

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
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59 Greenwood Road
Andover, Mass. 01810

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WHOLE NO. 134

RICHARD EVELYN BYRD

Bro. Richard E. Byrd has been honored by the issuance of several stamps from countries all over the world. The most recent United States issue which pictures him is included in the Antarctic Explorers set released on September 14, 1988 (Scott No. 2388).



Commander Byrd was born in Winchester, VA, in 1888 and graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1912. In 1926 Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett set their sights on the North Pole taking off from Ny Alesund in a plane. In honor of this flight, he was promoted to the rank of Commander. In 1927, with three companions, he flew the first trans-Atlantic airmail from New York to Paris. Following his first expedition to Antarctica in 1929, during which he established Little America on the Bay of Whales, he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral by a special act of Congress and was honorably discharged. He made a second expedition to Antarctica in 1933-35 followed by one in 1939 and another in 1955-57. He was awarded three Special Congressional medals for his explorations and died on March 11, 1957.

Bro. Byrd was made a Mason in Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC, in 1921, being raised on March 19. He affiliated with Kane Lodge No. 454 (The Explorer's Lodge) of New York City on September 18, 1928. Bernt Balchen stated that Richard E. Byrd dropped his Fez on the South Pole during his first expedition there. On his second Expedition, 60 of the 82 men on that trip were Masons and on February 5, 1933, they established First Antarctic Lodge No. 777 under New Zealand Constitution. He received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1947.

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

162. Robert Paixao, 144 Wyben Road, Wyben, MA 01085

264. William K. Fryer, 10 Claymond Rd., Barton, Oxford)x# 8BU Great Britain

ADDRESS CHANGES:

260. Edwin H. Shane, 1807 Jefferson St., Mission, TX 78572

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES:

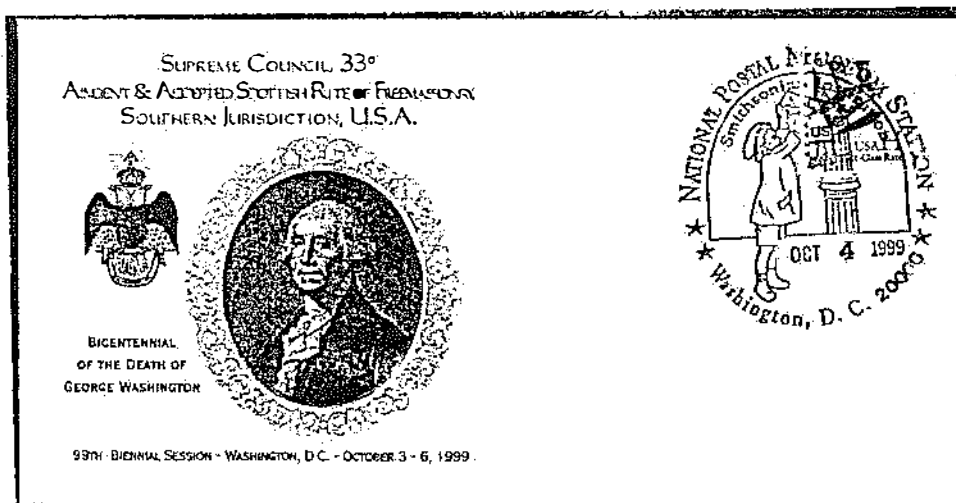
Bro. Gene Fricks, member No. 224 of Clementon, NJ, writes to inform us that at the recent AASR Supreme Council meeting at Atlantic City, NJ, he was nominated to receive the 33rd degree in Pittsburgh in 2000. Congratulations, Bro. Gene.

He also suggests that if anyone desires a more thorough discussion of Auguste Sandino, discussed in the previous Newsletter, he should consult the American Philatelic Congress Book 41, 1975, in which there is an article titled "Marine Postal History and the Nicaraguan Adventure". He further states: "Given Sandino's support by and involvement with the Communist International, it seems unlikely that he was a Freemason; but then, who would have expected someone like Somoza to have been initiated."

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Bro. Otto Steding, indicates that several of the longer term members of our Unit have not yet renewed their subscriptions. For the last two issues, I have been circling the expiration dates on the mailing labels of those we are waiting to hear from. I realize that non-renewals are inevitable but I become concerned when there are a large number of them. I believe it may be sending a message that the Newsletter is not what they want. Brethren, if there are changes you would like to see made, please let me know. Constructive criticism is always welcome - especially when it can help us grow.

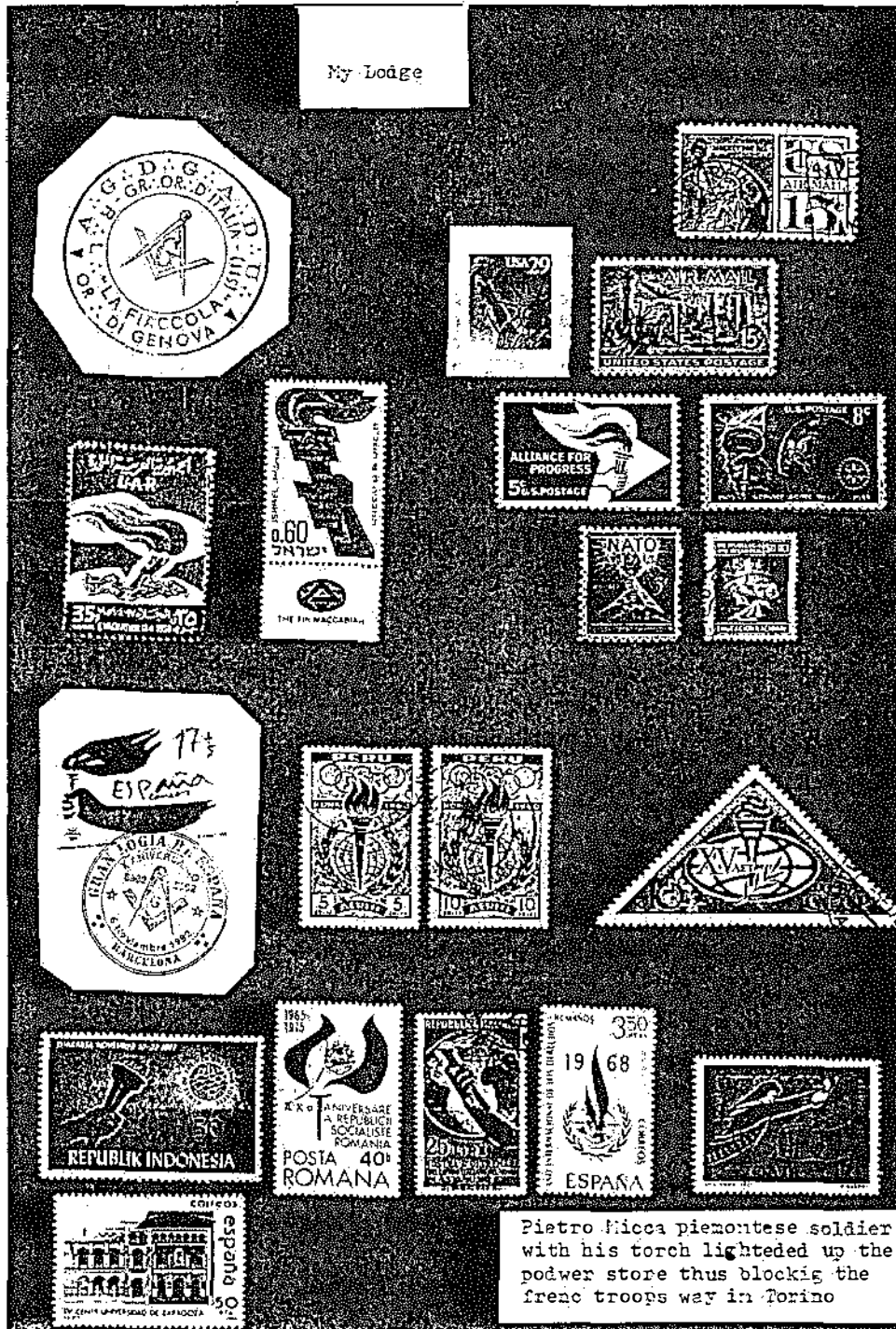
MASONIC COVER FROM TEXAS

Bro. James Dougherty has forwarded a copy of a beautiful cover he prepared for the 99th Biennial Session of the AASR Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, held in Washington, DC, October 3-6, 1999. He did not indicate if any more were available; his address is 4205 Wilshire Parkway, Austin, TX 78722.



A MEMBER'S ALBUM PAGE

One of our members has written that he would like to see the resumption of the practice of illustrating album pages of various members. Shortly thereafter, I received a Xerox copy of the collection of Bro. Ferrando Sergio, C. so. Mazzini n. 77, 16032 Camogli, Italy, one of our newer members. Illustrated below is his Album Page devoted to stamps directly related to his Lodge, La Fiaccola". Thank you for sharing this collection with us, Bro. Sergio.



LUTHER BURBANK

Luther Burbank is included in the Scientist's group of the Famous American Commemorative series of 1940. This three cent issue was released at Santa Rosa, CA, on April 17, 1940.



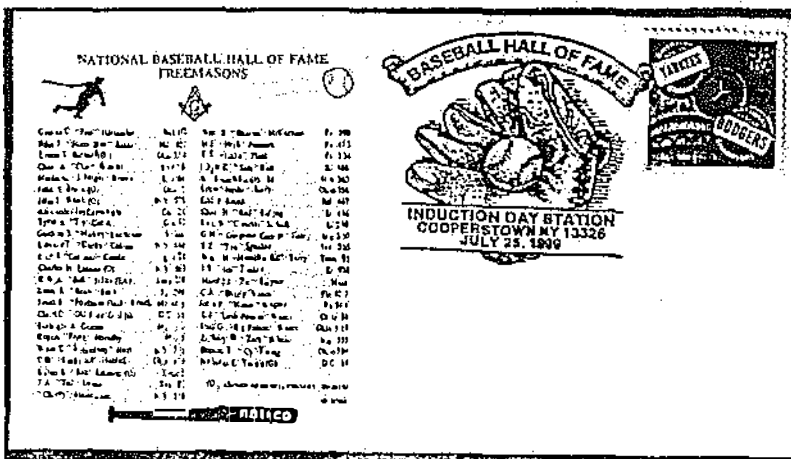
This world famous horticultural experimentalist was born March 7, 1849, at Lancaster, MA. His boyhood was spent on a farm and he was educated at local schools. At the age of 21 he purchased a plot of land near Lunenburg, MA, and began his life's work. After two years of experimentation, he developed a large, hardy variety of potato which revolutionized potato growing in America.

In 1875 he moved to Santa Rosa, CA, and established a nursery garden and greenhouse where he conducted his plant breeding experiments for the next 50 years. He originated many improved varieties of fruits and vegetables, several new strains of roses and many other ornamental and decorative flowers and plants. He developed a new fruit called the "plumcot"; his spineless cactus provided a new feed for cattle. At the time of his death, April 11, 1926, he had more than 3,000 experiments under way and was growing 5,000 distinct botanical species native to many other parts of the world. He was buried in the Luther Burbank Memorial Gardens under a Cedar of Lebanon tree.

At the age of 72, after years of cooperating with the Great Architect of the Universe in creating abundance and beauty, Luther Burbank sought admission to Santa Rosa Lodge No. 57 on August 13, 1921. His concept of the Fraternity was so great that he became a member of the Scottish Rite and on October 20, 1925, he was made an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree. His name lives on Masonically for on Oct. 26, 1955, Luther Burbank Lodge No. 752 was chartered in Santa Rosa.

-article contributed by Bro. Marshall S. Loke

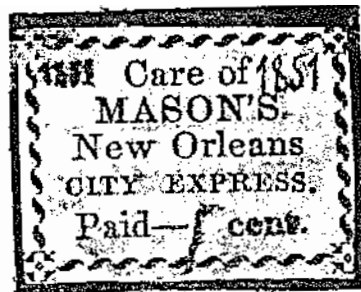
NATSCO COVER



Bro. Stan Longenecker has forwarded his latest creation - a cover to complement the recent pictorial cancel for the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. It identifies the Masons who have been inducted into the Hall. He provided no acquisition information but his address is 930 Wood St., Mount Joy, PA 17552.

MASON'S CITY EXPRESS

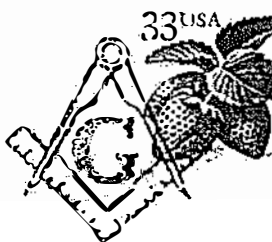
Bro. Longenecker noticed this "stamp" in a Robert A. Siegel auction advertisement in a July issue of Linn's Stamp News. Undoubtedly the name ties to the owner, but it would still make an interesting addition to a Masonic Stamp Collection. Thanks for noting it, Bro. Stan.



SPECIAL MASONIC CANCEL

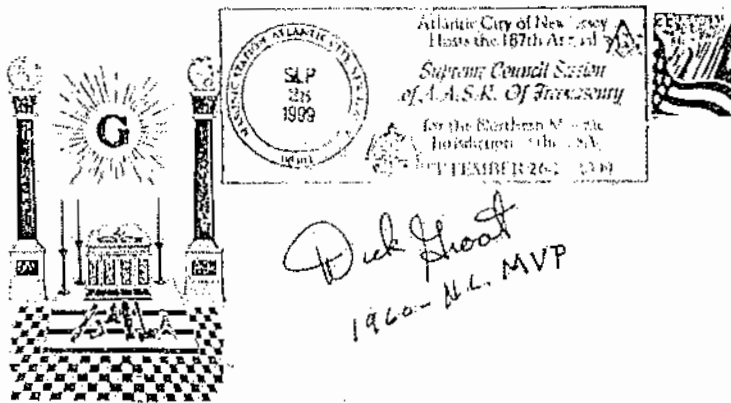
A special cancel containing a Masonic motif was used in Alexandria Bay, NY, on June 19, 1999, to commemorate a special presentation of a Dewitt Clinton Award and a Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award by Alexandria Lodge #297. I can fully imagine that someone in Alexandria Lodge #297 prepared a Masonic Cacheted Cover in conjunction with this cancel but so far have not yet located anyone who can acknowledge that supposition. Can any member help out in this quest?

Alexandria Lodge #297 F&AM
 Freemason Station
 Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
 June 19, 1999
 Dewitt Clinton Award
 Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award
 Special Presentation



Dick Groat Autographed Cover Available

Bro. Dick Mekenian reports that he still has a few covers available which bear the autograph of Bro. Dick Groat, retired baseball player for the Pirates (1952-1967) who was voted M.V.P. for the National League in 1960. Bro. Groat received his 33rd Degree on September 28, 1999. Copies are available at a cost of \$20.00 each, there are only 15 left. Proceeds do go to Masonic Charity. Contact Dick Mekenian at 711 5th Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762.



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA

This is the final Newsletter of the Twentieth Century of the Christian Era. (Except for certain mathematicians and purists) Although we can live through Y2K, few can comprehend two millenia. Little remains of that distant time but crumbling arches, decaying walls and eroding pyramids. Yet the works of Operative Masons have far outlived their ephemeral builders. Freemasonry is rich in symbols and parables taken from ancient and modern writings. Will the thoughts of Ecclesiastes and the soliloquy of Hamlet remain fixed in human memory? Will our collective race survive overpopulation, squandering of natural resources, pollution of the biosphere and xenophobia? Will Masons follow the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen, the Redmen, the Junior Order of Mechanics, the Druids, the Rosicrucians and a hundred other fraternal organizations which once flourished, but are now in decline? Predictions are hazardous at best. At the turn of the Twentieth Century with about a million and a half members, Masonry was about the same size as Odd Fellowship. The Elks, Moose and Eagles were providing competition as social clubs. Yet to come were the Rotarians, Optimists, Lions and Kiwanians. the Klan was inactive. Fraternal bodies appealed to white, male, mature, affluent, native-born, educated Americans. The majority were Protestants. the Knights of Columbus for Roman Catholics was just getting underway. Irish and German immigrants were escaping the big city ghettos. Jews, Blacks, Orientals and Hispanics lacked a voice. Women were not yet empowered to vote. Two World Wars and a Great Depression were unforeseen. So were Civil Rights, Civil Disobedience, Nuclear Energy, Man on the Moon, Disneyland, Emmy Awards, Compact Discs, Flower Power and the Internet. Masonry grew, but then became old-fashioned. There are many theories as to the origin of Masonry and to its future. Likewise, physicists believe the physical universe is evolving, and sociologists speculate on the derivation and mutation of our customs and relationships. So it is with Masonic scholars. The French have a saying: "The more things change, the more they remain the same." Masons living today will undoubtedly live to see the 21st Century. And Masons in 2009 will still complain about membership. Degrees will be conferred on the Moon and Brethren will still argue about doing it the old way. And so it will go until a killer virus or a giant meteor or the expansion of the sun renders our species and its accomplishments extinct. Meanwhile, enjoy collecting Masonic stamps. I do!

- Bro. Norman Lincoln

COVER STOCK AVAILABLE

Your Editor still maintains an appreciable stock of US and foreign Masonic Cacheted Covers available for sale. The material I am handling also includes many non-Masonic First Day and Special Event covers as well as postal history items. What are your interests - let me know, I can most likely help. Lists are available and the prices have been termed "dirt cheap" by some authorities.

IRVING BERLIN

Bro. Irving Berlin has finally been honored on a postage stamp - one issued by The Gambia in 1998 as a Souvenir Sheet.

This noted song writer was a member of Munn Lodge No. 190, New York City, having received his degrees on May 10, May 26 and June 3, 1910. He became a Life Member of that Lodge on December 12, 1935. He became a member of the Valley of New York City, A.A.S.R., on December 23, 1910, and Mecca Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., on January 1, 1911.



He was born as Israel Baline in Temum, Russia, May 11, 1888, one of eight children of Rabbi Moses and Leah Baline. The family settled in the USA in 1893 and he was educated in the New York City public schools. He began his musical career as a singing waiter in restaurants and cafes. In 1911, the composition of "Alexander's Ragtime Band" established his reputation as a song writer. He wrote music and lyrics for numerous musical comedies and revues. In 1942 he wrote and produced "This is the Army" using only Army personnel. In 1955 President D. D. Eisenhower presented Berlin with a special medal authorized by Congress for his composition of patriotic songs. He gave all the Royalties of several songs to help a Foundation to assist youth in "less chance areas". Mindful of the problems of song writers, he was a guiding light in the formation of ASCAP (the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), organized to protect royalties under music copyrights.

GUISEPPE GARIBALDI ESCAPE FROM SAN MARINO

The previous Newsletter pictured a cover prepared by the Italian Masonic Stamp Club noting the escape of Bro. Garibaldi from San Marino in 1849. Bro. Gene Fricks has forwarded an article which explains the background behind the San Marino stamp on that FDC.

The Roman Republic of 1849 was overthrown after 6 months by a French force acting in concert with the forces of Austria, Spain and Naples to restore papal sovereignty. Defense of the city and republic was in the hands of Bro. Garibaldi who, on the fall of the Republic, forced his way through enemy lines with thousands of followers and began a perilous journey across Central Italy with the intention of going to the help of Venice. Closely pursued by Austrian troops, he sought refuge in the Republic of San Marino on 31 July 1849 but was forced to disband his group of followers in doing so. The Sammarinese authorities did everything possible for their unexpected guest but he preferred to slip away secretly that same night with just a few faithful adherents and his wife Anita down the slopes of Mount Titano. The stamp pictures the revolutionary crowds of the Roman Republic and Garibaldi, his wife and companions, against the outline of Mount Titano, based on an engraving by Lorusso.

SPORTS CARDS

Bro. Norman Lincoln sent in four reprints of Goudey Sport King Gum Cards of the 1930s. Bro. Jack Dempsey and Jimmy Doolittle have been honored by postage stamps and articles have appeared in previous issues of the Newsletter. Both Bro. Lincoln and your Editor seem to recall reading that Duke Kahanamoku, a noted swimmer, was also a Mason - as were many of the Royalty of his homeland. Bro. Holman was the President of the National Association of Basketball Coaches in 1941 and led the CCNY team to a national championship in 1950. He is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and was a member of Perfect Ashlar Lodge No. 604, New York.

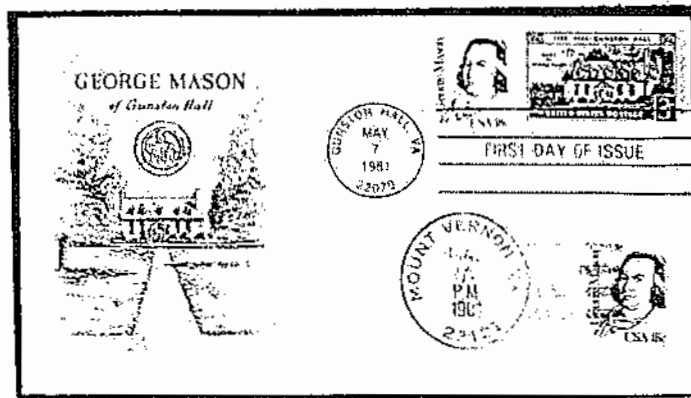


A PHILATELIC FAVORITE

I enjoy collecting covers with official and unofficial first day cancels on the same cover. During the 1980s I had more time to visit First Day ceremonies, purchase the new stamps and then head out to Post Offices that would have a tie-in to the new stamp. One of the great collectors that I knew in person who also did this activity was Len Sautter of Philadelphia. We would swap each others covers and then swap through the mail with other collectors.

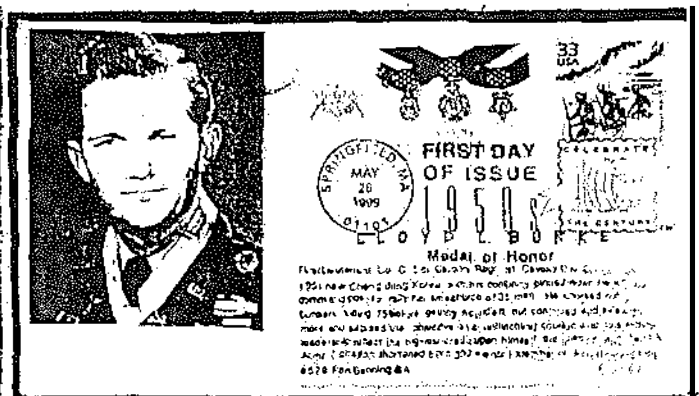
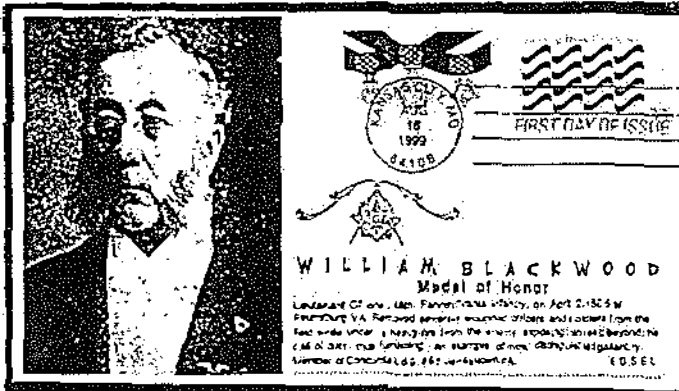
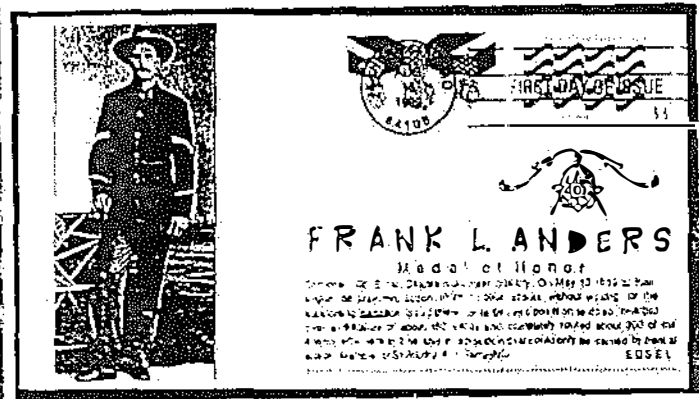
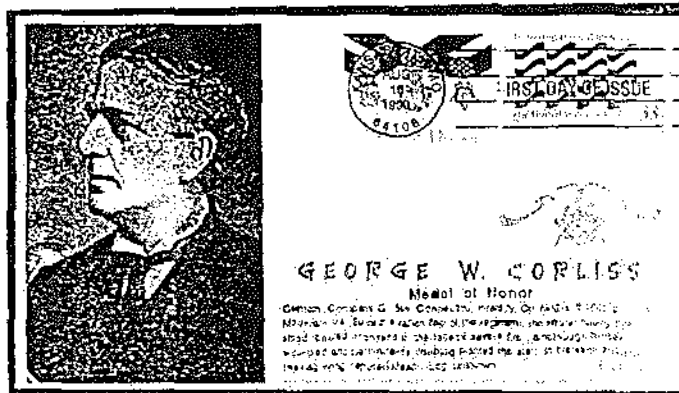
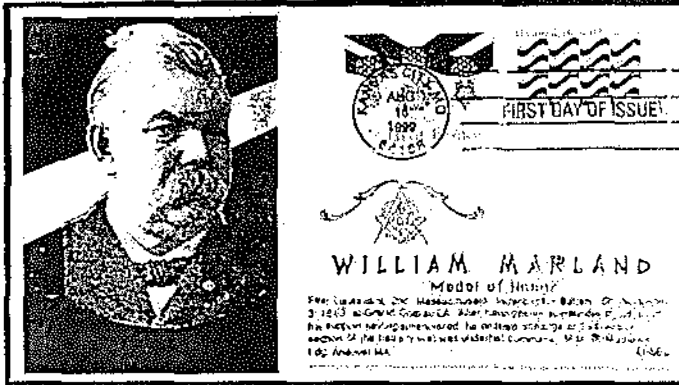
George Mason (1725-1792), a statesman, lawyer and neighbor of George Washington, helped draft our Constitution. Although not a Freemason, you wonder if ol'GW might have tried to twist GM's arm for membership in the Fraternity? Also as GM was the designer/builder for his beloved Gunston Hall, did GM acquire the construction ideas from GW or did GW get his construction plans from GM for Mount Vernon?

-contributed by Bro. Stan Longenecker



EDSEL MASONIC MEDAL OF HONOR COVERS

Bro. Edsel Hatfield, P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042 has recently published a number of covers in his Medal of Honor series to bring that set almost to completion. It has been a dedicated and exhaustive effort but will be appreciated by collectors and historians alike. Several covers from this latest selection are shown here.



GEORGE M. BIBB

Bro. George M. Bibb, Secretary of the Treasury under Pres. Tyler is pictured on the \$5.00 stamp of the 1940 Document stamp series.

Wor. Bro. Bibb served as Worshipful Master of three Lodges: Russellville No. 17 (first Master), Hiram No. 1 (at Frankfort) and Lexington No. 1. He was a Past High Priest of Frankfort Chapter No. 3, R.A.M. and also served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1804.



George M. Bibb was born October 30, 1776, in Prince Edward County, Virginia, and attended Princeton University, graduating in 1792. He was a professor of ancient languages in the primary department of the Masonic College of Kentucky and later became a prominent lawyer in that state. He was chosen several times as Chief Justice and once Chancellor. He served as Senator from Kentucky from 1811 to 1814 and again from 1824 to 1835. He served as Secretary of the Treasury from 1844 to 1845 and died in Washington, DC on April 14, 1859.

HOWELL COBB

Howell Cobb was a native of Cherry Hill, GA, born there on September 7, 1815, and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1834. Initially a moderate he gradually became a secessionist. He owned one of the largest plantations in Georgia and kept about 1,000 slaves. He served in the House of Representatives from 1843 to 1851 and was elected again in 1855. In 1849 there was a serious division in the House which pitted Cobb against Robert C. Winthrop of MA for the position of Speaker; they fought it out for 3 weeks and 63 ballots with Cobb eventually winning out. He was appointed Secretary of the Treasury by Pres. Buchanan in 1857 but resigned in 1860 under a cloud of suspicion of having diverted Federal funds to the Secessionist Cause. He presided over the Congress of the Confederate States in 1860 and was then appointed a Brigadier General but took little part in military affairs. He died suddenly in New York City on October 9, 1869.



Bro. Cobb was a member of Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 22, Athens, GA, serving as Master in 1843. He acted as Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Georgia on November 13, 1843, and became an active member of the Southern Jurisdiction Supreme Council of the A.A.S.R. on March 31, 1860.

The \$60.00 value of the 1940 Documentation stamp series pictures Bro. Cobb.

-articles provided by Bro. Norman Lincoln a number of years ago for Bro. Walter Kirby's editorship.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been reported recently in the philatelic media.

- 1998 Chad - United States Railroads, nine se-tenant 200fr stamps showing railroad pioneers and trains. Leland Stanford is included (Scott No. 791f).
- 4/27/99 Russia - House of Albrecht Durer, one value.
- 5/27/99 Russia - A. S. Pushkin 200th Birth Anniversary, three values plus a S/S.
- 7/20/99 Moldova - First Manned Moon Landing 30th Anniversary, two values - one pictures Buzz Aldrin.
- 7/30/99 Albania - First Manned Moon Landing 30th Anniversary, three values - one pictures Buzz Aldrin.
- Aug. 99 Palau - First Manned Moon Landing 30th Anniversary, six values and four S/S - two stamps picture Buzz Aldrin.
- 8/4/99 Guyana - Queen Mother as the Lady of the Century, ten se-tenant stamps plus one S/S - one stamp pictures King George VI.
- 8/12/99 South Korea - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 250th Birth Anniversary, one stamp and a S/S.
- 8/16/99 Solomon Islands - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S which includes King George VI.
- 8/16/99 Tuvalu - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S, one stamp includes King George VI.
- 8/16/99 Falkland Islands - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S, one stamp includes King George VI and the S/S includes Bros. Scott and Shackleton.
- 8/16/99 Tristan Da Cunha - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S, one stamp includes King George VI.
- 8/19/99 Brazil - Joaquim Nabuco and Rui Barbosa 150th Birth Anniversaries, two values.
- 8/20/99 Ascension - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S, one stamp includes King George VI and Winston Churchill.
- 8/24/99 Western Samoa - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S, one stamp includes King George VI.

8/30/99 Romania - The 20th Century, three values. The 800 lei value pictures Alexander Fleming.

8/31/99 Tokelau - First Manned Moon Landing 30th Anniversary, five values plus a S/S. One stamp pictures Buzz Aldrin.

9/3/99 St. Helena - Queen Mother's 100th Year of Life, four values plus a S/S, one stamp and the S/S picture King George VI.

9/24/99 Switzerland - Crossing of the Alps by Russian Army 200th Anniversary, two values. One stamp shows Gen. Suvorov.

Oct. 99 Grenada-Grenadines - Space Explorations, two panes of six se-tenant stamps each. Buzz Aldrin is shown on one stamp.

Other Scott Stamp Monthly number assignments include:

Brazil 10/13/98 2692 Dom Pedro II

Bulgaria 5/18/99 4077 J. W. von Goethe
4078 A. Pushkin

Guyana 6/22/99 3413/4 J. W. von Goethe & F. von Schiller

Ukraine 6/6/99 344 A. Pushkin

DANIEL BOONE



Daniel Boone is honored by a commemorative stamp issued by the USPS on September 26, 1968, Scott No. 1357. A previous stamp, of June 1, 1942, Scott No. 904, was issued for the 150th Anniversary of Kentucky statehood - it pictures Boone and other pioneers.

He was born February 11, 1735, in Bucks County, PA, and emigrated to North Carolina where he married. In 1769 he penetrated the forests of Kentucky with five companions, was captured by the Indians, escaped and hunted in the region for more than a year. He returned home in 1771. Moving to Kentucky in 1773 he built a fort at Boonesborough in 1775. Captured again in 1778, he was taken to Detroit where he again escaped and returned to his fort. He moved west of St. Louis, MO, in 1795 and died in Missouri Sept. 26, 1820. His remains were moved to Kentucky in 1845.

There have been arguments over the years regarding Boone's membership. Bro. Ray V. Denslow, then Grand Secretary, Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Missouri, states that Boone was never a member of the Craft. Bros. Fred W. Hardwick, Grand Secretary of Kentucky, and Charles Comstock, Secretary of the Grand Lodge Historical Committee, could not prove his membership but did refer to a resolution in the Grand Lodge of Kentucky Proceedings which discussed the appropriation of \$50 to erect a lasting monument over his grave. Bro. Comstock recalled seeing a picture of Boone's burial and commented that one of the participants appeared to be wearing a Masonic Apron.