, therefore, was used during his tenure and must have reflected his personal touch upon the Shrine correspondence.

Charles Cary was born in 1842 and died August 14, 1917. He was a member of Corinthian Lodge No. 368 and served this Lodge as Master and Secretary. He was also a member of Oriental Chapter No. 138 holding different offices including High Priest; he later served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. He received his Scottish Rite degrees in various bodies of the Valley of Philadelphia in 1874 and became a 32nd degree Mason serving as thrice Potent Grand Master in 1888 and again in 1890. On September 16, 1890, he received his 33rd degree and became an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council N.M.J.

It is extremely interesting to be able to tie an item of Masonic Philately to its origin such as Bro. C. A. Fricke has done in this instance. Thank you for your input, Bro. Fricke.

PYRAMID PUBLICATIONS PRE-PUBLICATION SURVEY

Pyramid Publications has recently completed publication of *The Masonic Specialist* by Christopher L. Murphy, BF. This work is presently provided in stamp album format (ring binder) and comprises nine (9) volumes. IT IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE, MOST DETAILED AND MOST AUTHORITATIVE WORK ON MASONIC PHILATELY EVER PUBLISHED.

IF THERE SUFFICIENT INTEREST. this work can now be converted to a set of two (2) regular hardcover volumes. The specifications would be as follows: 1,420 pages (laser bond), 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches, high-quality hardcovers embossed in gold. The work contains the following sections:

USER GUIDE: A complete explanation of how the work is arranged including definitions of stamp classes as they relate to Freemasonry.

BOOK ONE: Subjects Associated with Masonic Philately. A total of 685 subjects (famous men) are referenced with an illustration of one applicable postage stamp, listing of other applicable stamps, facts about the stamps and full Masonic details related to the subject.

BOOK TWO: Subject Listing by Field of Acclaim. Each subject is listed under his particular field, (Architecture, Art, etc.) There are special sections for First and Lasts, Halls of Fame, and "Fathers," (i.e., where a subjects is considered the "Father" in his particular field.)

BOOK THREE: Masonic Standings. This is a chart showing all subjects, their original profession or occupation, the Masonic bodies to which they belonged (Royal Arch, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, Shriner) and if they were a Grand Master. The chart comprises nineteen (19) pages.

BOOK FOUR: Reference List - The Masonic Philatelist. Subjects shown in Book One who have appeared in The Masonic Philatelist are listed in this section together with the year, month and page number of applicable issue. There is also a section listing major articles which have been featured in The Masonic Philatelist.

BOOK FIVE: Keys to Group Stamps. Enlarged illustrations of stamps that show a group of people are shown in this section with a key to the individuals in the group.

The price to purchase this work would be \$75 U.S. funds or \$100 Canadian funds plus packaging and postage (\$10 U.S. or CDN). All taxes included, if applicable. A customized matching shelf-box will be provided with each set. <u>The price is contingent upon a</u> <u>minimum run of 100 copies of the work</u>. The results of this survey <u>must</u> indicate this total purchase volume.

If you are interested in obtaining this book set, please complete and send in the following Intent to Purchase form. You will be notified of the outcome. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY ATTHIS TIME.

INTENT TO PURCHASE

Pyramid Publications Dept. 291 - 720 Sixth Street New Westminster, British Columbia Canada, V3L 3C5

This is my intent to purchase a hardcover, standard book set edition of The Masonic Specialist at a price of \$75 U.S. or \$100 CDN plus packaging and postage if the work becomes available.

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SIGNATURE: