

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
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59 Greenwood Road
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Whole No. 160

MERIWETHER LEWIS & WILLIAM CLARK

The USPS will issue three stamps on May 14, 2004 for these two Masons. Special cancels will also be numerous. The special cover offered in the previous newsletter is still available at \$0.50 each from Bro. Stan Longenecker. Contact him at 930 Wood St., Mt. Joy, PA 17552



Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) was President Jefferson's private secretary. In 1800, Jefferson named Lewis to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. Lewis set out in the summer of 1804 from St. Louis, accompanied by his associate, Captain William Clark. They reached the mouth of the Columbia on November 15, 1805, going by way of the Missouri River to its source, crossing the Great Divide, then descending Koooskoozy and Columbia Rivers. The distance traveled was more than 4000 miles. They wintered on the Columbia, then retraced their steps and reached St. Louis in Sept. 1806. Congress made grants of land to all the men on the expedition. Lewis was made governor of the Louisiana Territory, which at that time, included all the land of the purchase except the present state of Louisiana. Bro. Lewis petitioned Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, Albemarle County, Virginia on Dec. 31, 1796. He was initiated Jan. 28, 1797 and the following evening he was passed and raised. He later received the Royal Arch Degree in Staunton Lodge No. 13. Later he was installed as Master in the new St. Louis Lodge No. 111, constituted by Judge Otho Shrader of St. Geneveve, MO, on Nov. 8, 1808.

William Clark (1770-1838) was the brother of George Rogers Clark of Revolutionary fame. He became acquainted with Indian warfare early in life when his family moved to the site of the present city of Louisville and his brother built a fort there. William migrated to St. Louis and in Mar. 1804 President Jefferson appointed him a lieutenant of artillery with orders to join Capt. Meriwether Lewis' expedition. His intimate knowledge of Indian habits and character had much to do with the success of the expedition. Later Pres. Monroe made him superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis. Bro. Clark was also a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 111, under Pennsylvania charter, receiving his degrees in Sept. 1809. He is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis. A large monument with the Square and Compasses is over his grave.

-Article contributed by Bro. Stan Longenecker, Past President

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

NEW MEMBERS:

- 129. James Bomford, 1008 Sweetwater Boulevard S, Longwood, FL 32779-3433
- 133. Jack Treutle, 47 St. Cloud St., Keyser, WV 26726
- 134. Steven Michaels, 350-65th St., Apt. 18J, Brooklyn, NY 11220-4937
- 415. Don Hopkins, McCook, NE – number assigned
- 451. Royce Leonard Beale, Romsey, Victoria, Australia – number assigned

REINSTATEMENT:

- 466. Yvonne Powell, 104-32 – 187 Street, Hollis, NY 11412

ADDRESS CHANGE:

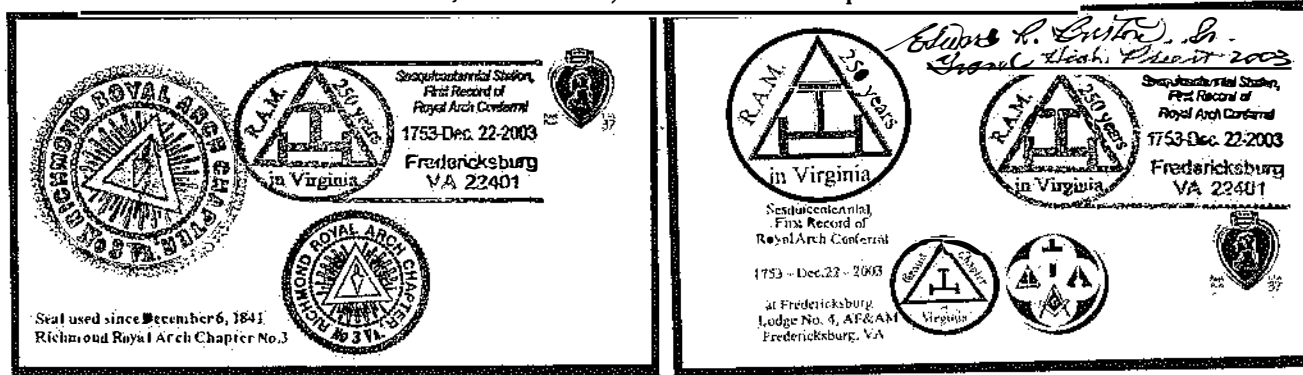
- 186. Louis Rediger, 1024 Diane Ct., Springfield, IL 62705-1581
- 230. Donald L. McClenahan, 101 Old Valley Rd., Brewster, MA 02631-2041 (he is no longer a yellowbird splitting his time between MA and FL)
- 362. Robert C. Royle, 1486 Burr Oak Rd., Toms River, NJ 08755
- 429. Steven R. Cohen, 116 Prestwick Dr., Pawleys Island, SC 29585-6719
- 463. Leroy Curtis, 2117 Fisher Dr., Wooster, OH 44691-2123 (corrected from last issue)

CLOSED ALBUMS:

- 89. James D. Fink, late of Manchester, MO

ROYAL ARCH COVERS

Shown here are two covers published for use in conjunction with the special cancel noting the 250th anniversary of the First Record of a Royal Arch Conferral. The special cancel was authorized for use on Dec. 22, 2003 and I am sure that Bro. John Allen of the GWMSC had a major role in the cancel and covers. The Seal which has been used since Dec. 6, 1841, by Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 is also included – Bro. Sherrill W. Watkins, Secretary of this Chapter No. 3 is also a member of the GWMSC. Contact Bro. Allen at 2831 Swanhurst Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113 for copies of the covers.



MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GWMSC

This year, the Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club was held on Feb. 22 in the North Lodge Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It was presided over by Bro. Walter P. Benesch, President, and Bro. John Allen, Secretary. Your Editor had the honor and privilege of being the speaker at that meeting. I had wanted to attend last year's meeting but my septic hip jinxed those plans. Three individuals -- Bro. Sherrill W Watkins, Br. Steve J. Kapp and myself received the Master of Philately Degree during that meeting. I had received it previously -- in 1964 at a Masonic Stamp Club of New York meeting -- but I had totally forgotten the content of the degree as was patently obvious. Obviously, I spoke on Masonic Philately, Masonic Cacheted Covers and the Masonic Study Unit -- topics near and dear to my heart.

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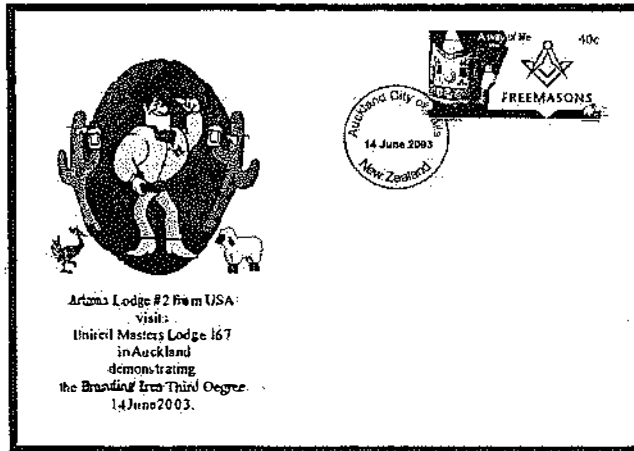
The meeting, as well as the cover swap before and the dinner afterward were excellent sessions of true brotherly friendship. I had the opportunity to meet with fellow Masonic Philatelists I had been corresponding with for decades. Bro. Allan Boudreau and his wife came down from New York. I stayed with Bro. Stan Longenecker for the weekend and traveled to the meeting with him from Mt. Joy, PA -- a perfect host. Bro. Dr. Mo Nafzinger, a correspondent back to the days when I created my first Masonic Cacheted Covers catalog was in attendance. Bro. Ken Hanson, co-creator of Kenick covers, shared remembrances of all of his covers which I had purchased from him and illustrated. Bro. Kapp and I have corresponded for some time. Bro. Allen and I missed each other by about 15 minutes in Lexington, MA, back in the early 1980s. It was nice being able to place a face with each name. It was also a pleasure to meet the other attendees and discuss topics of mutual interest. Before the meeting Bro. Stan and I had the opportunity of taking a tour of the Memorial -- it is truly an impressive building and the displays are excellent. It is a "must see" for anyone in the area.

Bro. Stan Longenecker is the Cover Chairman for the Club and has a vast stock of previous covers published by them. The cost is very reasonable -- most about \$1.25 -- much lower than the opening bids noted for them on eBay. If you are at all interested in Masonic covers, it would be worth your while to drop Bro. Stan a line requesting a list or e-mailing him at natsco@usa.net. The latest Club cover is shown here and it is available on five different colored envelopes -- at a cost of \$1.25 each or the five for \$5.00 (+ SASE).

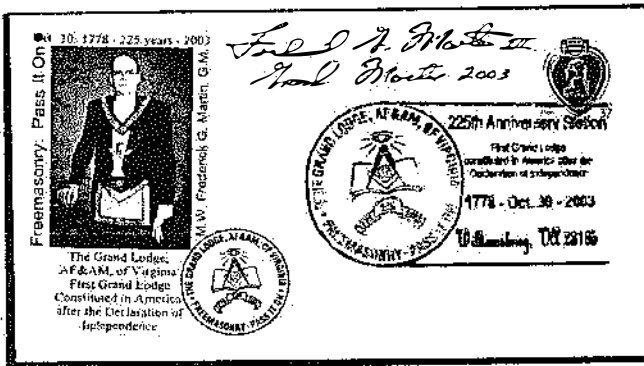


NEW ZEALAND LODGE VISIT COVER

Members of Arizona Lodge #2 again visited United Masters Lodge 167 in Auckland, New Zealand on June 14, 2003. As with the previous visit, a Masonic Cacheted Cover was prepared for the event. Shown here, information on its acquisition can be obtained from Bro. Vic Fabian, 8 Northgrove Ave., Auckland 10, New Zealand.



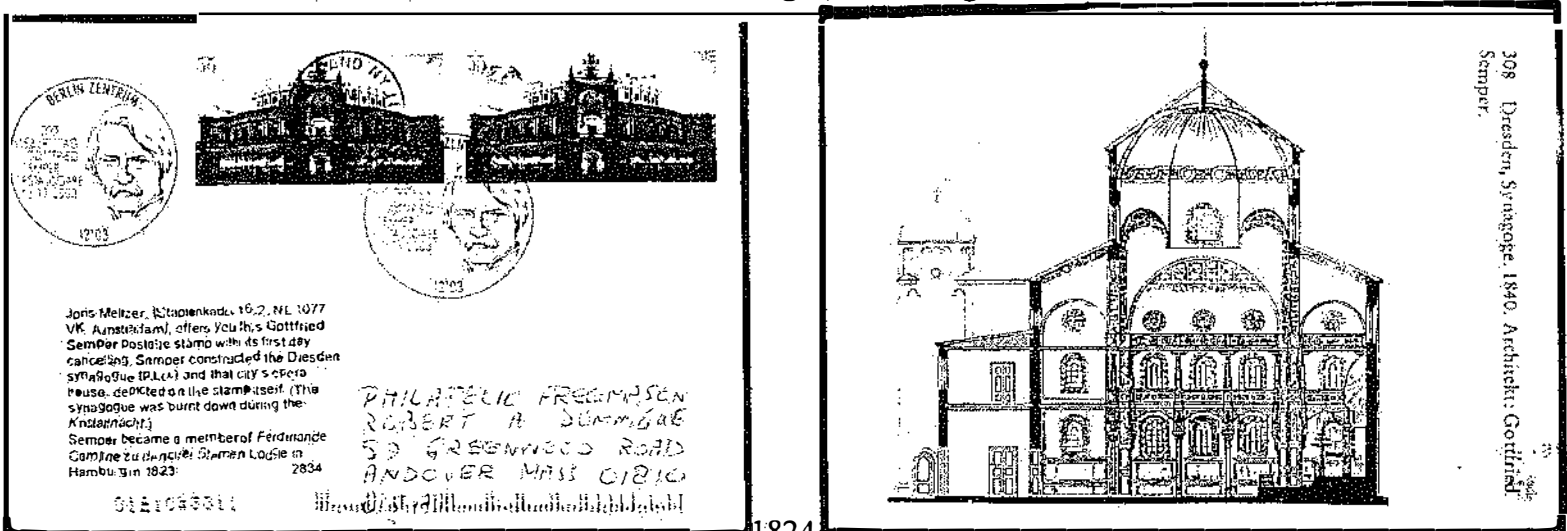
GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA



A Special Cancel was approved for use on Oct 30, 2003, in Williamsburg, VA for the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia -- the First Grand Lodge Constituted in America after the Declaration of Independence -- in 1778. Shown here, I believe details on it can be obtained from Bro. John Allen, 2831 Swanhurst Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113-2278.

JORIS MELTZER POSTAL CARD

Joris Meltzer, Stadionkade 16-2, NL 1077 VK Amsterdam, Holland, has issued another Postal Card applicable to Masonic Philately. The stamp and cancel honor Gottfried Semper who constructed the Dresden Synagogue -- shown on the illustration side of the card -- and the Dresden Opera House -- pictured on the stamp. He became a member of Ferdinande Caroline zu den drei Stemen Lodge in Hamburg in 1823.



308 Dresden Synagogue, 1840. Architect: Gottfried Semper.

ROBERT BURNS & SCIENCE FICTION

There have been several stamps issued to honor Robert Burns and many articles written to honor his life and works. Bro. Willie Lightbody writes that he liked the article "Fantastic Masons" published in the Magazine of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain and believes that Robert Burns certainly qualifies as an early writer of science fiction. Robbie, in "Death & Dr. Hornbroock" was returning from a Masonic meeting, slightly under the influence of drink, when he met and had a conversation with Death. A footnote to the poem says that the poet had been provoked by a pedantic speech by the local schoolmaster who practiced medicine on the side. Death, in the poem, complained that "Hornbroock" was killing more people than he was.

In "Address to the Deil", Burns is pretty impudent to the Devil in his name-calling:

"O Thou! Whatever title suit thee
Auld Hornie, Satan, Nick, or Clootie."

And there is an interesting Masonic Verse:

"When Mason's mystic word and grip
In storms and tempests raise you up
Some cock or cat your rage may stop
Or, strange to tell!
The youngest brother ye wad whip
Aff straight to hell!"



In Masonic terms there is often a humorous mention of the goat so here we have "Auld Hornie", the horned devil of fiction. Non-Masons may sometimes think of Masons "calling up the Devil" and I had two personal mentions of this. Here, Burns talks of the Devil being summoned and of his anger being assuaged by a "cock or a cat", otherwise a young Brother may be his victim.

In the 18th century, as indeed nowadays, folk were bedeviled by taxation, enforced by gaugers or Excisemen— Burns himself was a Customs Officer for a while. In the Exciseman,

"the deil cam' fiddling through the town,
And danced awa wi' the Exciseman."

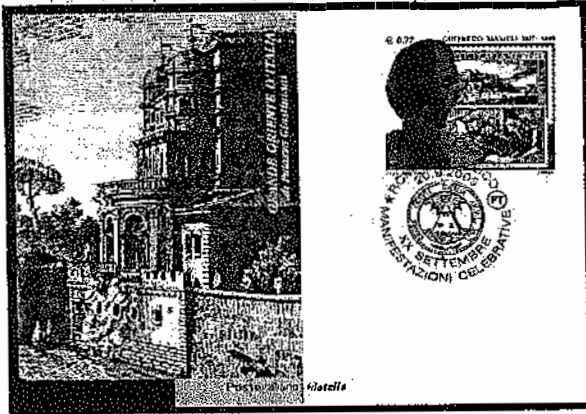
However, the best meeting with the Devil is surely in "Tam O' Shanter" where the Devil plays bagpipes for a dance of witches in a ruined Kirk! —

"A winnock-bunker in the east
There sat auld Nick in shape o' beast;
A towzie tyke, black, grim and large,
To gie them music was his charge."

A "winnock-bunker" is a window seat and Nick in the east is clearly the Master of the proceedings. Today we see "beings", "entities" or "aliens" in the likes of "Star Trek" and I believe that Burns the Freemason also qualifies as an early writer of science fiction.

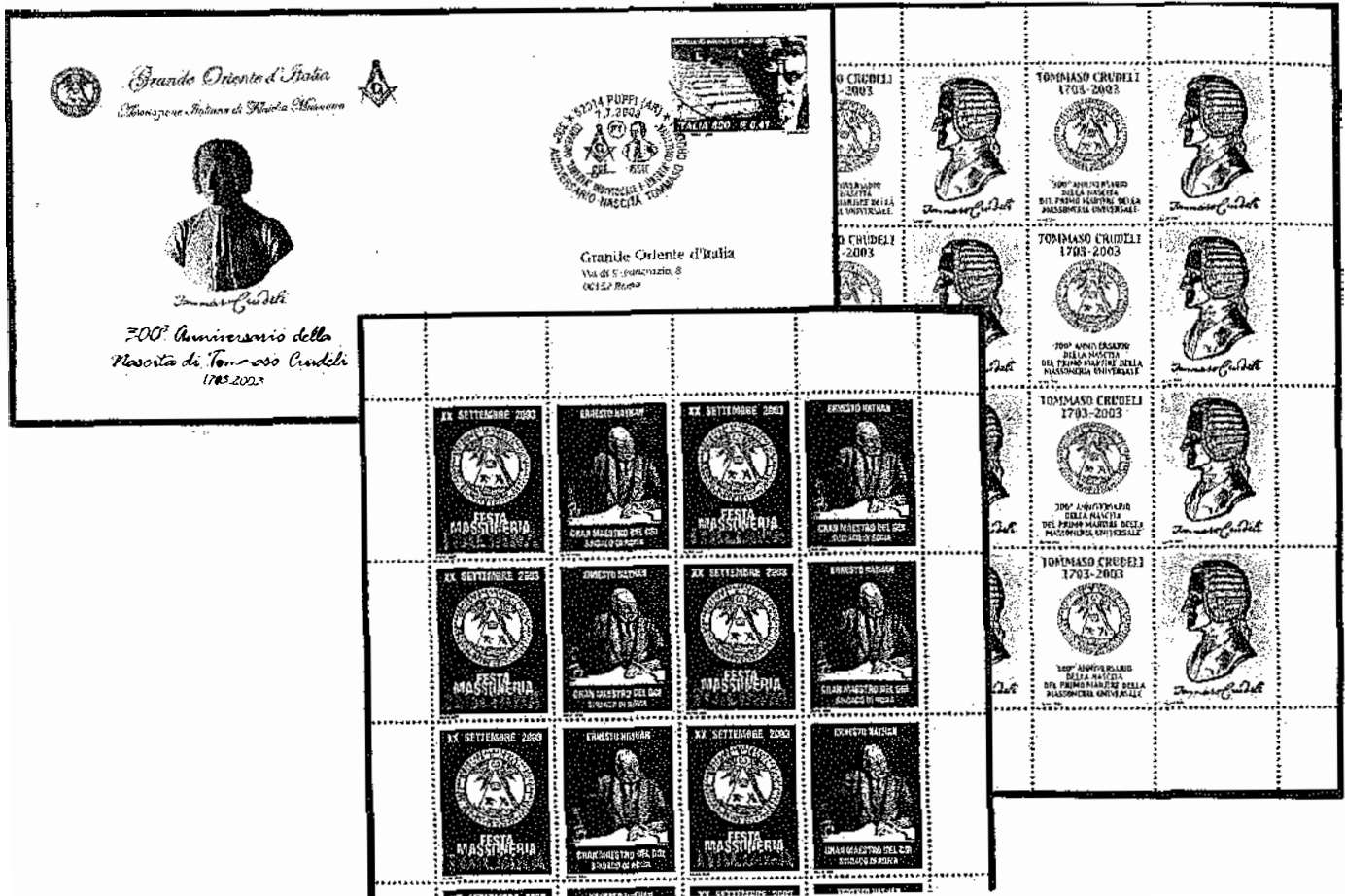
COVER AND SEALS FROM THE GRAND LODGE OF ITALY

Bro. Massimo Morgantini, Secretary in charge of the Italian Philatelic Masonry Association of the Grande Oriente d'Italia (AIFM-GOI) has sent in a copy of the Folder issued by the Italian Post Office to celebrate September 20, 1870. Italian Masonry always celebrates that day because that was the day of the proclamation of Rome as the Italian Capitol and its symbolism of laicity. This issue is the first one ever done in Italy with the mutual collaboration of the Italian Post Office and the Masonic Fraternity.



The Folder (including the smaller cover shown) is distributed by AIFM-GOI and is distinguished by the red seal of the Great Eastern of Italy. It is possible to order a copy by contacting Bro. Morgantini at his e-mail address: massimomorgantini@yahoo.it For those who do not use e-mail, his address is Via Marco Tabarrini 15, 0017 Roma, Italy.

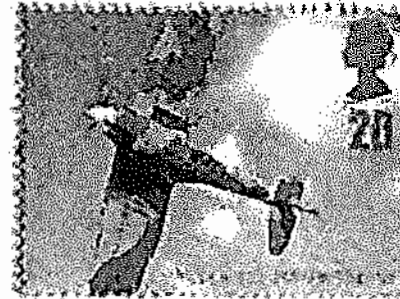
Bro. Morgantini also sent along a cover which honors the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Tommaso Crudei, the first Master, and a sheet of seals honoring this Master. Another sheet of seals commemorates the September 20, 2003, celebration by the Grand Oriente d'Italia.



**REGINALD JOSEPH MITCHELL
(1895-1937)**

Thanks to the excellent research efforts of Bro. John Coldron of the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain), it can now be confirmed that the famous Spitfire aircraft designer was indeed a Mason. There are several stamps which picture the Spitfire, they include:

- March 24, 1986 – Nevis – 50th Anniversary of the Spitfire – Scott 460/4
- June 1993 – St. Vincent – Aviation Anniversaries – Scott 1865
- Sept. 13, 1996 – Gambia – Anniversary of Schneider Trophy – Scott 1823a/i
- June 10, 1997 – Great Britain – British Aircraft Designers – Scott 1758

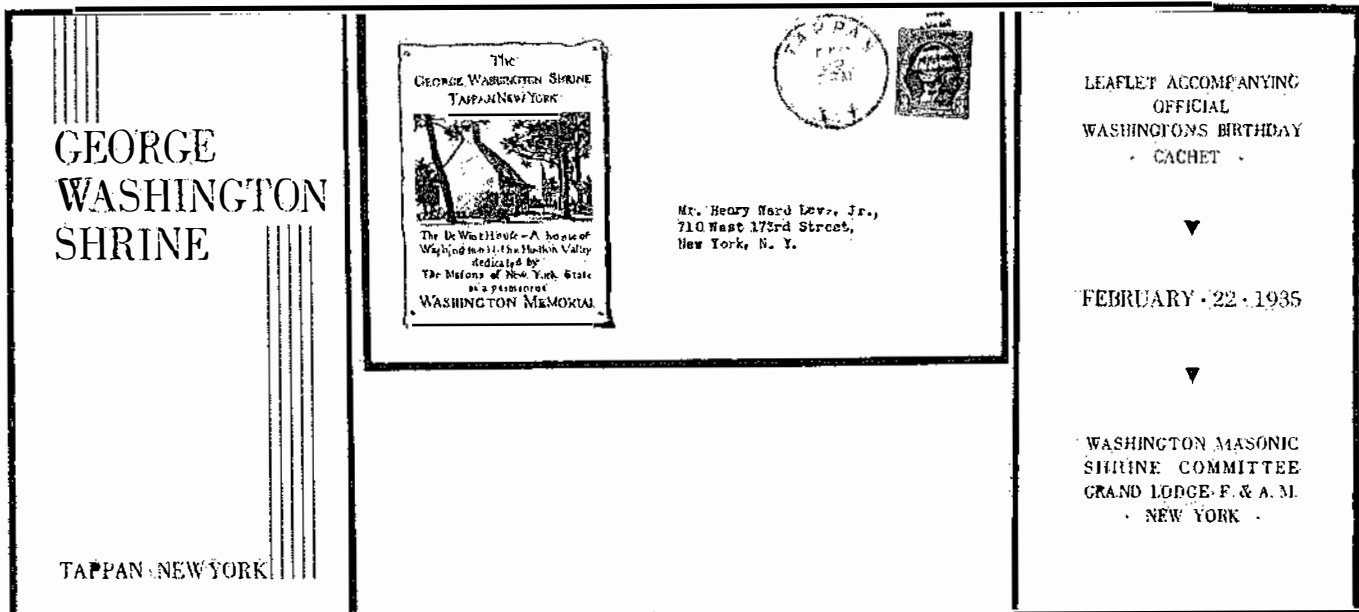


Bro. Mitchell was trained as an engineer. He was led by his interest in aircraft to join the Vickers Armstrong Supermarine Company in 1916; he soon became Chief Engineer. He designed the world-beating seaplanes for the Schneider Trophy races (1922-31) and later the famous SPITFIRE, the triumph of which he did not live to see. The Supermarine Spitfire Mk. 11A Great Britain 20p stamp comes from a series entitled “British Aircraft Designers” and shows Bro. Mitchell’s face in the clouds.

Bro. Mitchell was made a Mason in his father’s Lodge-- Jasper Lodge No. 3934, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, Province of Staffordshire, England. He was initiated on May 13, 1921, passed on Oct. 14, 1921 and raised on Nov. 11, 1921. He remained a member up to his death.

FIRST COVER ISSUED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

The question was raised at the GWMSC Meeting as to what was the first cover to be issued by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Shown here, it was the cover issued on Feb. 22, 1935 to note the George Washington Shrine located in Tappan, NY. There was a descriptive leaflet inserted in each cover which described the Shrine and how it evolved.



FIRST FOUR USPS DISNEY STAMPS



Bro. Norman Lincoln has supplied us with the Masonic interests in the four Disney designs which are to be released sometime this year.

Pinocchio was written in 1881 by Carlo Lorenzini who took the pen name of Carlo Collodi. He was born in Florence Italy, Nov. 24, 1826. After attending seminary, he became a journalist and editor. He was active in the Italian movement for unification led by Bro. Garibaldi and although he was most undoubtedly a Mason, his Lodge is unknown. He died Oct. 26, 1890.

“Pinocchio” has been translated to the screen at least fifteen times. The 1940 version by Walt Disney is the best known. Bro. Mel Blanc was the voice of Gideon and Bro. Cliff Edwards as Jiminy Cricket sang “When You Wish Upon a Star”. Bro. Blanc (1908-1989) was a member of Mid Day Lodge No. 188 in Portland, Oregon. He was the recipient of the Show Business Shrine Club’s first Life Achievement Award.

Bambi was written by Felix Salten, a Jewish insurance salesman who was born Siegmund Salzman in Budapest, Sept. 9, 1869. His family moved to Vienna where he began writing stories and poems. Bambi appeared in 1923. After the Nazi occupation of Austria, Salten fled to Zurich. He died Oct. 8, 1945. Bro. Salten was a member of Lodge Zur Wahrheit, Vienna.

No Masons are credited with the version of Bambi released in 1942. Bro. Sidney Franklin was an artistic consultant and Donald Novis a Senior DeMolay sang “Love is a Song”. Salten’s story “Perri” was made into a “real-life” adventure by Disney in 1957 and “The Shaggy Dog”, 1959, was based on his tale.

PAUL ROBESON

The USPS released this year’s Black Heritage series issue on Jan. 20 – it pictures Paul Robeson (1898-1953). It as been previously been reported that he was made a Prince Hall Mason on Sight but no details on the date and place have been offered.

A letter to Bro. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., noted authority on Prince Hall Masonry and former member and Vice President of this Unit, brought the following response:

“I have no proof what so ever that Paul Robeson was a Freemason. As you know, if you can remember, East Germany issued a postage stamp in his honor. Cox says he was made a Prince Hall Mason on sight and gives no other detail. He also claims he found the information in the Harry A. Williamson Collection in the New York Public Library. That is most interesting, I ever saw it, had the collection microfilmed and in my collection for many years until I turned it over to the Iowa Masonic Library recently.”

An inquiry letter has also been written to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey but unless further information is found, we must consider Paul Robeson as “doubtful”.

MASONIC FANCY CANCELS

Pres. "Gene" Fricks has furnished copies of some Masonic Fancy Cancels for our viewing. They include the Philadelphia "Fez" with a Crescent, an unidentified Positive Square & Compasses and two Cleveland Negative Square & Compasses.



The By-Laws of our Unit require Elections of Officers every two years – they have always been concurrent with the fiscal year of the Unit – starting in May. As a result of the passing of our Secretary-Treasurer, we will delay that election for four months until the financial transfer has stabilized. If you would like to be considered for office, please notify the Editor.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic Philatelic note have been reported in the philatelic press.

Oct. 29 -- Uruguay -- Masons of Uruguay - Souvenir Sheet

Oct. 30-- Uruguay -- Juan Antonio Lavalleja, 10th Death Anniversary -- one value.

Dec. 16 -- Costa Rica -- Lindbergh's Arrival in Costa Rica, 75th Anniversary -- one value.

Dec. 22 -- Bulgaria -- Re-established National Masonic Grand Lodge in Bulgaria, 10th Anniversary -- one value

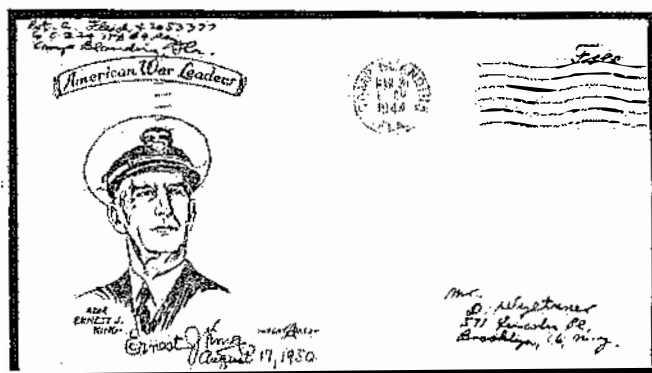


Jan. 14 -- Finland -- Jean Sibelius and Ainola -- three non-denominated stamps.

Feb. 21 -- France -- Auguste Bartholdi, 100th Death Anniversary -- one value

AN INTERESTING COVER/AUTOGRAPH

Your Editor was able to add this cover to his collection through a recent auction. This PentArt cacheted cover was autographed by Field Admiral Ernest J. King. Bro. King was born Nov. 23, 1878, in Lorain, OH and died June 25, 1956. He graduated fourth in his class from the US Naval Academy Class of '01. He rose through the ranks with various assignments to become the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, on Feb. 1, 1941 and then Commander of the US Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations from 1942 to 1945. He was raised in George C. Whiting Lodge No. 22, District of Columbia, Sept. 12, 1935, and was also a member of the York Rite and the Shrine.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Have you found a new member for the Unit yet? Remember Bro. Stan Longenecker's offer of 25 Masonic Cacheted covers to the recruiter for each new member brought into our rolls. This is a great way to expand your collection and to introduce a friend to our organization.

HERMANN BAHR

Hermann Bahr was an Austrian author and playwright whose keen interest in cultural movements makes his career a guide to literary developments in Austria during his lifetime. He was born July 19, 1863 in Linz, Austria, and died January 15, 1934 in Muenchen, Germany. After years of study throughout Europe, Morocco and Russia, he lived in Berlin, Wien, Salzburg and Munich. Under the influence of Maurice Maeterlinck, he became a champion of Mysticism and symbolism. In 1903 he was appointed director of the Vienna Burgtheatre under Max Reinhardt. His later critical works showed his interest in the social effects of creative art.



Bro. Bahr was initiated into Masonry April 25, 1897, in the Lodge "Freundschaft" (Friendship) in Vienna. It is said that in his later years he withdrew from Freemasonry. He is pictured on a stamp of Austria issued on July 19, 1963, to honor the centenary of his birth.

OVIDE DECROLY



Bro. Decroly was honored on a Belgian postage stamp issued on June 1, 1981, Scott No. B1005. He was initiated Nov. 25, 1902 in the Lodge "Les Amis Philanthropes" No. 2 in Brussels. On March 29, 1930, he affiliated with the Lodge "Les Vries Amis de l'Union et du Progres Reunis" also in Brussels.

Ovide Decroly, a Belgian teacher, was born in Ronse July 23, 1871. He studied medicine in Ghent, Berlin, Paris and Brussels. After finishing his studies, however, he dedicated his whole life to education. In 1901, in Ukkel, near Brussels, he founded a school for backward and abnormal children. In 1907 he founded the "Ecole pour la vie par la vie" for ordinary children. In 1912 he became leader of a training course for teachers and the following year was appointed teacher at the college "Ecole Buis-Tempels". In 1920 he was appointed professor of child psychology in Brussels and the following year professor of educational hygiene. He was the originator of the teaching method which starts at the whole and arrives at the parts. He died in Brussels Sept. 12, 1932.

-article contributed by Bro. Wessel M. Lans (in 1982)

PRINCE KARL ANSELME von THURN und TAXIS

Born in 1733 at Frankfurt am Main, Prince Karl Anselme became postmaster in 1773 but with the Peace of Luneville in 1801 he lost all postal services in the Austrian Netherlands (now Belgium) and in the area of the Rhine. He died in 1805.

He was received into a Lodge in Bayreuth in 1762 and three years later he established "Charles de la Constance" Lodge in Regensburg, his residence during later years.