

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Affiliate #94



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

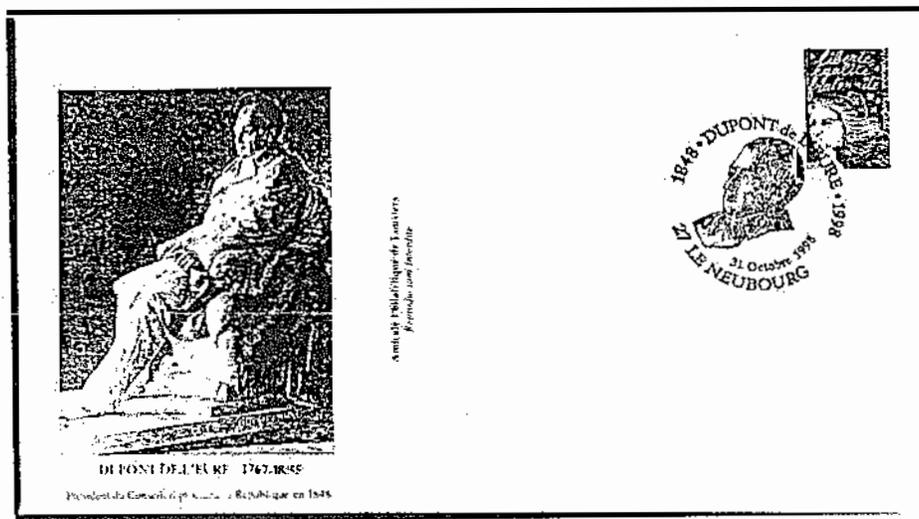
VOL. 24, NO. 5

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2000

WHOLE NO. 135

JACQUES CHARLES DUPONT de L'EURE

France authorized a special cancel on October 31, 1998, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 1848 election of Dupont de l'Eure as President of the Provincial Government of the French Republic.



Born at Neubourg on Feb. 27, 1767, he was admitted as advocate to the *parlement* of Rouen in 1789. From 1790, when the department of Eure was formed, he played an active role in its affairs becoming Mayor of Neubourg at the age of 25. Thereafter he served as public prosecutor for Eure, deputy for Eure in the Council of the Five Hundred and president in the state court at Rouen. On the establishment of the July monarchy in 1830, he was made minister of justice and keeper of the seals but resigned to rejoin the republican opposition. Active in the campaign for constitutional reform in 1847 he became president of the council of ministers in the provisional government resulting after the Revolution of Feb. 1848. In that role, he proclaimed the Second Republic. Following the elections, he sat for Eure in the constituent assembly for a year. He died at Rouge-Perriers, Eure, on March 2, 1855.

Bro. Dupont de l'Eure was initiated in La Constance Lodge, Evreux, France, in 1809 and became Junior Warden of that Lodge the following year. He frequented the Masonic circles organized by the Empress Josephine. He visited the Lodges in the Valleys of the river Sena between 1827 and 1830. He is also listed in the register books of L'Union Rurale Lodge, Elbeuf, France.

-article and cover provided by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie,
member No. 243 of Barcelona, Spain.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

315. Ferrando Sergio, C. so Mazzini n.77, 16032 Camogli, Italy.
317. William E. Parker, 819 N. Arch St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2757
327. C. W. Parkinson, 371 Lehigh Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232-2007
331. Charles D. Ward, 16 Lawson Ave., Hamilton, OH 45013-2414
TBD. Dina Ricci, Club Filatelico Internazionale, Casella Postale 39, I-48022 Lugo (Ra),
Italy

ADDRESS CHANGE:

201. Donald E. Craft, 12 Thorne Hill Dr., Florence, KY 41042

CLOSED ALBUMS:

33. O. Joseph Martins, late of Tempe, AZ

Bro. Donald G. Dalrymple, member No. 313 of Farmington, NM, just finished his year as Master of Four Corner Daylight Lodge #80 in his home town and has been elected President of the San Juan Shrine Club. Further, he is presently serving as Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico - a position which involves visiting different Lodges across the state with the Grand Master. Some Lodges take as much as 6 to 8 hours driving time to visit.

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

Bro. Jim Wilson, Past Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and a reader of our Newsletter has offered some comments regarding the facts stated in the recent article on Bro. Richard E. Byrd.

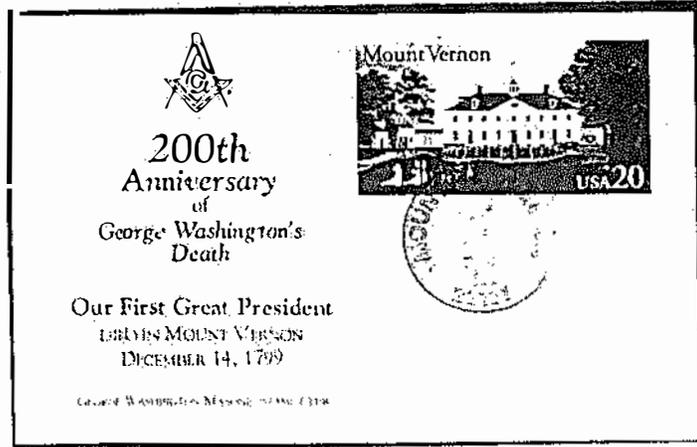
"There has never been a Lodge named 'First Antarctic' numbered 777 holding under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, nor was a dispensation ever issued by our Grand Lodge to hold a regular meeting in Antarctica. On the contrary, it was simply an informal meeting of Brethren who made up a fictitious name and, thankfully, made a full record of their proceedings. This undoubtedly comprised the very first gathering of Freemasons on the continent..

"However, I have always had some doubts over the claim that sixty of the eighty-two men in the 1933-35 expedition were Freemasons. If that was so, why did only thirteen of them attend that meeting? Did it take forty-seven men to tyle against eavesdropping Adelie penguins?"

He also provided excerpts from a paper he wrote that was published by the Research Lodge of Otago which deals with the subject of Byrd's Expeditions. This paper discusses the various aspects of the Byrd Expeditions and states that the Fez dropped over the South Pole was Bernt Balchen's not Byrd's. Does any member have clarification of this issue? (I have read somewhere that both Brethren dropped Fez's.)

GWMSC POST CARD FOR G. WASHINGTON'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

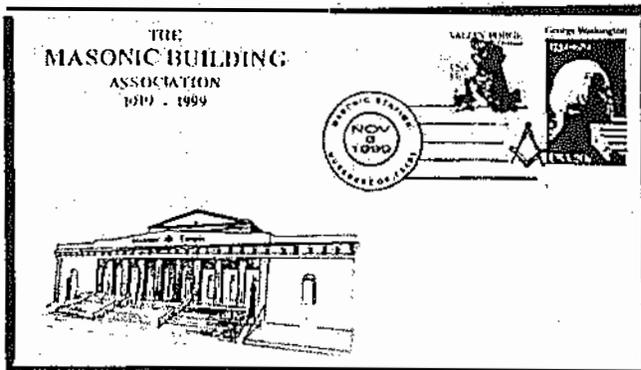
George Washington wrote his last letter on Dec. 12, 1799. It was to Alexander Hamilton and in that letter, George discussed the importance of establishing a national military academy. After finishing the letter, George went for his daily horseback ride around Mount Vernon. The day was cold, with snow turning into rain and sleet. He returned to his home after 5 hours of being outside and sat down to dinner without changing his damp clothes. The next day he awoke with a sore throat. He went for a walk and then came back to enter in his diary "Morning snowing & abt. 3 inches deep. Mer. 28 at night." These were his last written words.



Between 2 and 3 A.M. on Dec. 14, George awakened Martha. He had difficulty speaking and was quite ill. James Craik, who had been a friend and doctor to George for many years, hurried to George's side. Dr. Craik called the illness inflammatory Quinsey. More doctors arrived in the afternoon and bled George but he could hardly speak; he told the doctors, "You had better not take any more trouble about me; but let me go off quietly; I cannot last long." About 10 P.M. that evening, Washington whispered; "I am just going. Have me decently buried and do not let my body be put in the vault in less than two days after I am dead, do you understand me?" "Yes, sir" George's secretary answered. Then Washington said: "Tis well". He felt for his own pulse and then he died.

The card shown here is available from the Club Cover Chairman, Bro. Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560. The cost is \$1.00 each plus a SASE for the order.

MUSKOGEE STAMP CLUB COVER

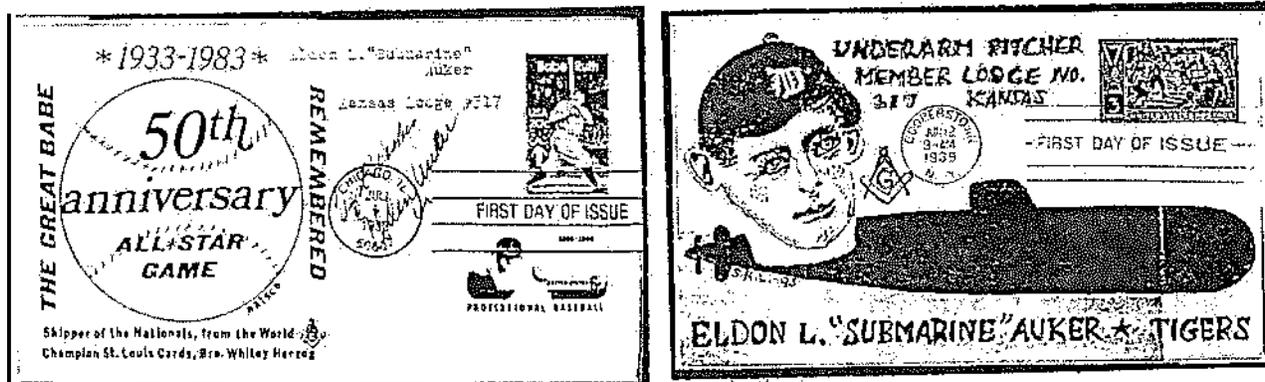


The Muskogee Stamp Club prepared the cover shown to the left for the 80th Anniversary of the Muskogee Masonic Building Association; a detailed enclosure is also provided. Covers are \$2.00 each and are available from Muskogee Stamp Club, Kathryn Lathim, 506 Honor Heights Drive, Muskogee, OK 74401.

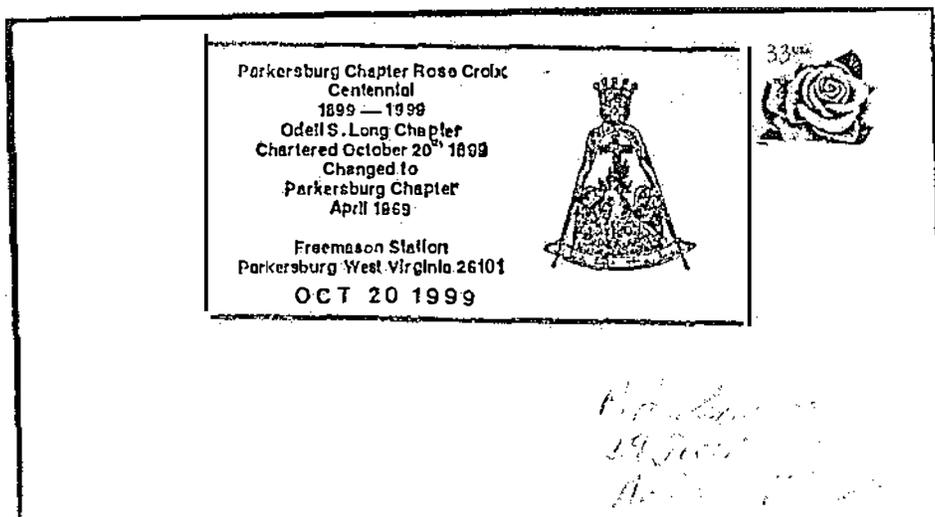
ELDEN L. "SUBMARINE" AUKER

Bro. Stan Longenecker recently read an article about the last game celebration in the old Tiger Stadium in Detroit. It mentioned that many old time Tiger stars were there to celebrate - from the most recent players back to Elden Auker. He sent for Bro. Auker's address and secured his autograph on on a Baseball cover for a fellow collector in Canada. Elden Auker turned 89 in 1999 and lives at 15 Sailfish Road, Vero Beach, FL 32960. He played with the Tigers from 1933 to 1938 and then was traded to the Red Sox where he played for one year (1939). He ended his baseball career with the St. Louis Browns playing from 1940 to 1942. His career win-loss record was 130-101 and his best season was in 1935 with an 18-7 record. If he were playing today, he would be making a fortune.

A May 8, 1938, sports page article also sent along details a game between the Yankees and the Tigers before a crowd of 41,070 featuring Lefty Vernon Gomez against Elden Auker. Rallys by the Yankees in the first two innings drove the star underhand pitcher to the showers abnormally early. Bro. Auker is a member of Kansas Lodge No. 317. Covers done by Bro. Stan (Natsco) in 1989 and 1995 featuring Bro. Auker are shown here.



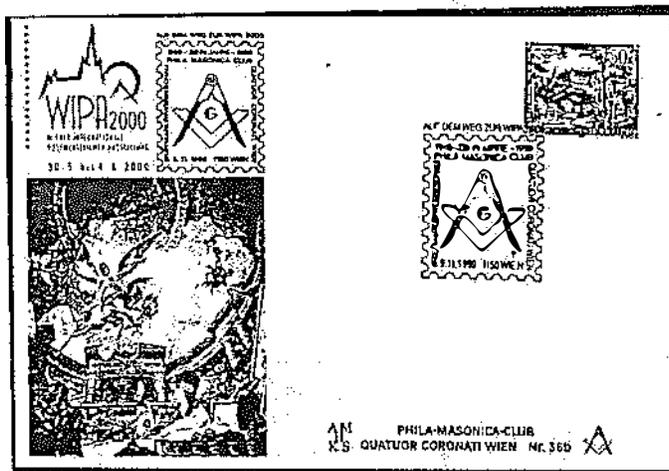
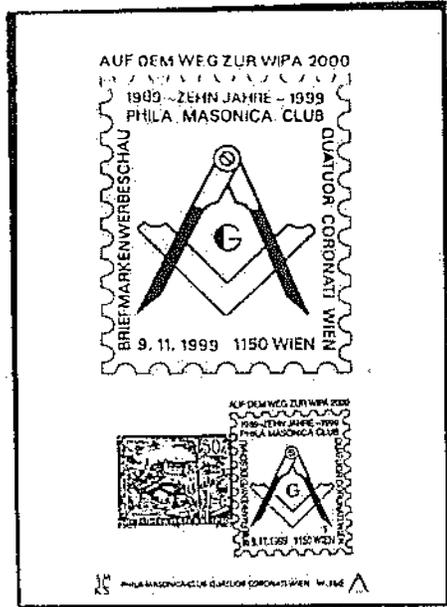
PARKERSBURG CHAPTER ROSE CROIX CENTENNIAL CANCEL



A special cancel was prepared for use on October 20, 1999, to commemorate the Centennial of Parkersburg Chapter Rose Croix, Parkersburg, WV.

RECENT AUSTRIAN MASONIC COVERS

Recent Austrian Masonic covers and Maxim cards, including those associated with WIPA 2000, issued by Bro. Dr. Schmid-Korlath, are shown here.



Your Editor sincerely wishes to thank the various members who sent holiday greeting wishes. Unfortunately, this year I was not able to return the favor as I was recuperating at home and in the hospital the last three weeks of the millennium from a cellulitis infection. May you all have a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary-Treasurer

Otto Steding
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Cincinnati, OH 45231

President

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

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

THE HIGH PRIEST'S BREASTPLATE - PHILATELICALLY SPEAKING

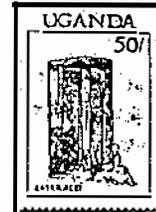
Bro. Gene Fricks has forwarded this illustration of an article by Josef Charrach which appeared in the Newsletter of the ATA Gems, Minerals & Jewelry Study Unit. It should be of interest to all Royal Arch Masons. The Breastplate was made of gold, inset with twelve precious or semi-precious stones, in a prescribed order, each with the name of a different tribe engraved on it.



*Odem
Reuven*



*Padah
Shimon*



*Bareget
Levi*



*Nofekh
Yehuda*



*Sapir
Issachar*



*Yahalom
Zevulun*



*Leshem
Dan*



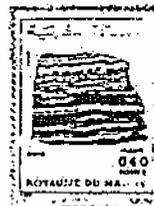
*Shevo
Gad*



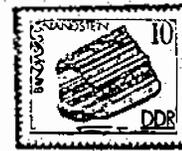
*Ahlahmah
Naftali*



*Tarshish
Asher*



*Shoham
Yosef*



*Yashpeh
Binyamin*

Your Editor still has an excellent supply of Masonic First Day and Special Event covers, Masonic fancy cancels - on and off cover, Masonic stamp issues of the world, Masonic post cards and non-Masonic FDCs, SEs, First Flights and regular postal history covers. Write for the several lists I have.

THE BLACKPOOL MASONIC HALL COVER

On October 12, 1999, The Blackpool Masonic Hall celebrated the centennial of Masonic meetings within its confines and a handsomely illustrated cover was published to mark the event. The limited edition of 1000 covers is individually numbered and can be purchased as shown - "prestige" with the autograph of both the Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, Rt. Wor. Bro. Colin Penty Wright, and the Mayor of Blackpool, Wor. Bro. William Burgess - or "plain". The prices are 4 pounds sterling and 3 pounds sterling, respectively. Remittance must be with the order and must be in UK Sterling payments in favour of "Blackpool Masonic Hall Centenary Fund". Orders should be sent to Ian J. Robertson, Secretary, The Blackpool Masonic Hall Limited, 5 Bowes Lyon Place, Lytham St. Annes, Lancaster FY8 3UE, Great Britain.



DAVID LaTOUCHE

David LaTouche was the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland in 1767. When in Dublin, he resided at 52 St. Stephens Green, one of the finest of the old city mansions, built in 1771 to his orders. His "Country seat" was at Marley Grange at Rathfarnham in County Dublin.

He was the Member of Parliament (in Ireland) for Dundalk in Co. Louth from 1761 to 1768 and then for Longford from 1769 to 1783 and finally Belturbet from 1783 to 1790. He was made a Privy Councillor and was, from 1801-1817, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Royal Dublin Society. He also held many other public positions of trust.

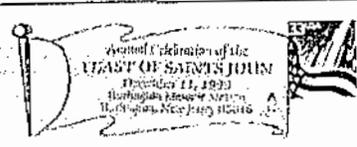
On the dissolution of the Irish Parliament in 1800, after the Act of Union, there were five members of his family that were elected to represent constituencies in Ireland at the House of Commons in Westminster in London. His grandfather, a French Huguenot, established a bank in Dublin, so well known as "LaTouche's". David LaTouche was made the First Governor of the Bank of Ireland in 1783.

Several Ireland stamps can be used to illustrate this Mason: Scott 84 (S.G. 93), 1931, and Scott 514 (S.G. 509), 1981, issued to note the Royal Dublin Society and Scott 558 (S.G. 553), 1983, to mark the Bicentenary of the Bank of Ireland.

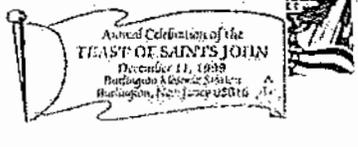
-article contributed by Bro. Frank Elliott, member No. 124 of Belfast, No. Ireland

FEAST OF SAINTS JOHN COVERS

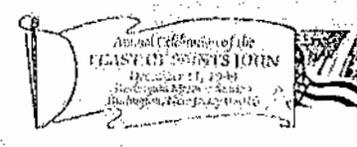
Bro. Dick Mekenian, 711 5th Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762, has again prepared a set of covers for the Annual Celebration of the Feast of Saints John celebrated this year in Burlington, NJ. Covers 1 through 5 are available in three color set cancels - Black, Red and Blue - plus a post card featuring the Lighthouse at a cost of \$20.00 per set. He also has a few of the 1998 cover (cover 6) autographed by Allen Earl Roberts, the guest speaker, for \$10.00 each. This year's Feast was the first to feature women speakers - Miss New Hampshire and Miss New Jersey. All monies collected will go to the Scottish Rite 32 deg. Learning Centers of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

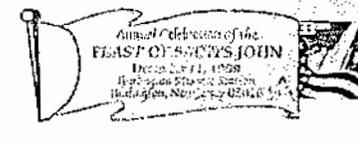
Feast of Saints John Dinner
MCP Fellowship Center
Burlington, New Jersey
December 11, 1999
Guest Speakers
Miss New Hampshire
and
Miss New Jersey

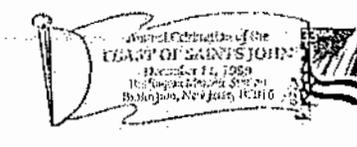
FIAT LUX

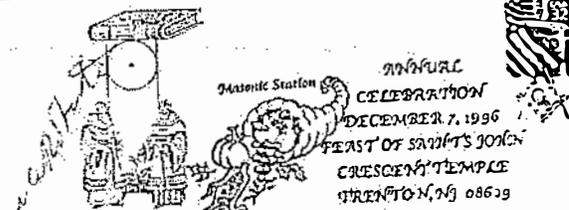
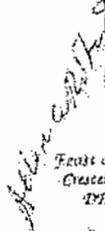
Wayne E. Hackney
Grand Master of N.J.
1999-2000
Celebrating the
Feast of Saints John
MCP Fellowship Center
Burlington, New Jersey
December 11, 1999

Feast of Saints John Dinner
MCP Fellowship Center
Burlington, New Jersey
December 11, 1999
Guest Speaker
Victoria Palge
Miss New Jersey 1999

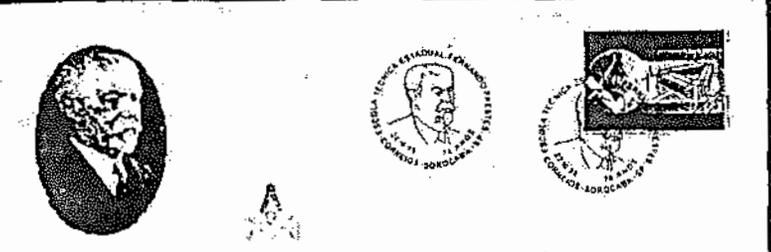
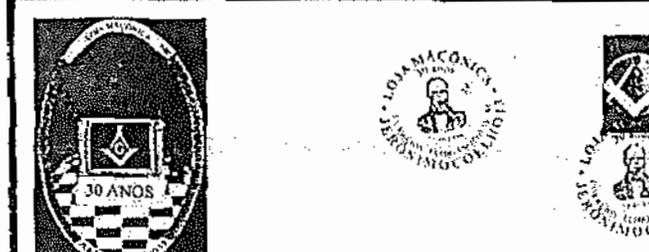
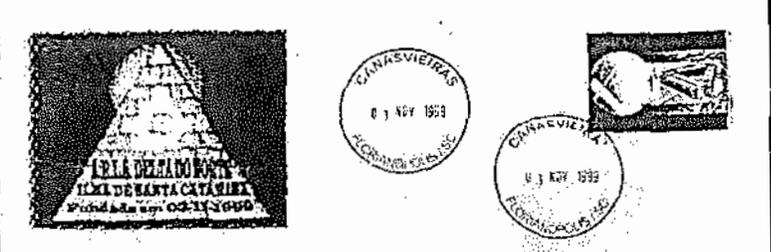
Feast of Saints John Dinner
MCP Fellowship Center
Burlington, New Jersey
December 11, 1999
Guest Speaker
Brandee Hollinek
Miss New Hampshire 1999

Feast of Saints John Dinner
Crescent Temple, Trenton, NJ
DECEMBER 7, 1996
Guest Speaker
Bro. Allen Earl Roberts
Author, Lecturer and Film Producer

RECENT BRAZILIAN COVERS

Recent releases from the Clube Filatélico Maçonico do Brasil. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from Br. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, President, Caixa Postal 3085, 88010-970 Florianópolis - SC - BRASIL.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Clube Filatélico Maçonico do Brasil GRANDE ORIENTE DO ESTADO DO PARANÁ (Federado ao Grande Oriente do Brasil) Inauguração da Sede Administrativa - Curitiba - PR - Brasil - 02.10.1999</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Clube Filatélico Maçonico do Brasil 70 Anos da Escola Técnica Estadual Fernando Proietes 22.10.1999 - São Paulo - São Paulo - Brasil</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Loja Maçonica Jerônimo Coelho 13 30 ANOS - 21 de Novembro de 1999 ECT - Florianópolis - Santa Catarina - Brasil</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Clube Filatélico Maçonico do Brasil LOJA MAÇÔNICA DELTA DO NORTE - GOB Homenagem pela fundação em 03.11.1999 Distrito de Desastrelas - Florianópolis - Santa Catarina - Brasil</p>

REPRESENTATIVE ELLIOTT COVERS OF 1999

<p style="text-align: center;">PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ANTRIM KUNAHAN MASONIC LODGE No. 729</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BRO. MERVYN COOPER, WORSHIPFUL MASTER INSTALLING OFFICER W. BRO. JOHN IRWIN FREEMASONS HALL, ARTHUR SQUARE, BELFAST 23RD JANUARY, 1999</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE ANTRIM LODGE OF INSTALLED MASTERS No. 218</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">INSTALLATION OF W. BRO. MAURICE ELLIOTT IN THE PRESENCE OF M. W. BRO. DARWIN H. TEMPLETON C.B.E. F.C.A. MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER R. V. BRO. J. N. OELMILLER ASST. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER W. BRO. JOHN MORRIS, P.P.G.S.W. INSTALLING OFFICER AT MASONIC HALL, BROUGHSHANE CO. ANTRIM 19th MARCH 1999</p> 	 <p style="text-align: center;">ROYAL MAIL BELFAST 19 MAR 99</p>
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NEW ISSUES

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

- 1997 Zaire - Popular musicians, set of 9 stamps including Nat "King" Cole.
- 1998 Chad - John Glenn's return to space, nine se-tenant stamps.
- 1999 Liberia - U.S. Presidents, three panes of four stamps each featuring George Washington, D. D. Eisenhower and J. F. Kennedy.
- July 5 Philippines - Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, one stamp.
- July 16 Chile - Alexander von Humboldt/Scientific Research in Latin America, 2 stamps.
- Sept. 16 Cuba - Universal Postal Union, 125th Anniversary, one stamp picturing Heinrich von Stephan.
- Sept. 24 Russia - Crossing the Alps by Russian Army, 200th Anniversary, two stamps showing Gen. Suvorov - Joint issue with Switzerland.
- Oct. 9 St. Lucia - Universal Postal Union, 125th Anniversary, four stamps + S/S. Charles A. Lindbergh is shown on the 65c stamp, Heinrich von Stephan on the S/S.
- Oct. 21 Romania - Comedic Actors, five values including Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy.
- Nov. 1 Bhutan - First Manned Moon Landing, 30th Anniversary, three panes of six se-tenant stamps each. Buzz Aldrin shown on two and John Glenn on one.
- Nov. 12 Nevis - Christmas/Nativity Art, 5 stamps + S/S. Durer works included.
- Nov. 22 Liberia - Legends of the American Wild West, three panes of four se-tenant stamps each. Included are "Wild Bill" Hickock, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, John C. Fremont, Davy Crockett, Kit Carson and Sam Houston.
- Nov. 30 Luxembourg - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 250th Birth Anniversary, one value
- Dec. 9 Micronesia - Millennium's First Century of Flight, 15 se-tenant stamps which include Charles A. Lindbergh.
- Dec. 31 Singapore - 20th Century Singapore, two se-tenant strips of five stamps each. Thomas Stamford Raffles is included.
- Jan. 20, 2000 Belarus - Alexander Pushkin, 200th Birth Anniversary, one value.

NEW READERS DON'T START HERE

Issue No. 86 of The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine (Great Britain) includes an excellent, but discussion provoking, article by Bro. Maurice Beazley, Secretary of the Great Britain Unit and member of our MSU/ATA concerning the acceptance of "dubious" cases. He laments the fact that even today there are several names still bandied about for which the evidence of the individual's Masonic membership is negative. He also makes a very positive statements regarding Bro. Trevor Frey's strict criteria and that "The Masonic Philatelic Club is, in effect, the final arbiter on the authenticity of claims submitted for verification, and our reputation depends on the utmost vigilance being maintained."

I, personally, and, I believe, many of our members, respect that position knowing full well that I have been guilty of "bandying about" probable non-members. (I still cite new issues picturing Albrecht Durer's works.) We in the US were guilty of the mis-interpretation of information which resulted in the temporary claim that Louis Armstrong was indeed a member of the Craft. Fortunately, in that situation, we were able to trace back to the mistake and make amends. In several of the ten individuals cited in Bro. Maurice's article, the available information and claims stretch back centuries. There have been countless researchers over the decades who have diligently documented their efforts and yet we, in later years, are prone to dispute the results with no more positive evidence on the other side of the issue.

Some dubious cases have been able to be resolved with no difficulty. Bro. Bernt Balchen was able to dispel the myth of Roald Amundsen's membership through personal association with his fellow explorer, Robert S. S. Baden-Powell's possible membership was categorically denied by his son. There is sufficient documentation which exists to demonstrate that Charles Dickens can best be termed an Anti-Mason rather than a Mason. Here, across the Atlantic, John J. Audubon's membership claim seems based on a few references in his diaries that are not strictly Masonic in nature and there is no positive proof.

The cases that concern me are those involving more long standing "debates" such as James Cook, Horatio Nelson, Christopher Wren, Ludwig Beethoven and Napoleon Bonaparte. In addition to many reference books, I have the privilege of having been able to obtain the extensive card files of the late Bro. Marshall Loke, an eminent Masonic researcher of the second half of the 20th Century. When I consult his files on Horatio Nelson, I find statements that his membership is not certain but there is nothing starting that it has been disproven. The uncertainty statement was tied to a reference to the "History of Freemasonry in Norfolk" by Hamon Le Strange and A.Q.C. Vol. VII, p. 109. Further it includes a quote from Q.C. No. 2076, 12 Feb. 1965, Lodge minutes of December 16, 1805, of Union Lodge, York, No. 33 (now York Lodge No. 236) which read: "Bro. W. Master proposed that a public Procession should take place on the Interment of our Departed Bro. and Hero Lord Nelson." Other references cited are from H. S. Banner's book, "These Men Were Masons".

In the case of Christopher Wren, Anderson recorded that "The Earl of St. Albans was Grand Master in 1663 with Sir John Denham as his deputy grand master and Sir Christopher Wren and John Webb as his grand wardens." Granted, this reference is to a time that precedes organized Masonry as we now know it but when the tie from Operative Masonry to Speculative is disproven, we can disregard Bro. Wren.

The purpose of my discussion here is in no way to try to find fault with the strict approach being taken by the Masonic Philatelic Club - in fact they do an excellent job of "keeping us in line". Rather, it is a plea that all researchers and collectors be allowed to follow their own principles, conclusions and desires - not being forced to take any position in disputable cases. As more and more documents and information are discovered, further insight into older issues can be gained. When positive evidence is available regarding an individual's non-membership, we can then discard those stamps from our collection. While the debate still rages, however, we should keep our minds, eyes and ears open for all new information, properly evaluating the source and potential credibility.