



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

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JULY-AUGUST 1999

WHOLE NO. 132

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM
(1921-1999)



Bro. John M. Cunningham, a Charter Member of the Masonic Study Unit of the ATA, passed away on 18 February 1999 as the result of a heart attack and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 26 February 1999. He was born on October 7, 1921, in Beaumont, Texas. He served in the Military for 20 1/2 years and then worked in Civil Service for another 20 years before retiring a second time. He was a long term resident of the United States Soldier's and Airmen's Home in Washington, DC In addition to being a Blue Lodge Mason, John was very proud of his Knight Templar membership and his membership in Al Malaikah Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. of Los Angeles. He had been an active Masonic Philatelist for several decades, wrote articles on that subject for several publications and was an avid Masonic cover producer.

Bro. John was a very interesting, different and provocative individual and trying to write an "In Memoriam" about him which will be acceptable to all is a very difficult task. There was no middle of the road with John - you loved him or you hated him. He was a very outspoken individual who never hesitated to say what he first thought. This fact alienated him with many individuals and Brothers alike; but after his opening gambits, he offered valuable advice and demonstrated a storehouse of information. Behind the gruff exterior was an individual who wanted to see good done and was always willing to assist others in achieving that goal.

I recall my first correspondence with John - a note requesting a copy of the Canal Zone cachet/cancels he prepared in the late 1970s. I enclosed a copy of my first Masonic cover - prepared in February 1979. His response was short and to the point: "This cover was POORLY executed. Our GWMSC has a much better one with the special Mt. Vernon GW Cancellation of 22nd. I would not buy such a cover as u sent and have no place in my collection to be embarrassed. JC" Despite this opener, we allowed each other to express ourselves openly and we corresponded regularly up to the time of his death. His last letter to me was dated February 3 and outlined his "last cover" which he wanted me to prepare for him - for the Berlin Airlift. I never received the canceled covers to accomplish that task. I had been executing most all of his covers since the mid 1980s.

Bro. John will be missed by several different people for several different reasons. I valued him as a friend and consultant; I did get chance to meet him at the Home in April 1995 - an event I will never forget. The hobby has lost a valuable contributor and a staunch ally. Good Bye John.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

415. Norman Merritt, 215 Chelsea Rd., White Plains, NY 10603
TBD Michael Brolly, 286 Little Whaleneck, Merrick, NY 11526-1617
TBD Richard Sittis, % Philly Stamp & Coin Co., 1804 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA
19103

ADDRESS CHANGES:

420. Peter G. Lindsay, #28020770-97B Avenue, Langley BC Canada V1M 3X9

RESIGNED:

37. Don Mears of Omaha, NE

CLOSED ALBUMS:

13. John M. Cunningham late of Washington, DC

A note from Bro. Eddie Levey from Australia indicates he has received an elevation to Past Junior Grand *Deakin*. Congratulations.

My sincere apologies for this issue of the Newsletter being later than usual but I have been goofing off. For the first time in over 20 years, my wife and I took a two week vacation instead of the non-restful one week period. We started off with two days at Tahoe City, California to attend my brother's youngest daughter's wedding (he gave her away and then performed the ceremony). The next stop was three days at the Royal Hawaiian on Waikiki, followed by six days at the Hyatt Regency on Maui and finishing off with two days at the Hyatt, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. I had been to the islands before on business but we figured it would be a good idea to introduce my wife to them for our 40th wedding anniversary. I really didn't want to go back to work after that great trip. (I understand there were betting pools at work where the odds were that I would retire instead of returning to the grind.)

NEW MEMBERS

As you can note from the membership information above, we have added a few new members this past two months. BUT, to maintain the strength of the Unit and to help it grow, we need many more. Please tell others if you are impressed and invite them to join. The more members, the broader the base, the more varied the interests and the stronger the data base. Help us become the best Masonic Philatelic Group.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary-Treasurer

Otto Steding
1033 Hollytree Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45231

President

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

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

ST. LAWRENCE THE MARTYR

The Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) was formed in Ireland, and in the 1930s transplanted to the United States, as the body responsible for a number of 'orphan' Masonic degrees. Some of these degrees are quite old and appear to predate the formation of the premier Grand Lodge of England. Today the AMD functions as a research and education organization. Each local council (there are no state-level organizations) is limited to 27 members, by invitation, who are Royal Arch Masons in good standing.

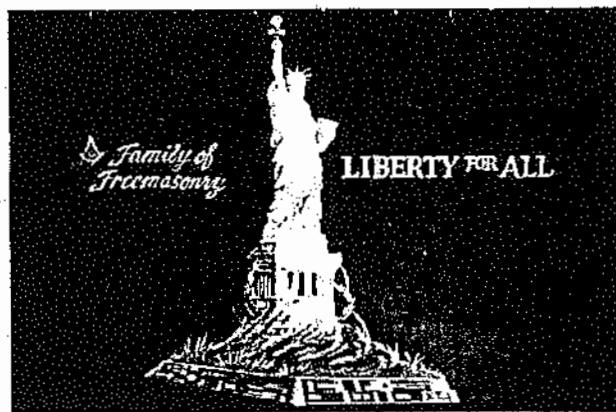
One of the Degrees in the keeping of this Group is that of St. Lawrence the Martyr, whose martyrdom was commemorated on May 25, 1959, on a Vatican City stamp which is one of a set of 5 (Scott Nos. 256 to 261). The set honors martyrs who were executed for their faith by the Roman emperor Valerian. The Roman government objected to Christians, not because they propagated a new religion, but because they refused to acknowledge the 'divinity' of the emperor. This action attacked the unity of the state. In August 258, Valerian, having failed to persuade Christians to pay the required "act of allegiance", issued an imperial edict that all bishops, priests and deacons should immediately be put to death - "episcopi et presbyteri et diacones incontinenti animadvertantur."

One of the first to be martyred was Pope Sixtus II, who had assembled his congregation for safety at one of the lesser Christian cemeteries, Praetextatus, on the left side of the Appian Way. Sixtus was seized by soldiers while addressing his parishioners. St. Lawrence was one of the last to be executed - on August 10, 258. According to tradition, while being led away to his death, he ordered his worldly goods to be divided among the poor. He was executed by being tied to a grill and cooked over a fire. The image of the grill figures in the story of the degree.

-article submitted by Bro. Gene Fricks, Member No. 224, Clementon, NJ

ROSE PARADE MASONIC FLOAT

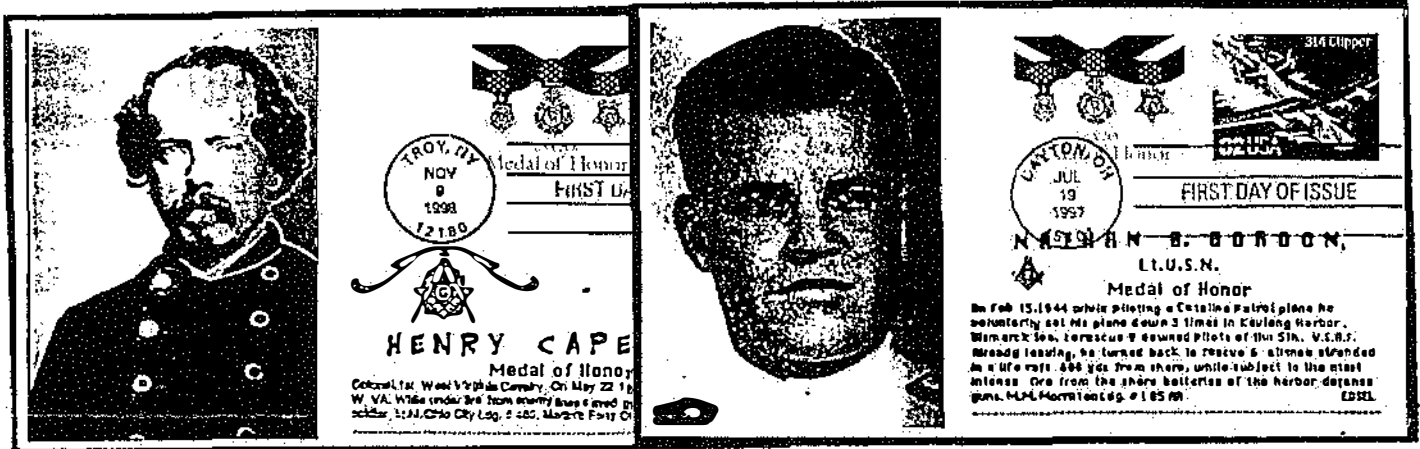
The 1999 Tournament of Roses Parade entry was awarded the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy for the "most beautiful entry by a non-commercial sponsor" - the first award in 9 years of participation. This year the float will be titled Liberty for All and will center around a 50 foot high Statue of Liberty surrounded by a bed of floral flags as shown here.



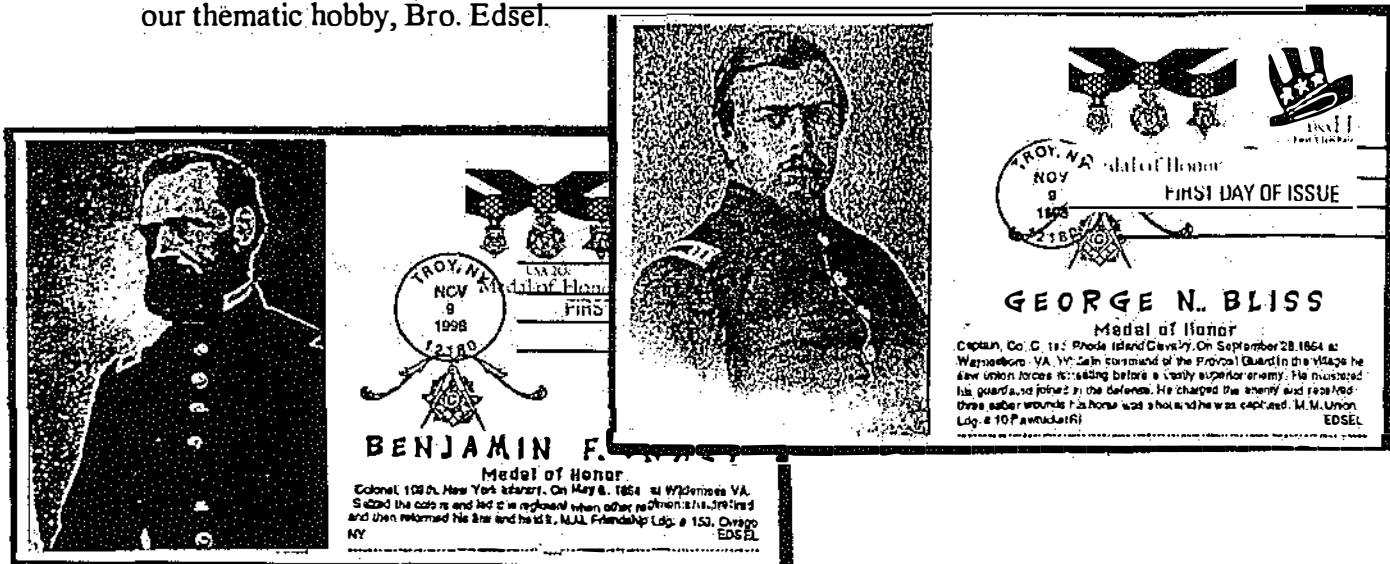
Hopefully, this picture will be transformed into a post card for our postcard collecting members. Financial support is solicited for this effort - send donations to Robert C. Coe, Treasurer, P.O. Box 661567, Arcadia, CA 91066-1567.

MEDAL OF HONOR COVER COLLECTION

A few weeks ago, I had the distinct pleasure of viewing Bro. Edsel Hatfield's personal collection covers honoring Medal of Honor recipients. Housed in two Nu-Ace albums, it started out with covers prepared for the first 21 recipients - Andrews Raiders, three of whom were Masons. This group captured the locomotive "General" at Big Shanty, GA, on April 12, 1862. This group is then followed by some 120 Masonic covers sorted by the periods of gallantry - in most cases the various wars and battles in which the U.S. was involved. Each cover carried Bro. Edsel's characteristic photograph and the thermographed data. For some of the recipients, he was unable to locate a photograph so he used an illustration of the design of the medal presented.



When one thinks about this collection and the number of individuals represented, he begins to realize the tremendous amount of research required to uncover the data, locate the stories and find the photographic likenesses. Many of the covers have been offered as part of his periodic offerings, others have been prepared in a very limited supply. I am listing here the 104 Masons who have received the Medal of Honor that Bro. Edsel has already honored by the issuance of a Masonic Cacheted Cover. More are in the preparation cycle and he is not relaxing on his research effort. Thank you for your significant contribution to our thematic hobby, Bro. Edsel.



| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| William Badders | Peacetime | Edward P. King, Jr. | WWII-POW |
| John Henry Balch | WWI | Henry W. Lawton | Indian |
| Frank Baldwin | CW & Indian | Charles A. Lindbergh | Peacetime |
| Will C. Barnes | Indian | Alexander Gordon Lyle | WWI |
| Henry A. Barnum | CW | Arthur MacArthur | CW |
| David W. Barrow | Span-Amer. | Douglas MacArthur | WWII |
| Richard N. Batchelder | CW | Charles P. Matlocks | CW |
| Lewis Beebe | WWII-POW | Nelson A. Miles | Indian |
| Keane L. Berry | WWII-POW | Lewis L. Millet | Korea |
| Henry Bingham | CW | Audie Murphy | WWII |
| John C. Black | CW | Wendell C. Neville | Mexican |
| William P. Black | CW | Carlos C. Ogden | WWII |
| Erwin Bleckley | WWI | Orlando Henderson Petty | WWI |
| George N. Bliss | CW | Jackson C. Pharris | WWII |
| Willis W. Bradley | WWI | Robert Pinn | CW |
| William E. Brougher | WWII-POW | J. Parke Postles | CW |
| George W. Brush | CW | Matthew S. Quay | CW |
| James R. Burt | WWII | Edmund Rice | CW |
| Smcdley D. Butler | Mexican, Haiti | Eddie Rickenbacker | WWI |
| Daniel Butterfield | CW | William Y. W. Ripley | CW |
| Richard E. Byrd | Peacetime | George S. Robb | WWI |
| Henry Capehart | CW | John Cleveland Robinson | CW |
| Joshua L. Chamberlain | CW | Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. | WWII |
| William F. Cody | Indian | Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. | WWII |
| Charles Cruse | Indian | Donald Rudolph | WWII |
| Newton Curtis | CW | Charles G. Sage | WWII-POW |
| John Davis | Span-Amer. | Rufus Saxton | CW |
| Ernest Dervashian | WWII | Christian Schilt | Mexican, 2nd Nicarag. |
| James H. Doolittle | WWII | Wm. "Pecos Bill" Shafter | CW |
| James C. Dozier | WWI | Marvin Shields | Vietnam |
| Henry Clay Drexler | Peacetime | William Shomo | WWII |
| James Dunlavey | CW | Carl L. Sitter | Korea |
| Merritt A. Edson | WWII | Joseph S. Smith | CW |
| Charles S. Fall | CW | William Soderman | WWII |
| Frank F. Fletcher | Mexican | H. Eugene Stafford | WWII-POW |
| Joe Foss | WWII | Paul F. Straub | Philippine |
| Donald Gary | WWII | Stephen Thomas | CW |
| Theodore W. Goldin | Indian | Joseph H. Thompson | WWI |
| Nathan G. Gordon | WWII | Leo Thorsness | Vietnam |
| Lewis Grant | CW | Benjamin F. Tracy | CW |
| Adolphus W. Groeley | Peacetime | Voltaire P. Twombly | CW |
| John Hack | CW | Charles A. Varnum | Indian |
| William H. Hall | WWII | Wheelock G. Veazey | CW |
| John Hartrauft | CW | Jonathan Wainwright | WWII&-POW |
| William W. Henry | CW | Francis E. Warren | CW |
| James D. Heriot | WWI | William Wells | CW |
| Francis Jay Herron | CW | Hulon Whittington | WWII |
| Bernard J. D. Irwin | Indian | William Wilbur | WWII |
| Joc M. Jackson | Vietnam | James Williams | Vietnam |
| Albert W. Jones | WWII-POW | James Williamson | CW |
| Benjamin Kauffman | WWI | Leonard Wood | Indian |
| John T. Kennedy | Philippine | | |
| Horatio C. King | CW | | |

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

If we are to consider Stonewall Jackson a Mason due to secondary evidence, then perhaps we should also take another look at Robert E. Lee. Although he never claimed to be a Mason, an article in Civil War Times Illustrated for August 1979 reprints a diary of Brother Daniel Holt of New York who claimed that Lee helped him because they were both Masons. I could not find Dr. Holt in an 1859 list of New York Masons but his letter contains internal evidence that he knew Masonic ritual. Two other individuals cited in the letter were Marcellus Cadmus Wilcox who was a Mason and George Todd, a brother of Abraham Lincoln's wife, whose Masonic membership has not yet been ascertained.

The specific reference to Robert E. Lee contained within the letter/article is as follows:

"I find that I might spin this out to an untold and indefinite length. But will abruptly close, leaving for future letters a fuller synopsis of the days while I was a prisoner in Rebeldom. Had not General Lee through influences which may be inferred, when it is known that we are both Masons, seen fit to let me off very easily when the other surgeons returned by flag of truce across the river, after having sent the wounded before them. (In all amounting to about one hundred) And in the height of his excellence restored to me, horse, blankets, sword and accoutrements. I might now be an inmate of Libby, but thanks to General Lee and rest of the Confederate Officers I never was better or more handsomly (sic) treated, and shall ever feel a debt of gratitude toward them hard to liquidate..."

Editor's two cents worth: This is the type of lead which should whet a researcher's appetite. General Lee's pre-Civil War Life should be clear enough to track the various residences he had since attaining the age of 21. The Grand Lodges of those resident states could be contacted with a well worded inquiry which might move the respective Grand Secretary to check the files. Is anyone game to take on this challenge?

Thank you Brother Norman Lincoln.

THE USPS "H" HAT STAMP



We hear a lot about the fact that the USA cannot depict Fraternities on their stamps. However, I discovered one that is so close to being Masonic that I think a Mason designed it and another approved it. I am referring to the recently issued "H" stamp.

In this H stamp one can see lots of Masonic symbolism. From the American point of view, besides being patriotic it reminds Masons of the hat that the Master wears in the Lodge. The three stars remind us of the lesser lights while the three red vertical stripes in the hat of the three great light. The two white stripes remind us of the two pillars. The blue band on the hat is for the Craft Lodge and the red stripes for Royal Arch Masonry. The letter H could be the initial of the Widow's son. There are also some hidden symbols in this stamp. This stamp has a value of 33 cents; this could remind us of the number of degrees in Scottish Rite. I just love this stamp.

-article submitted by Bro. Vic Fabian, member No. 189 of Auckland, NZ.

ALEXANDRIA MASONIC EMBLEM DEDICATION COVERS

On June 26, 1999, a special dedication of the Masonic Emblem was made to commemorate the death of our Brother, President George Washington. Thousands of Masons and their guests attended. Bro. Dick Mekenian designed a memorial cancel from Trenton, NJ, to commemorate the event. Bro. John Allen designed an attractive cancel for the U.S. Government as well. Both cancels were approved by the USPS.

Bro. Mekenian offers the following philatelic items associated with this event. All monies collected in Alexandria from the sale of these items (\$1000) were donated to the cost of the Masonic Emblem. Anything realized from sales from New Jersey will go to the Children's Learning Center of N.J. (Scottish Rite).

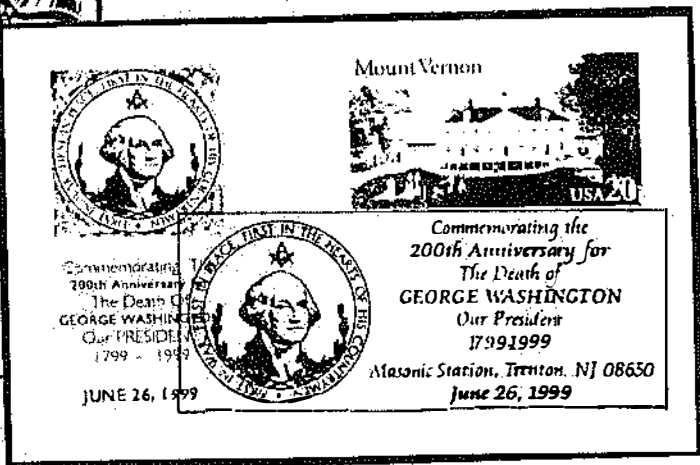
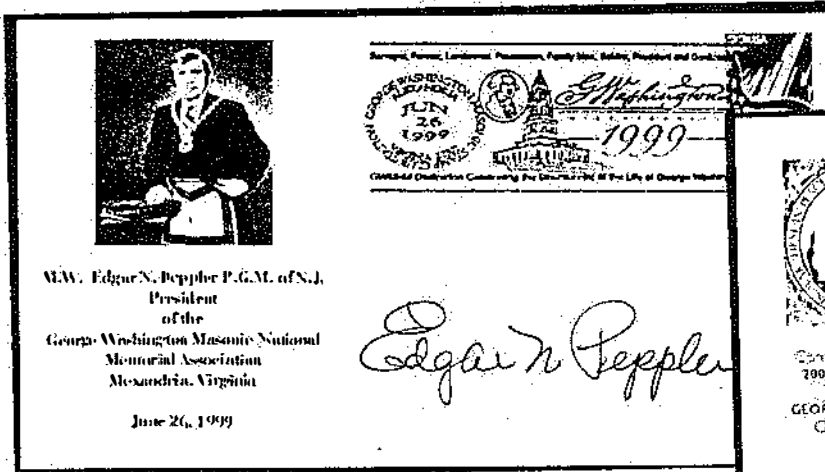
| ITEM | COST |
|---|---------|
| A. Complete set of 6 different cachets + 1 postcard pmkd Alexandria, VA | \$30.00 |
| B. Complete set of 6 different cachets + 1 postcard pmkd Trenton, NJ | \$30.00 |
| C. Poster of the G.W.M.N.M. Building, canceled Alexandria, VA | \$10.00 |
| D. Poster of the G.W.M.N.M. Building, canceled Trenton, NJ | \$10.00 |
| E. Canceled and signed* Program Booklet, Alexandria | \$10.00 |
| F. Canceled and Unsigned Program Booklet, Alexandria | \$ 5.00 |


*Signed by either G.M. of VA, M.W. George H. Chapin, OR the Designer of the Masonic Emblem, M.W. Donald M. Robey, P.G.M.

The following individual covers are also available at a cost of \$5.00 each.

| | Alexandria, VA | Trenton, NJ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. George Washington | Y | Y |
| 2. "Let There Be Light" | Y | Y |
| 3. Wayne E. Hackney (signed) | Y | Y |
| 4. Masonic Memorial Building (signed) | Y | Y |
| 5. George Washington's Apron | Y | Y |


Send all orders to Bro. Mekenian at 711 5th Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ07762






Commemorating the
 200th Anniversary for
 The Death of
GEORGE WASHINGTON
 Our President
 1799-1999
 Masonic Station, Trenton, NJ 08650
 June 26, 1999

"Let There Be Light"
 JUNE 26, 1999




Wayne E. Hackney
 Grand Master of NJ
 1999-2000




Commemorating the
 200th Anniversary for
 The Death of
GEORGE WASHINGTON
 Our President
 1799-1999
 Masonic Station, Trenton, NJ 08650
 June 26, 1999

New Jersey
 Free and Accepted Masons
 Commemorating the
 200th Anniversary
 of the death of
 BROTHER
GEORGE WASHINGTON
 June 26, 1999


Wayne E. Hackney



WASHINGTON'S APRON
 Commemorating The
 200th Anniversary for
 The Death of
GEORGE WASHINGTON
 Our President
 1799-1999
 JUNE 26, 1999



GEORGE WASHINGTON
 MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL
 and MASONIC MUSEUM



Commemorating the
 200th ANNIVERSARY
 of the Death of Brother
GEORGE WASHINGTON
 June 26, 1999

*Edgar N. Pepples
President*



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic note have been cited in the philatelic press:

9/11/98 - Nicaragua - Rubin Dario, one value

11/29/98 - Dominican Republic - Military Heroes, 20 se-tenant stamps including Juan Pablo Duarte and Pedro Santana

12/15/98 - Philippines - Heroes of the Revolution, 10 booklet stamps including Apolinario Mabini, Emilio Aguinaldo, Antonio Luna, Jose P. Rizal, Juan Luna and Marcelo del Pilar

12/25/98 - Cuba - 100th Anniversary, war of Independence, 10 se-tenant stamps including Maximo Gomez, Calixto Garcia, Jose Marti and Antonio Maceo

1998 - Mongolia - John Glenn's Return to Space, 9 se-tenant stamps

1/5/99 - St. Vincent & the Grenadines - QE II/Prince Philip 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1 gold foil stamp

2/24/99 - Niue - Maritime Heritage, 4 values including Capt. James Cook

3/19/99 - Tonga - Explorers, 4 values plus S/S, includes Capt. Cook (Scott 1017)

3/19/99 - Australia - Navigators, 2 S/S with 3 stamps each, include James Cook and Matthew Flinders

3/25/99 - Cuba - 200th Anniversary of Simon Bolivar's Visit, se-tenant pair (Scott 3999/4000)

May 99 - Antigua & Barbuda - Space Explorations, 2 panes of 6 stamps each, include John Glenn

May 99 - St. Vincent & Grenadines - Early Aircraft, 4 stamps plus 2 panes of 8 stamps each, includes Montgolfier Balloon

5/12/99 - San Marino - Roman Republic & Giuseppe Garibaldi's Escape to San Marino, 1 value

5/13/99 - Portugal - Marquis de Portugal, 300th Birth Anniversary, one value plus S/S

5/24/99 - Grenada - J. W. von Goethe 250th Birth, 3 se-tenant stamps plus S/S
- Apollo 11 Moon Landing, 2 panes of 6 stamps each, includes E. Aldrin

5/24/99 - Grenada-Grenadines - J. W. von Goethe 250th Birth, 3 se-tenant stamps + S/S
- Apollo 11 Moon Landing, 2 panes of 6 stamps each,
includes E. Aldrin

June 99 - Antigua & Barbuda

- Dominica
- The Gambia
- Guyana
- Lesotho

} All for J.W. von Goethe 300th Birth Anniversary
all are 3 se-tenant stamps

6/2/99 - Isle of Man - 20th Century British Monarchs, 6 se-tenant stamps, include Edward VIII, George VI

NOTE: A set of nine se-tenant stamps was issued by Mongolia in 1998 for the *Howdy Doody Show*. I seem to recall reading somewhere that Buffalo Bob was a Mason - can anyone confirm this?

Scott Number assignments:

Chile - 10/29/98 - 1260 - Francisco Bilbao (with Sq. & Comp.)

Grenada - 3/5/99 - 2823f - Apollo 11 Astronauts on Moon
2825 - John Glenn

Kiribati - 3/19/99 - 736 (S/S) World Stamp Expo - J. Cook

Marshall Is - 2/1/99 - 699j - Chief Joseph

Nevis - 3/8/99 - 1136e,f - F. D. Roosevelt

Palau - 3/4/99 - 492 - F. D. Roosevelt
493 - H. S. Truman

Philippines - 3/12/99 - 2607 - J. Rizal

Poland - 12/24/98 - 3432 (S/S) - Bust of A. Mickiewicz done by Jean David d'Angers

St. Vincent - 4/16/99 - 2687 - Montgolfier Balloon

San Marino - 2/12/99 - 1433d - "Don Giovanni" by Mozart

1433k - "The Ring of the Neibelungan" by Wagner

Vanuatu - 2/17/99 - 735 - J. Cook

ANOTHER WONDERFUL COLLECTION AVAILABLE

Your Editor has been commissioned to sell the excellent Masonic stamp collection amassed by Bro. Ben Rutman of Phoenix. He has been an active collector for many decades and, as is the case with many of us, none of his children or grandchildren show any interest in the hobby. Aware that there were too many valuable and ultra desirable items contained therein, he did not want to have it disappear. Consequently, he contacted me to try to get the contents into the hands of collectors who would appreciate the items.

The collection is predominately covers - strong in foreign as well as US. There are probably about 100 stamps, mostly the pure Masonic issues. I am in the process of cataloging the various items and then pricing them so detailed lists should be available within a couple of weeks. If you have any specific wants or areas of interest, please contact me. Some of the items are already "in negotiation" because I have been made aware of various individual's wants through previous correspondence.

Please allow me a few lines to explain my operating philosophy in the handling of collections such as this. As you are aware, I have handled several such collections and/or accumulations - John M. Cunningham, Robert Kreuger, Silas Hirte, David Power and Otto Voigt. In one instance, I purchased the collection outright. In all other instances, I have taken the effort on a consignment basis. Obviously, I attempt to add to my collection those items which I do not already own - these I purchase at full price. All others I maintain in a stock which I often mention and for which I have run ads in Linn's and "First

Days". The prices I establish for the various covers are fair to both the seller and the buyer. Those who search for Masonic covers at bourses know that my prices run somewhat below the normal dealer prices (which I consider excessive). My goal is to try to offer these covers to Masonic collectors at prices they can afford with proper recompense to the previous owner. When I first contacted Bro. Silas Hirte regarding his collection, he stated that his highest offer was about \$300. Over the period of the next eight years, I sent him \$3300.

I thoroughly enjoy doing this effort - I will not get rich but I have developed a great collection. However, my primary goal is to be able to get these covers into the hands of our collector members. If you are at all interested, please let me know so I can send a list of the offerings.

The groupings of the material and a basic description of the contents are as follows:

Major items - non-cacheted covers:

- 1849 SFL concerning reorganization of Philanthropic Lodge, Providence, RI
- 19th Century Free Frank- W. P. Price
- 36 19th Century covers bearing cork cancels - many Masonics
- 7 stamps bearing Masonic fancy cancels
- 7 different Match & Medicine stamps with symbols (1 is RO61a)
- 2 mint Magnus covers - one Masonic, the other G. Washington central design
- 27 20th Century Fancy Cancels - several are Masonic
- 1897 deed for Cattle branded with the Square & Compasses

United States Covers:

- 1600+ Masonic Cacheted Covers from 1931 to mid 1990s. Most all of the major publishers are noted - MSC of NY, GWMSC, Mirt, Mahdeen, Edsel, David "C", Natsco, Beltmann, Koutroulis, Kirby, Domingue, MHCC (Groat), Temple Stamp Club, Denver Stamp Club, Wetreich, Murray, etc
- 48 Masonic Corner Cards/Lodge Activity Postcards
- 70+ Non-Masonic FDCs which depict Masons in the cachet or in the stamp design
- 23 Non-Masonic Special Event covers, most of which depict Masons in the cachet
- 15 covers with special cancels
- 14 items of postal history (postally used envelopes, no cachets)

Foreign covers

- 525 Masonic Cacheted covers from a variety of countries. Strong in France, Germany and Great Britain. (*The Honduras Grand Lodge Over print FDC is under negotiation*)
- 365 Non-Masonic covers, mostly FDCs, which depict Masons in the cachet or the stamp design
- 70+ items of postal history (postally used envelopes, no cachets)

Post cards

- 570 post cards depicting Masonic buildings or related scenes - all but 2 are US
These are presently under negotiation.

Other items

- Soft cover set of Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons" - *under negotiation*
- Set of Trevor Frey's Masonic Philately, Volumes I through V

Anything that strikes your fancy? Let me know before someone else does.

RICHARD L. TEA

The following article appeared in the Prescott Journal-Miner (Arizona) issue of September 15, 1911.

“Dick’ Tea passed away last night at Fort Whipple at about 7:00 o’clock --- So conspicuous was his record as a soldier during the Civil War that he was accorded the distinction by Congress of being permitted to enter either the Senate Chambers or the floor of the House and enjoy any privilege of either. This mark of distinction was due to his gallantry on not just one field of battle but on many. This recognition of the valor of Mr. Tea has been attained by only a few men in the ranks and accordingly it is regarded as an honor that many strive for but few attain. He was decorated with a Bronze Medal by Congress and the emblem of patriotism was in his possession until the last. In his Civil War career he was wounded eight (8) times and in one conflict three bullets entered his body. Under these conditions he never faltered but continued on duty until twenty years ago when the limit of thirty years of service placed him on the retired list with the rank of **First Sergeant**. With all his prominence he was reticent over the distinctions he enjoyed and always disdained reviving any of the personal considerations extended him, but was agreeable to recreate generalities of the great struggle. ... He began his military life as a private in the Fourth U. S. Artillery and in a few years afterward was transferred to the Cavalry Service where he served until the end. His last duty was under Col. Wallace at Fort Whipple as First Sergeant in a troop (Possibly meant “A” Troop) of the Sixth Cavalry. He was about 71 years old and a native of Pennsylvania.”

What is truly remarkable is that nowhere in any of the many complimentary articles about Tea’s service is the following mentioned:

Medal of Honor - Richard L. Tea - Sergeant Company H, 8th U.S. Cavalry at Sappa Creek, Kansas, 23 April 1875. Issued 16 November 1876.

With five other men he waded in mud and water up the creek to a position directly behind the entrenched Cheyenne position, who were using natural bank pits to good advantage against the main column. This surprise attack from the enemy rear broke their resistance.



Richard Tea was a long time member and Past Master of Aztlan Lodge No. 4, Prescott, Arizona, and can be identified in a picture taken about 1900 of the Lodge officers. In his lapel is the small rosette pin issued along with the Medal of Honor by Congress and specifically designed to be worn with civilian dress. Also, he is the only person in the photo who is sitting at attention (a very stressful position to hold) as an old line Army First Sergeant would be prone to do.

-article submitted by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Member No. 21, Hazelwood, MO