



THE PHILATELIC



Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

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JULY-AUGUST 2001

WHOLE NO. 144

STAMP FOR THE SHRINERS

Bro. Peter J. Westbere proudly announces that Canada Post has announced that on September 19, 2001, they will issue a stamp to honor the Shriners. Issued in panes of 12 stamps, the First Day City will be Ottawa, ON. These stamps can be ordered directly from Canada Post using Visa, Master Card or American Express. The Toll Free number is 1-800-5654-4362.



The announcement of this issue by Canada Post in their magazine is very complimentary to the Fraternity and to the Shrine:

THE SHRINE OF NORTH AMERICA

In 1872, a group of 13 men belonging to the Masonic Order founded the Shrine of North America. Today, this international fraternity boasts approximately 610,000 members. Established to provide fun and fellowship for its members, the organization now spans the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Republic of Panama.

THE MASONIC ORDER

To become a Shriner, a man must first be a Mason. The fraternity of Freemasonry is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternity in the world, dating back hundreds of years to when stonemasons and other craftsmen working on the same building project would gather in shelter houses, or lodges. Eventually, formal masonic lodges emerged, its members bound by the desire to be fraternal brothers. Freemasons follow three great principles: brotherly love, relief and truth.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST PHILANTHROPY

Since the earliest days of Freemasonry, Masons have showed concern for the care of orphans, the sick and the aged. As the Shrine of North America grew, its members began dedicating efforts to helping others by establishing an official shrine philanthropy - a network of specialized hospitals for children with orthopaedic problems. Since the first Shriners Hospital opened in 1922, the Shrine has supported what has come to be known as "the world's greatest philanthropy".

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

TBD. Raymond G. Feyes, P.O. Box 12945, Houston, TX 77217-2945

141. Walter P. Benesch, 3501 Slade Run Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042-3923

He is the new President of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club

144. Massimo Margantini, Via M. Tabarrini, 15 00179 Rome, Italy

145. Renato Boeri, P.O. Box 337, 18038 San Remo, Italy

146. Lewis Janzow, 12 Themel Court, North Oxford, MA 01537

ADDRESS CHANGES:

79. Morris C. Berg, P.O. Box 838, Ellsworth, WI 54011

RESIGNATIONS:

66. George Fallows, Richmond, VA

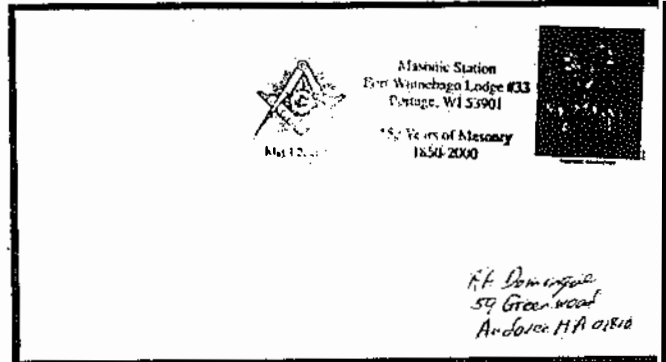
Bro. Steve Kapp passes on an interesting story which should make us all think twice when we act on the world wide web. He has been trying for quite some time now to acquire the Mozart and Aldrin stamps from Guinee that bear the Masonic symbol. He heard about an auction in Belgium that had three of each of them as well as three of the Churchill and Lafayette stamps. He had been in Belgium 2 years ago and thought he remembered the exchange rate. He won the auction but had erred on the exchange rate by a decimal and what he thought would cost him \$24.00 turned out to be \$240.00. Obviously he paid the amount but now believes he really didn't want them that badly.

You editor has also been on the eBay (as captbob13) and has had some very interesting experiences. Over the past couple of months there has been a new line of "add on" cachets done by laser printing which are very attractive. I have been unsuccessful to date in identifying the publisher but have kept a log of all those offered (in case I update my Masonic Cacheted Covers catalog). I was been able to acquire some of them early in the game but the activity levels recently, hence the hammer prices, have been quite high. The most recent round ended with a few of the covers going for around \$50 each. I, personally, think that is too high and there must be individual interest because the resale market would never support that price.

Those of you who know me, know that at times I can be very outspoken - not as much so as Bro. John Cunningham was, but enough so to get myself in trouble at times. In the previous Newsletter, I offered an editorial on the recent efforts by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York to standardize. I may have landed myself in trouble again. I carefully chose my words and tried to be fair but there may have been some damage. I only received one response to the editorial - but there have been a large number of non-renewals. This being the renewal time for a majority of the members, Bro. Otto has been soliciting dues. His latest commentary was "At this rate, we will never get caught up". If I offended the membership, my apologies. If that is not the issue, and you have just procrastinated, please remit your dues if the first two digits of the number after your name on the mailing label are 01.

ANOTHER MASONIC SPECIAL CANCELLATION

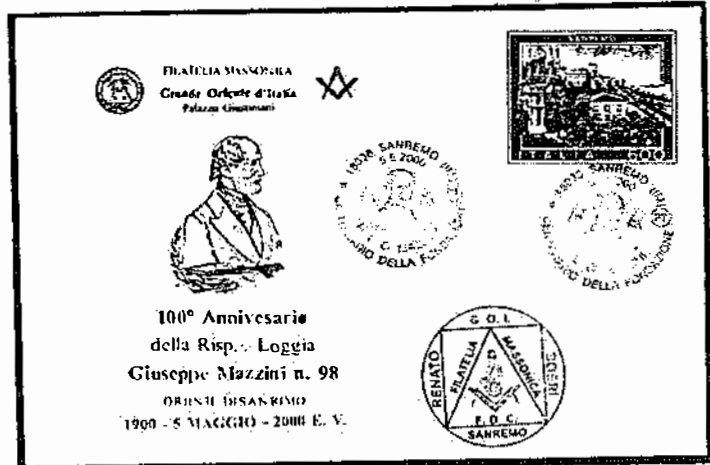
Linn's provided notification of another special cancellation which had been approved for use by the USPS. Shown here it commemorates 150 Years of Masonry 1850-2000 at Fort Winnebago Lodge #33, Portage, WI 53901. The date of usage was May 12, 2001. Now that I type this data, I realize that there is a disconnect. The Brethren of Fort Winnebago must have celebrated the sesquicentennial at the completion of the 150th year.



ITALIAN MASONIC COVERS



Our new member, Bro. Renato Boeri, the new Secretary of the Associazione Italiana Di Filatelica Massonica, replacing Ms. Dina Ricci, has forwarded a cover and Maxim card prepared by the club for the Centenary, in 2000, of Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge No. 98 in San Remo. Information on the acquisition of these items should be obtained from him.



LUIS ANTONIO ROBLES
(1849-1899)

Luis Antonio Robles, a lawyer and politician, is pictured on a stamp issued by Colombia in 1999.



Receiving his license to practice law in 1874, Luis Antonio Robles was elected Deputy of the Assembly of Magdalena and two years later was elected a Representative to Congress. That same year, President Aquileo Parra, also a Freemason, appointed him Minister of the Treasury and National Credit. On August 16, 1876, a revolution against the government erupted and he was sent to Gairapata and to Costa as a Chief of the General State, major of the Army of the Atlantic. He defeated the remaining rebels in Piaurichon. He was elected president of Magdalena and his government was an example of tolerance. By 1879 there was another revolution and he was defeated following a heroic defense. He retired from public life and watched the evolution of the new dictatorship. By 1892 Antioquia elected him Representative to the Chamber and he remained well-behaved and moderate. Various reports of ongoing revolutionary activities caused his arrest and detention for three months. he assisted Parra and Esguerra in reorganizing the Liberal Party but by 1896 he was sick and discouraged and did not want to participate any more in the political struggles. He was content with his professorship at the Republican University. There are several legendary tales of his calmness in the House of Representatives, even under adverse conditions such as the accusation of one conservative politician of "Negro, negro, negro". Locating the individual, he responded, "Yes, I am black, but above the walls of Cartagena whiten yet the bones of my forebears".

Doctor Robles was initiated into the Craft in the Lodge "Union No. 9 of Cartagena. He obtained the 18th degree of the Scottish Rite in the Sovereign Chapter Rose-Croix "Concordia" No. 1 of that same city. Information published in "Masoneria Colombiana", vol. II (1893-1940) of Americo Corncelli, Bogota, 1975; pages 230, 233, 243/4.

- article contributed by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, Barcelona, Spain and was also published in "De Verlichte Loep" by "De Getande Rand".

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary-Treasurer

Otto Steding
640 Maple Trace Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45246

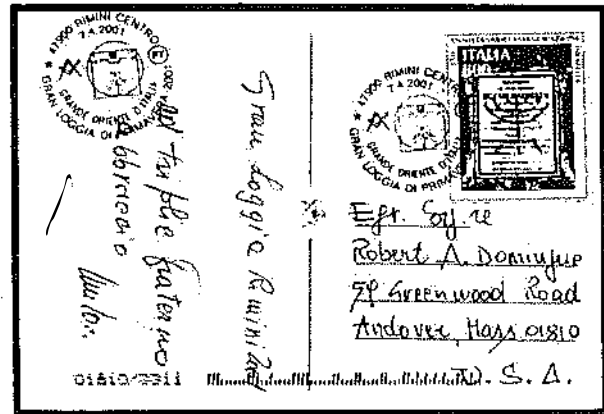
Membership
\$8.00 - North America
\$14.00 All Other

President

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

ITALIAN SPECIAL MASONIC CANCELLATION

Bro. Ferrando Sergio of Camogli, Italy, has provided copies of a special Masonic cancel which was used on April 7, 2001 for the Gran Loggia Di Primavera of the Grande Oriente d'Italia.



ALBERT BERTEL THORVALDSEN

Bro. Thorvaldsen is pictured on several stamps of Denmark - Scott Nos. 264, 267 (1938 to commemorate his return to Denmark) and 477 (1970 for his birth bicentennial) are shown. His statue of Jason is pictured on Scott No. 265 (1938 set for his return).



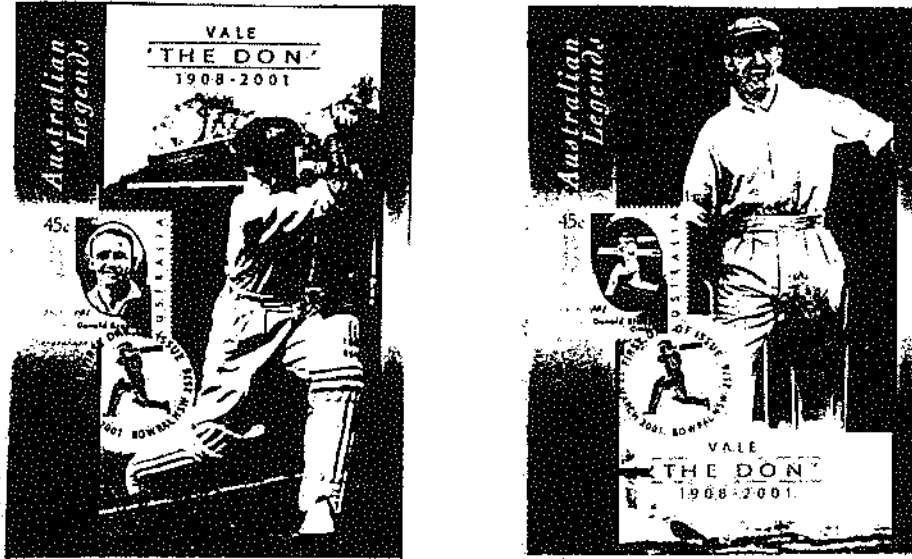
Albert Bertel Thorvaldsen, the foremost sculptor of his era, was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1770 of a father who had been a minor woodcarver from Iceland. At age eleven, he entered the Royal Academy of Fine Arts where he was trained in neo-classical techniques. In 1797 he went to Rome to study and remained in Italy for 41 years. His early years were spent in poverty and obscurity though his Baccus and Ariadne (1799) in the Greek style attracted some attention. Soon his work was being praised by critics and commissions poured in. Among his better known are Hebe (1806), Priam Supplicating Achilles (1815) and Amor and Anacreon (1828). In 1812 he executed a frieze in relief over 100 feet long for Napoleon's visit to Rome. Posterity has considered his work cold and lifeless. He died on March 24, 1844, in the Copenhagen Theater and is buried in a museum dedicated to him.

Denslow indicates Albert Bertel Thorvaldsen was an Honorary Member of Zorubabel Lodge in Copenhagen. Information provided in June 1971 to Bro. Marshal Loke by the Q. C. Local Secretary in Denmark states "He seems to have been initiated in a Roman Lodge 'una loggia secreta' during the first years of the 19th century but his later connections with Masonry, abroad and in Denmark, are rather obscure. It is known that he visited Lodges in Switzerland. On October 27, 1819, he was made an Honorary Member of the Danish Lodge 'Friedrich zur gekronten Hoffnung' at that time time working simultaneously with another Danish Lodge, 'Zorobabel zum Nordstern'".

-article contributed by Bro. Norman Lincoln

AUSTRALIAN STAMPS FOR DONALD BRADFORD

On March 13, 2001, Australia Post issued a pair of stamps to note the death of Bro. Donald Bradford. The designs are the same as were used for the 1997 Australian legends stamps, Scott 1575/6, but also have the years of his birth and death, 1908-2001. Bro. Eddie Levey has sent along copies of these stamps on maxim cards.



ANTI-MASONRY

Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy has provided a two part dissertation on Anti-Masonry with ties to Masonic Philately. The first part, presented herein, is "The official position of the Roman Catholic Church on Freemasonry".

1738, May the 4: First Papal Bull of Clement XII, "In eminenti apostolatus specula", condemns the Freemasons as a secret company and writes: "for other rational and just reasons known by us..."

1884, May the 10: By Papal Bull "Humanum Genus", Leo XIII worsens previous condemnations. The Holy See defines the meaning on May 10 by reminding norms of condemnation by the Canon 2335 of the "Codex Juris Canonici": "...Those who adhere to a masonic sect or to all other similar associations that plot against the Church or legitimate civil authorities incur thereby the simply reserved excommunication to the Holy See".

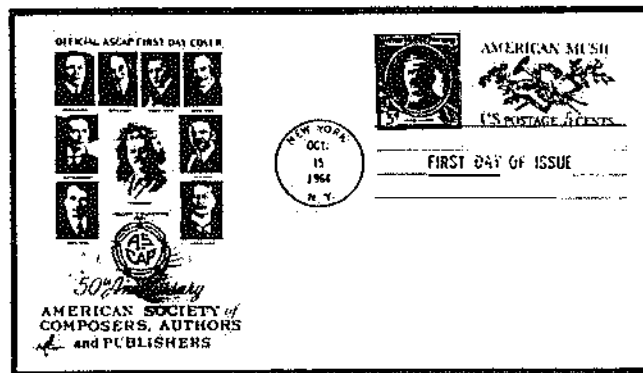
1906, February the 18: First Encyclical of Pope Pius X condemning "the separation of the Church and State" in France. In a speech to the Cardinals' Consistory, Pius X declared: "We condemn the law...as offending to God, ominous to the devine constitution of the Church, contrary to our authority..."

Stamps picturing Peo XIII - Belgium Scott 610 (1960); Rwanda Scott 396 (1970)

Stamps picturing Pope Pius X - Vatican Scott 145/8 (1951), 182/4 (1954), 281/3 (1960)

A. S. C. A. P.

An Airtcraft First Day Cover of the American Music commemorative 5 cent issue of October 15, 1964, Scott 1252, contains likenesses of nine founders of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Prior to the founding of this organization, the music industry paid little attention to the rights of songwriters. Today these artists are assured of royalties from their creations.



Three of the ASCAP founders are identified as Masons, the other six have not. Of these six, Victor Herbert (1859-1924) is the best known. He was born in Ireland and came to the US in 1886 to play the cello. Soon he was composing for Broadway musicals. Glen MacDonough (1870-1924) was his lyricist for "Toyland". Nathan Burkan was his lawyer. Ray Hubbell (1879-1954) composed more than 30 shows as well as "Poor Butterfly". Louis Hirsch (1887-1924) was also a show composer with "Love Nest" to his credit. I have no data on George Maxwell.

Of the Masons:

Jacob (Jay) Witmark began his career as a ballad singer. He joined his brothers Julius and Isadore in starting a music publishing business. As all three were underage, their father, Marcus, fronted for them. By giving free copies to vaudevillians such as George M. Cohan, Chauncey Olcott and Weber and Fields, they soon made the firm successful. Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg and Ernest R. Ball signed with them.

The Witmark brothers all joined St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in 1894. Their father was a member of Naval Lodge No. 69.

Silvio Hein was born in New York May 15, 1879 and died Dec. 19, 1928. From 1905 to 1922 he composed for Broadway musicals. None of them are now well known, though some of the performers who sang his works were: Raymond Hitchcock, John Charles Thomas, DeWolf Hopper, Jefferson DeAngelis and Joseph Santley (all were Masons) Probably his best known work was "Heart of My Heart".

Gustave A. Kerker was born in Westphalia, Feb. 28, 1857, and died June 29, 1929. He came to the US in 1867 and, like Victor Herbert, he played the cello. Like Herbert he was a leading composer of show tunes and conductor. He led the orchestra for many of Lillian

No. 8693 Bank of America illustrates Ora E. Monette (1873- ??). He was the founder and first president of the Bank of America in Los Angeles in 1923. He is also cited as a Mason in Denslow's.

Bank of America, S.A.E.
Calle del Capitán Haya, nº. 1
28020 Madrid



11613

No. 11613 Gillette Safety Razor Co. can be used to illustrate the inventor and first president of the company in the years from 1901 to 1931, King C. Gillette (1855-1932) who is mentioned as being a Mason. Ernest Cooper (1877- ??) can also be considered as he was president of Gillette Industries, the European branch. He was initiated in 1911 in Canada Lodge No. 3527 of London. He was Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

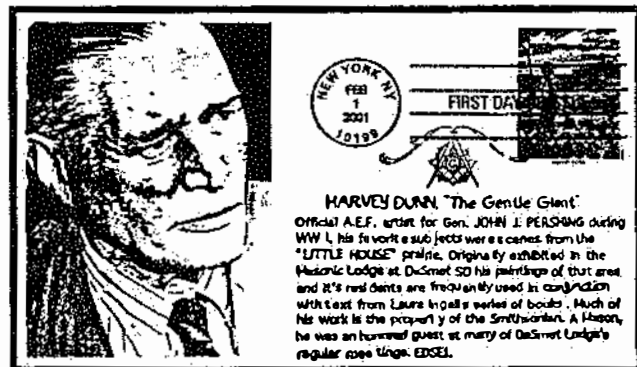
This article was submitted by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie and he hopes that some Brethren can provide the year of death for those cited above that are unknown and/or their Masonic Lodges. This aspect of collecting is definitely a "labor of Love" but can prove to be personally rewarding.

AMERICAN ILLUSTRATORS

The USPS recently issued a sheet of paintings done by different American Illustrators. In a previous issue, I believe Bro. Norman Lincoln reviewed the twenty for some who were Masons. The list includes: Edwin Austin Abbey (1852-1911), Dean Cornwell (1892-1960), Harvey Dunn (1884-1952), Robert Fawcett (1903-1967), James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960), Arthur Bardett Frost (1851-1928), John Held, Jr. (1889-1958), Rockwell Kent (1882-1971), Joseph Chriatian Leyendecker (1874-1951), Neysa McMein (1888-1949), Rose O'Neill (1874-1944), Al Parker (1906-1985), Maxfield Parish (1870-1966), Coles Phillips (1880-1927), Howard Pyle (1853-1922), Frederic Remington (1861-1909), Norman Rockwell (1894-1978), Jessie Willcox Smith (1863-1935), Jon Whitcom (1906-1988) and Newell Convers Wyeth (1882-1945).

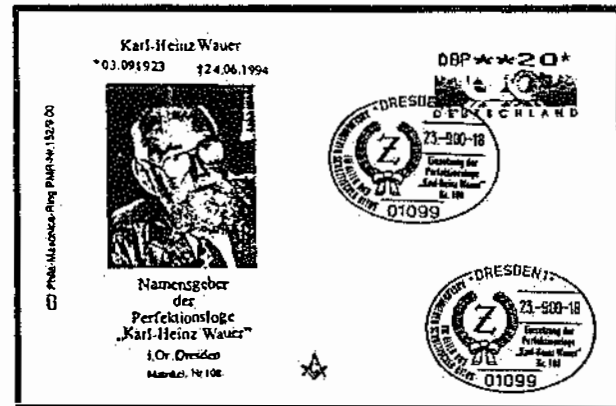
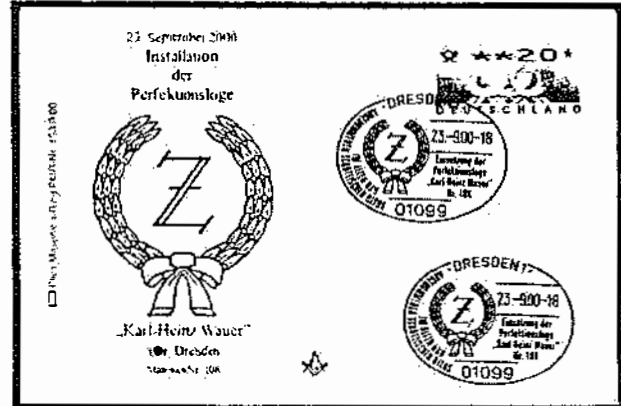
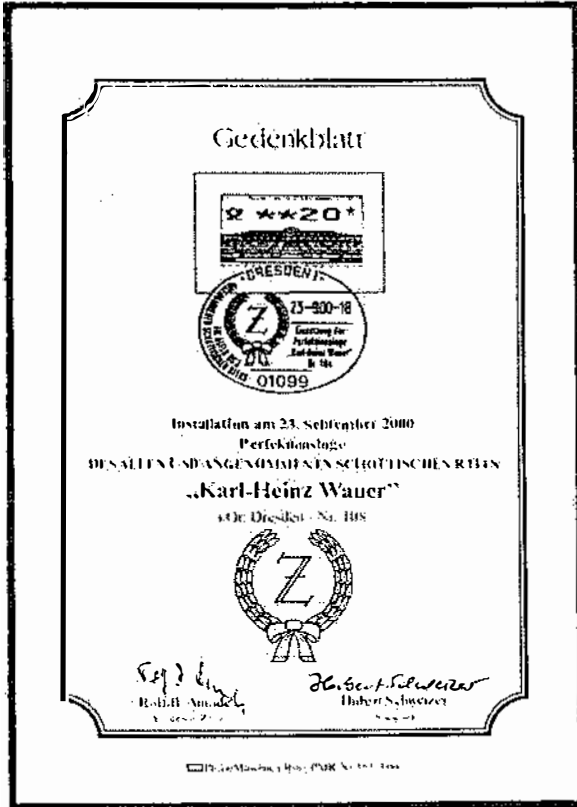
Of this group, the only know Mason is Harvey Dunn - an honored guest at many of the meetings of DeSmet Lodge in South Dakota. Your Editor has also head rumors that Norman Rockwell was a Mason but no proof has been found. Does any member know of any others?

A cover for Harvey Dunn created by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, PO Box 36, Hazelwood, MO, 63042 is shown here.



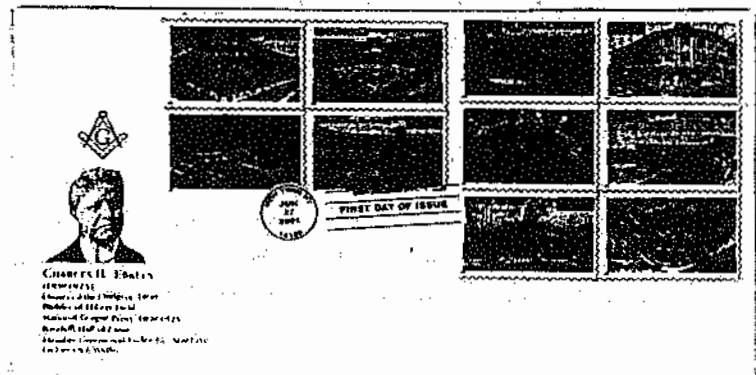
DRESDEN GERMANY COVERS

Bro. George F. Beard, a Scottish Rite reader of "The Stamp Act" has sent some covers and information on the recently chartered Lodge of Perfection in Dresden, Germany, of which his son is a member. Karl Heinz Wauer, namesake of that Lodge of Perfection No. 108, was very prominent in restoring Masonic activity in Dresden after the reunification of Germany. The consecration of this Lodge was held on September 5, 2000. Articles regarding Freemasonry in Dresden also accompanied the covers and anyone who might be interested in them should contact your Editor for copies.



GWMSC COVER FOR BASEBALL PARKS

GWMSC has prepared a cover for the Baseball Parks issue featuring Bro. Charles H. Ebbets. The cost of the cover is \$8.00 plus 34 cents postage from Bro. Stan Longenecker, 930 Wood St., Mount Joy, PA 17552-1926



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic Philately note have been reported in the philatelic media:

Mar. 13 - Australia - Donald Bradman, se-tenant pair (see elsewhere in this issue for an illustration)

April 12 - Marshal Islands - Manned Space Flight, 40th Anniversary, four se-tenant stamps with labels - include Virgil "Gus" Grissom

April 16 - Ghans - Early Jazz Greats, two panes of six stamps each - include John Philip Sousa, Paul Whiteman, W. C. Handy.

Apr. 25 - Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique - Clark Gable 100th Birth anniversary, two panes of six stamps each

May 15 - Micronesia - Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec 100th Death Anniversary, three se-tenant stamps - include *Oscar Wilde*

June 13 - Germany - Youth/Children's Stories, 6 stamps - include *Tom Sawyer*

July 27 - Nicaragua - History of Aviation, two panes of six stamps each - include the Montgolfier Balloon.

"IRREGULAR" OBEDIENCES

Recently I have had several discussions with Masons from the so-called "irregular" obediences. Bro. Jean-Claude Vilespy offers some words on his Obedience:

An article written a few years ago concerning Feminine Freemasonry presents the G(O)(D)(F(as an atheistic obedience. In his opinion, it is not an atheistic obedience, rather, it is an adogmatic obedience. To be atheistic means to deny the existence of God, under any forms. To be adogmatic means to accept no dogma, to be independent of all religion, all belief. G(O)(D)(F(is fundamentally "lay" - a term also often misunderstood. In French, it allows every man, freely, whatever his belief or his unbelief, his religion or his philosophy, to live in an "initiativ way" based on the practice of Masonic Symbolism.

For us, the Freemason is, above all, a searching (cherchant) man. G(O)(D)(F(offers a structure where any man, whatever his ipinions, his color, his political membership, his religion or lack thereof, could live and share his certainties, his hesitations, his hopes, his doubts with those of his BB(for in the unique purpose of progressing in his own personality and in participating in the "material and moral progress of manhood".