

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Affiliate #94



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

VOL. 21, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1997

WHOLE NO. 121

EVERETT McKINLEY DIRKSEN

On January 4, 1981, the USPS issued a commemorative stamp, Scott No. 1874, to note the death of Senator Everett M. Dirksen.



Born on January 4, 1896, in Pekin, IL, Everett Dirksen attended the University of Minnesota Law School from 1913 until 1917 at which time he joined the U.S. Army as a Private; he later served as a Lieutenant in the American Expeditionary Force. After his discharge in 1919 he returned to Pekin and entered business. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1932 he served seven terms there up to 1941. After two terms out of public office he was elected in 1950 to the Senate. He was the Republican Minority Whip from 1957 to 1969 and the Minority Leader from 1959 to 1969. He supported the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He died on September 7, 1969.

Bro. Dirksen received his degrees in Pekin Lodge No. 29, Pekin, IL, being initiated March 3, passed July 9 and raised July 23, 1931. He served as Grand Orator of Illinois in 1953 and 1954. He became a member of the Scottish Rite in 1931-32, the York Rite in 1967 and joined Mohammed Shrine Temple at Peoria. The 33rd Degree was conferred on him at Boston on September 29, 1954.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary-Treasurer
Otto Steding
1033 Hollytree Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45231

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

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

308. R. Stephen Potter, 530 Winston Ct., Tracy, CA 95376
321. Thomas J. A. Knaack, 8354 Mountain Ash Way, Gaithersburgh, MD 20879
365. Donald W. Nuygens, 422 S. Tenn. Pl. #2, Mason City, IA 50401
405. Robert Bayes, 1268 Marine Dr., N. Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7P 1T2
415. A. E. Hutchins, 46 Stanford St., Bradford, PA 16701
TBD. Paul B. Freed, P.O. Box 819, Rishon-Le-Zion, 75107, Israel

CLOSED ALBUMS:

1. John M. Hudak, late of Pleasant Hill, CA
155. Earl F. England, late of Van Meter IA

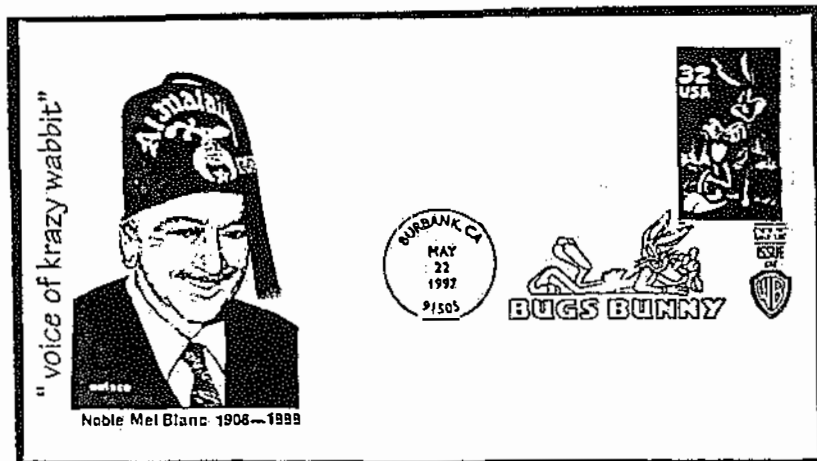
Our Secretary-Treasurer, Bro. Otto Steding, celebrated his 80th Birthday on July 31. His wife, Elaine, had a surprise party for him on August 3, and his daughter and entire family came from Minneapolis to Cincinnati for the occasion as well as many other friends.

Bro. Erhard Sternole, Member No. 258, is opting to close his Masonic Stamp Albums. He has also resigned from his Lodge because of the travel distance at night and lack of a better organization near home or a Daylight Lodge. He was also sad to announce that the September meeting of the Masonic Philatelic Society of Victoria, the oldest Thematic Society in Australia, being in existence since 1947, was its last. Unfortunately, this follows the trend we have been observing over the past few years.

Bro. Hudak and Bro. England both passed away in July 1996 - his children have provided the notification to us. As you can tell from John Hudak's Membership Number, Bro. John was the individual responsible for reorganizing the MSU back in 1977.

One of our Past Presidents could use a few prayers from all of us and lots of good luck. Bro. Stan Longenecker has just learned he has prostate cancer and is about ready to start treatment for it. The disease has not entered his bones yet so there may be some hope of remission and/or cure. Bro. Stan has been a prolific Masonic Cacheted Cover producer as well as an active member and Past President of the GWMSC. We are all pulling and praying for you Bro. Stan. Beat it!

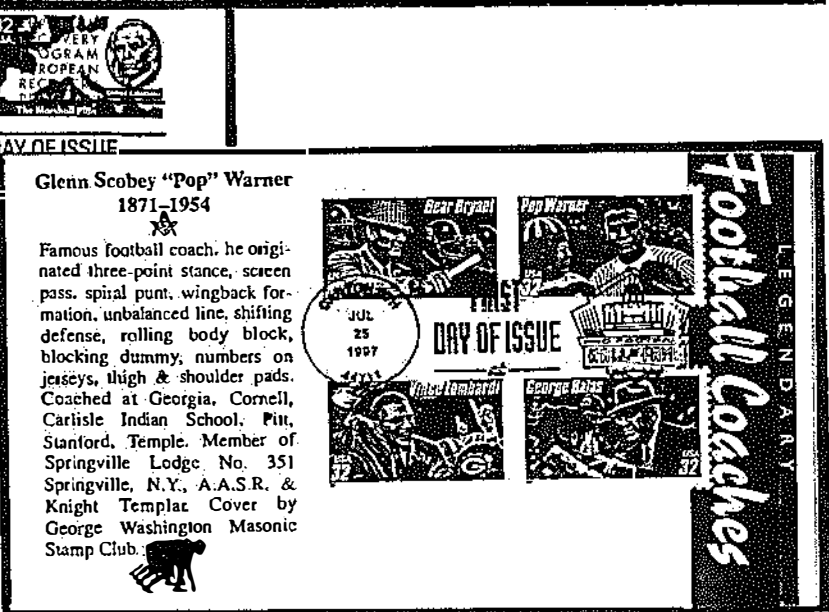
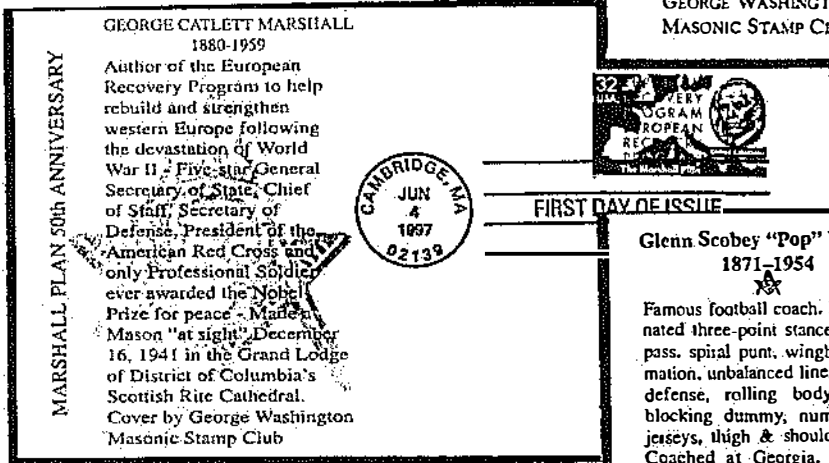
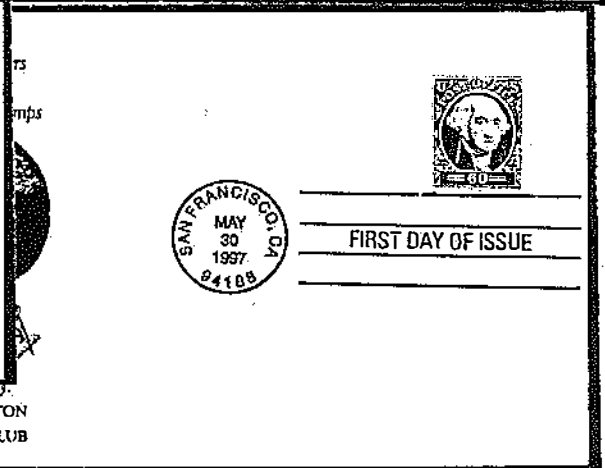
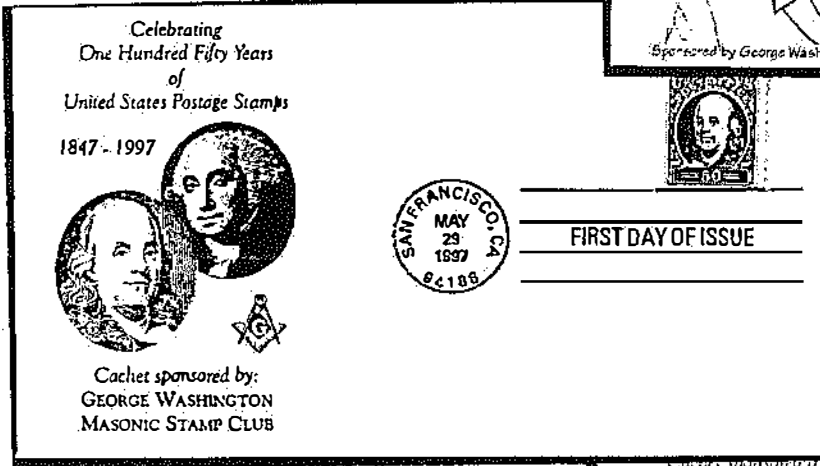
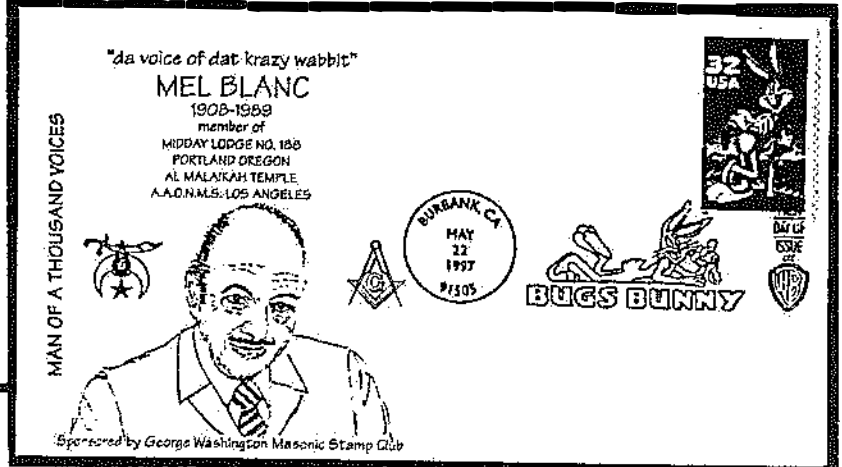
Bro. Stan's latest cover creation is shown here. It is available from him at a cost of \$1.50 (+ a #10 SASE) at
930 Wood St.
Mount Joy, PA
17552



RECENT GWMSC COVERS

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club has issued a few covers recently. Shown here, they are available from the Cover Chairman - Bro. Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560. Don't forget a #10 SASE

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Bugs Bunny/Mel Blanc | \$1.50 |
| PACIFIC 97 - Franklin | \$2.00 |
| PACIFIC 97 - Washington | \$2.00 |
| Marshall Plan | \$1.50 |
| 4 Coaches incl. Warner | \$2.50 |
| Pop Warner Single stamp | \$1.50 |



HOMER LEA

I had heard about Homer Lea from older West Point Officers under whom I served in Hawaii, New Guinea and the Philippines during our retaking of the South Pacific in 1943-45. You know how it goes: one General says to another, "Just like Homer Lea said". I thought Homer Lea was to the older staff officers like Kilroy was to the enlisted man until just recently I ran across his brief biography in Webster's "American Military Biographies". I was so captivated that I began my search for the essential details on the life of this amazing American Military Genius who never served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. With his hump back and frail physique, he did not meet the standards for an Army enlisted man and was summarily rejected when he applied for enlistment.

A law student at Stanford University, his abiding obsession was military science and he often predicted that he was destined to become one of the great military commanders in history. This assertion brought gales of mirth from his fellow students. Upon his rejection by the Army, he embarked for China in 1899 in time to join in the expedition mounted by the U.S. and several European countries to bring relief to Peking during the Boxer Rebellion. His adventures in combat there read like modern day fiction with his many escapes from death and the tremendous respect and esteem for his courage and military knowledge expressed by the Chinese. An association with reformer K'ang YU-Wei, leader of the movement to restore Kuay Hsu to the throne of China led to his being made a General over a group of volunteers in this effort. When their plot was discovered and necessarily aborted, he fled to Hong Kong in 1900 where he met Sun Yat Sen with whom he went to Japan. Incredibly, he became Sun's Chief of Staff before he was 25 years old. He returned to the U.S. briefly in 1901 but by 1904 was back in China serving Sun Yat Sen with the rank of Lt. General of the Chinese Army forces. (At that time three stars was the highest rank available in any Army in the world.) After years of service to the Chinese, he returned to California but continued to act as confidential advisor to Sun Yat Sen. In 1912 poor health forced him to refuse the offer of a position of Chief of Staff of the Revolutionary Army.

He is best known outside of China for his three books: "The Vermillion Pencil" is a novel about the Manchu Regime of 1908. "The Valor of Ignorance" of 1909 predicted a war with an aggressive Japan and defined a war beginning with an attack on Hawaii and identified detailed plans for the reduction of the Philippines and an attack on the mainland U.S. In 1912 Lea went to Germany with Sun and spent his time studying the German people. Following this study he wrote "The Day of the Saxon" in which he foretold the resurgence of the Teuton war psyche - actually, it was a blueprint for World War II. He prophesied that the character of the German race would result in an attempt to become masters of all Europe - all this before Hitler became known. He also predicted that they were doomed to failure unless they crossed the Channel and reduced England in their homeland.

U.S. Army officers who served in the Orient between the two World Wars often used his books as texts for invasion. Even more surprising were the timetables he so accurately

predicted for the events that ultimately saw Japan engulf the Western Pacific islands. He died in 1919 at the age of 33; had he lived longer, he might have witnessed his scenario for World War II come true.

Bro. Homer Lea was a member of Pentalpha Loge No. 202 of Los Angeles, California. He was raised in November 1904 by Bro. James B. Gist - then Junior Warden of the Lodge, later 67th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California.

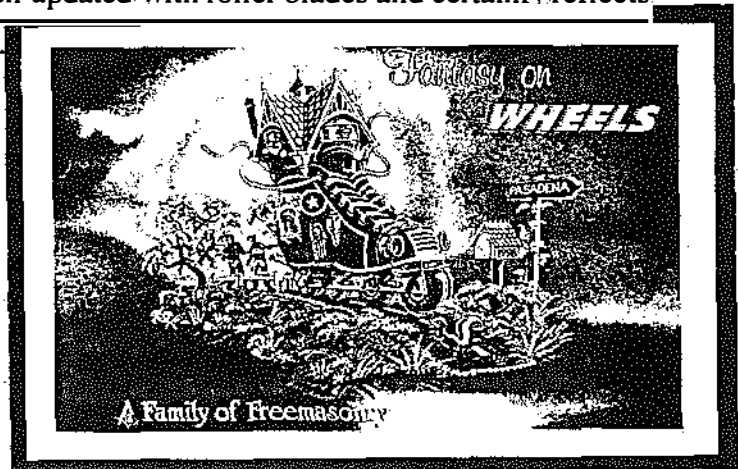
Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Bro. Edsel Hatfield who is now preparing a cover for Bro. Lea. His trials and tribulations of trying to locate a photo of Bro. Lea have been defined:

At first, I worked on the assumption that some library some place would have one of his three books - the third was reputed to have a frontespiece portrait of him. It was positively astonishing how many had the book from which the portrait had been carefully removed and the book repaired. I even tried the Library of Congress, the AASR libraries on the West Coast where he lived until his death and the West Point library. While at Brigham Young University for a Ballroom Dance Camp in June, I had the opportunity to browse in their library. Their files failed to turn up any record of his books but when informed of the subjects of the Chinese Revolution and Sun Yat Sen, the Librarian searched those categories because BYU is interested in China. She identified the stack to me but my search was not successful. On my way out, I notified another Librarian that the volume was not where it was supposed to be and she identified another stack, not 200 feet away. That stack contained the coveted book and in the middle was the picture I had been looking for for over three years. I photocopied the picture and now have the final link to my cover commemorating Homer Lea. -(This cover will be illustrated as soon as it is available)

POSTCARD FOR MASONIC FLOAT - PASADENA PARADE

Bro. Richard O. Wright, Member No. 139, is happy to announce that there will be a Masonic Float in the Jan. 1, 1998, Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. This float, the old woman who lived in a shoe, has been updated with roller blades and certainly reflects the theme of the parade - "Hav'n Fun".

As with previous years, he has postcards of the float available for \$1.00 each (+ SASE); all proceeds will be sent to the Masonic Float Committee in the name of the Masonic Study Unit. Bro. Rick also has back issue cards for 1992, and 1994 through 1997; there was no card for 1993. His address is 13675 N. Hartley Lane, Lodi, CA 95242.

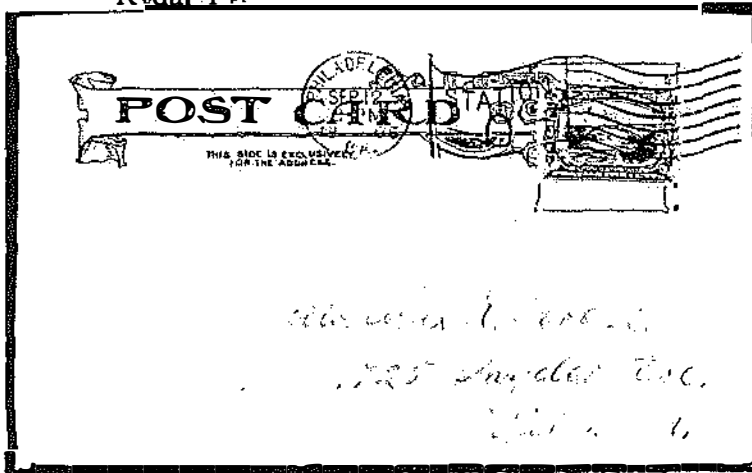


ODD PHILATELIC USE - MASONIC POST CARD

The majestic structure known in Philadelphia as the Masonic Temple at One North Broad Street, has long been recognized as one of the premier architectural buildings in the city. The view in this card expresses its grandeur as if it belonged to a different age. Anyone visiting the city should take the time to tour the Temple and see its magnificent Lodge rooms and the artistic work that each room represents.

While there are many post cards depicting the Temple, this card leads the viewer to speculate because of the 5 cent Pan-American stamp used for franking. Why would anyone use a 5 cent stamp to send a card within the same city when a 1 cent stamp would have been enough? The overpayment of 4 cents makes a collector wonder why. The first assumptions are that either it was the only stamp the sender had or the sender's eyesight was so bad or the light so bad, it was mistaken for a 1 cent stamp; after all, this stamp was over 5 years old at the time of use. It would make an interesting item for a Pan-American Exposition collection as an overpaid post card with the 5 cent stamp.

-Article contributed by Bro. Charles A. Fricke,
Rydal, PA

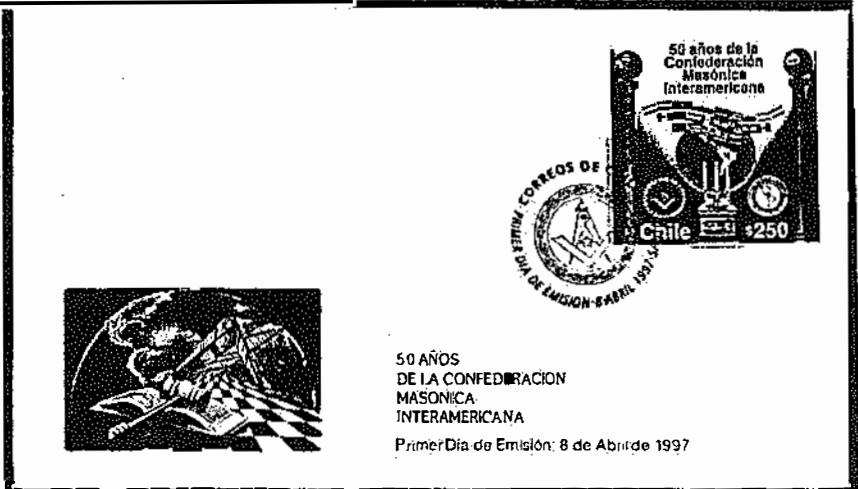


***** YITZHAK RABIN PROBABLY NOT A MASON

In a recent issue of the Newsletter, your Editor published an article by Bro. Ron Berger, then a member of the MSU, which attested to the conclusion that Yitzhak Rabin, the late Prime Minister of Israel, was a Freemason. This claim by Bro. Berger has come under extreme scrutiny in the Masonic press and a recent article by Bro. Leon Zeldis, FPS, in *The Philatelist*, disputes the claim and offers the results of labors which indicate that the claim is probably a myth. The article by Bro. Zeldis appears to be more authoritative and should be the basis for exclusion of Mr. Rabin from a Masonic Philatelic collection.

CHILE MASONIC COVER

Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, Member No. 243 of Barcelona, Spain, has sent forth a copy of the First Day Cover for the April Masonic issue from Chile. Your Editor is still trying to obtain some of the stamps, souvenir sheets and covers but so far I have been unsuccessful - my normal new issue houses have not received them yet.



EDELSEL COVERS FOR THE BUGS BUNNY ISSUE

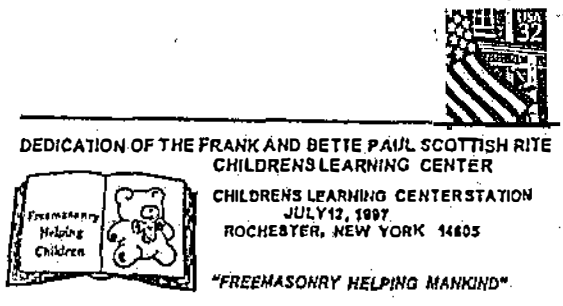
The Masonic Cacheted Covers which Bro. Edsel Hatfield prepared for the recent "Bugs" issue honor Bro. Chuck Jones (animator) and Fritz Freleng (director) as well as Bro. Mel Blanc. They are available from him at P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042.



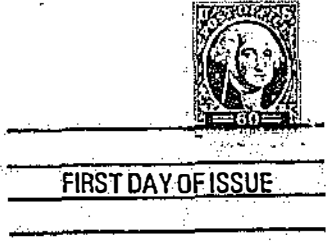
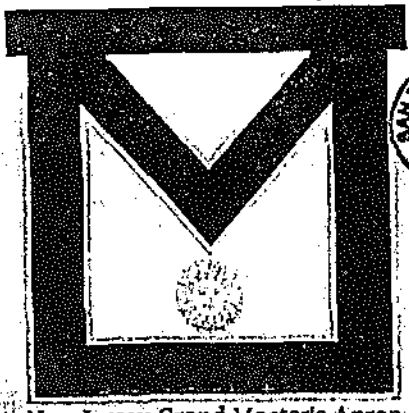
MASONIC COVERS FROM NEW JERSEY

Bro. Dick Mekenian, Member No. 363, 711 5th Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762, has prepared some more Masonic Cacheted covers using the PACIFIC 97 FDCs and the recent cancel for the Rochester, NY, Masonic cancel. Proceeds from the Rochester cancel covers will go to the N.J. Learning Center in Burlington, NJ, and from the sets will go to the N.J. Masons Permanent Fund. Shown here, the prices are as follows:

- A. Rochester, NY, cancel \$5.00 ea
- B. N.J.G.M. Apron \$10.00 set of 2
- C. Symbolic Lodge \$10.00 set of 2
- D. G.M. of N.J. \$10.00 set of 2



(A)



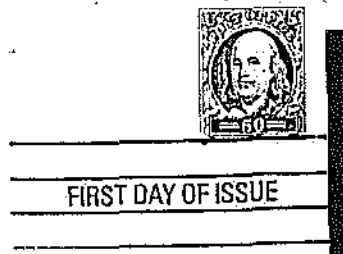
(B)

(C)

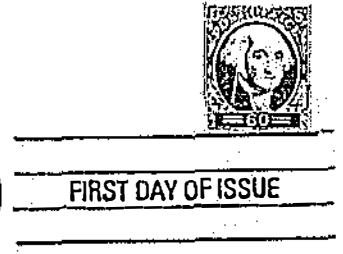
New Jersey Grand Master's Apron



M. W. Gerald H. Grosskopf
Grand Master of New Jersey
1997-1998



(D)

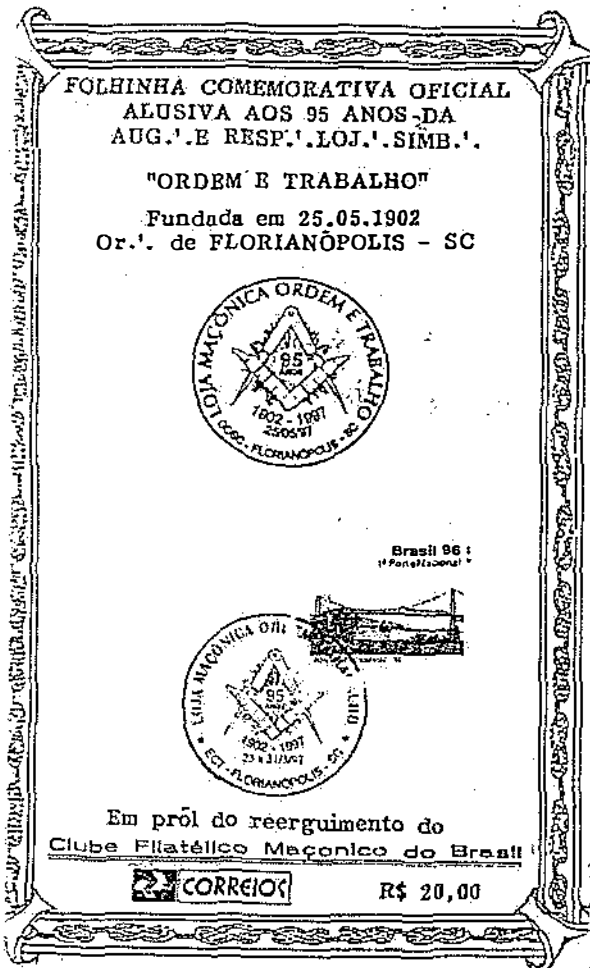


MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB OF BRAZIL

Your Editor recently received a letter from Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, President of the *Clube Filatélico Maçonico do Brasil* informing us that this organization was the official distributor of the various philatelic items (stamps, FDCs, blocks, etc.) for all Masonic Philatelic Clubs and interested persons. They are creating a collector's register which will be available for philatelists as well as photocopies of recently published postal seals and stamps. The First Masonic Philatelic National Exposition will be held on September 1 to 7, 1997, and 7 Masonic Commemorative Seals (cancels) will be introduced there. Also, the Stamps and Commemorative Postal Seals Register, published by the Correios (Brazilian Mail) will become available at a cost of \$50.00. Interested individuals should write to reserve a copy. All correspondence on this matter should be sent to:

Brazilian Masonic Philatelic Club
 P.O. Box 3085
 88010-970 FLORIANOPOLIS - SC - BRAZIL
 c/o Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm - President

Dr. Schramm's letter also included Xerox copies of the seals being issued in September as well as several recently published seals and covers which are available.



RMS - 162
 ZIONI Belo Horizonte - MG

Centenário da Loja Maçonica Bello Horizonte Nº 001

12 a 18-05-1997



RMS - 160

08-04-1997

50 Anos da Confederação Masônica Interamericana

Este carimbo foi lançado no Chile. A C.M.I. está integrada por 64 Grandes Lojas, correspondentes a 21 países Latinoamericanos, dentre os quais, o Brasil.



RMS - 172

ZIONI Florianópolis - SC

1ª Exfilma - Homenagem a Alfredo Campos (In Memoriam)

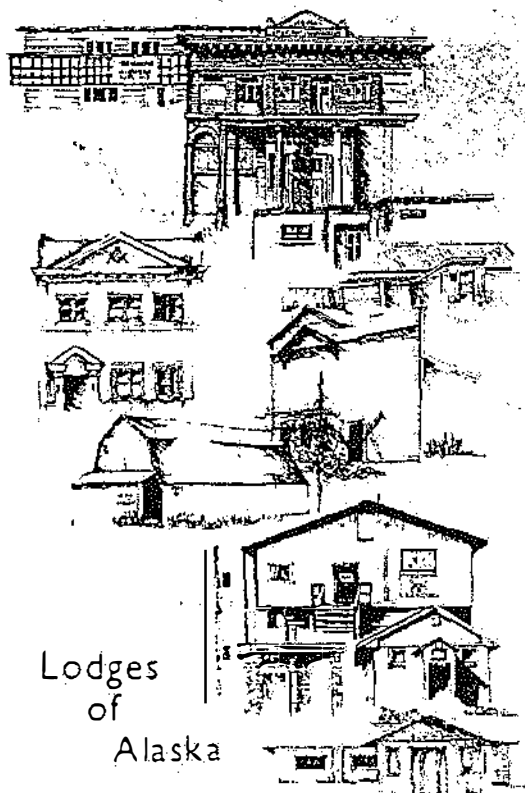
(7º Dia de Exposição)

07.09.1997

ALASKA LODGES and THE FORGET-ME-NOT

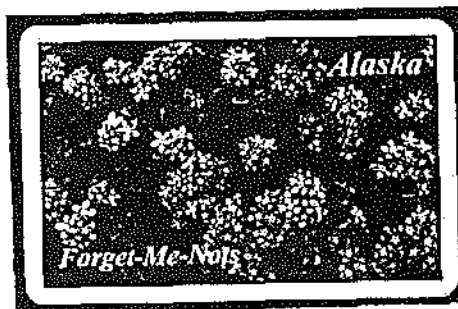
Bro. Maurice Beazley, Member No. 302 of Redcar, England, recently returned from a trip to Alaska where he was able to acquire a montage of Lodge buildings. He needs help, however, in identifying the edifices - can anyone help? (his address is 216 West Dyke Rd., Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4JS, England) He also has sent out several playing cards which show Alaska's Forget-Me-Not State Flower and received an interesting response which he wanted to share with us. It puts a slightly different interpretation on the use of this flower as a Masonic symbol.

We all know about the Forget-me-not lapel pin which is regularly handed out in Lodges to initiates, accompanied by a card with an explanation written on it. We have been reliably informed that the actual symbolism behind this little blue flower is slightly different from that printed on the card. The Forget-me-not was the symbol used to signify attendance at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Sun at Bayreuth in 1926. All Masons who were there on the day were given one and some, for whatever reason, continued to wear it for some time thereafter. It had been manufactured by the Selb Porcelain Manufacturers in Oberfranken.



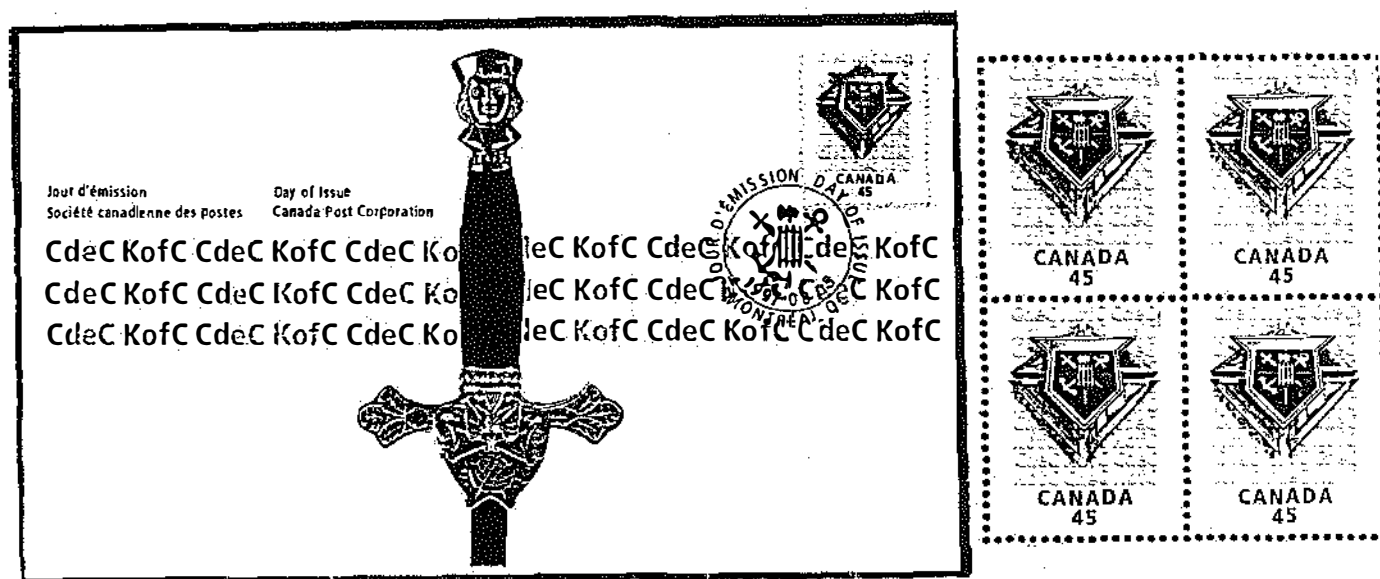
During the Third Reich period in German history, the wearing of any such lapel pin which had no obvious connection to the Nazi Party would have been totally forbidden and anyone wearing a "strange" kind of pin would have been in great danger. From 1934, however, the "Winterhilfswerk", a Nazi-approved money raising organization, collected money from the citizens to finance the war effort. To prove they had donated, individuals were given a tiny lapel pin each year. In 1938 the lapel pin issued was a Forget-me-not. In general, such badges were only worn during the year of issue; however, many Masons, remembering the aforementioned Annual Communication, continued to wear this pin. When questioned, these individuals said they were continuing to wear it because it was "so beautifully made". This explanation proved satisfactory and the Forget-me-not became a symbol of recognition among some Freemasons.

After the war, in 1948, Bro. Theodor Vogel, later to become the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Germany, while attending the consecration of the Lodge Zum Weissen Gold am Kornberg in Selb remembered the story and came across the original dye that was used to manufacture the pins. He ordered a huge quantity of these Forget-me-not pins and dispersed them all over the world on his Masonic travels. Thus, this little blue flower became a symbol of German Freemasonry.



STAMP FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

On August 5, 1997, the Canada Post issued a stamp to commemorate one hundred years of the existence of our companion organization in Canada. From coast to coast, the K of C has 1725 councils with over 200,000 members in the 10 provinces of Canada. The stamp was released in conjunction with the annual international convention of the Order of the Knights of Columbus held in Montreal.



Founded in New Haven, CT, in 1882 by an Irish-American priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, the organization was intended to give Roman Catholic men a place to help them "remain steadfast in their faith through mutual encouragement; to promote closer ties of fraternity among them; and to set up an elementary system of insurance so that the widows and children of members in the group who might die would not find themselves in dire financial straits." The insurance plan has been the saving grace for many families and communities in North America and around the world. It has evolved into an extensive program with nearly \$20 billion of insurance in force and over \$3 billion in assets.

The Knights of Columbus was brought to Canada in 1897 by two Montrealers, J.P. Kavanaugh and Charles Smith. Having been initiated into this Roman Catholic organization in the U.S., they enlisted the aid of Dr. J.J. Guerin, a former Mayor of Montreal and provincial minister in Quebec. Together they built Council No. 284 in Montreal under the name Council Canada; it was Dr. Guerin who became Canada's first Grand Knight. The movement marched across the country at a rapid rate. In 1899 a Council started up in Quebec City and a second was founded in Montreal. By 1905, the K of C had a presence in Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall, Peterborough, Sherbrooke, St. John, Sydney and in Newfoundland.

Editor's Note - Is this the predecessor of a Masonic release in Canada?

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of interest to a Masonic Philatelist have been announced in the philatelic press:

May 29 - Nevis - 100th Death Anniversary of Heinrich von Stephan/Pacific 97 -
pane of three stamps

June 9 - Germany - 50th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan - 1 Value

July 1 - Ireland - 150th Death Anniversary of Daniel O'Connell - 1 Value

Issues for the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip

April 21 - Turks & Caicos Is. - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 20 - Gambia - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 20 - Guyana - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 28 - Grenada - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 28 - Grenada-Grenadines - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 29 - Dominica - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 29 - Ghana - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

May 29 - Nevis - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

June 2 - Uganda - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

June 3 - St. Vincent-Grenadines - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

June 12 - Antigua & Barbuda - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

June 17 - Liberia - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

June 23 - Sierre Leone - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Bahamas - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Br. Virgin Is - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Cayman Is - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Falkland Is - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Kiribati - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Papua New Guinea - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - St. Kitts - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - St. Lucia - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - Solomon Is - two se-tenant pairs of stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 10 - So. Georgia & So. Sandwich Is - pane of six se-tenant stamps + S/S

July 10 - Western Samoa - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

July 15 - Nauru - pane of six se-tenant stamps + Souvenir Sheet

