

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
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NEW MASONIC ISSUE

Two Souvenir Sheets picturing Masons and having Masonic symbols in the selvedge were issued by the Democratic Republic of the Congo on December 20, 2003. It appears that they were speculative issues and may not be considered legitimate releases by the purists. Unfortunately, there are two problems with these sheets: First, there are no names on the stamps and we have had to reach a consensus of opinion as to who is who. Second, if the individual stamps are removed from the sheet without selvedge, the direct Masonic tie is lost. Regardless, we should call them Masonic issues.



The best estimate of the individuals is:

Left sheet: top row, l. to r.: George C. Marshall, Red Skelton, Joel Poinsett
bottom row: Roy Rogers, Branch Rickey, Paul Whiteman

Right sheet: top row, l. to r.: John Glenn, Everett Dirksen, Benjamin Franklin
bottom row: James Naismith, Christie Mathewson, Arnold Palmer

Your Editor does have a limited supply of these sheets and will part with them for \$5.00 each postpaid. Those members living in the United Kingdom and Europe should contact Bro. Maurice Beazley of the MPC of GB, at 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4JS England as the Club also has a limited supply – check with him for their price.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

215. Jefferson T. Newsome, Jr., 2705 Northumberland Hwy, Lottsburg, VA 22511
223. Victor A. Panaras, 10820 S. Kolmar, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES:

Bro. Bill Stahl, 3009 Stapp Drive, Eugene, OR writes to inform us that he also has a sizeable stock of Masonic Cacheted Covers for sale and is serving as a dealer at stamp shows in Louisville, KY and Memphis, TN in June and Sacramento, CA in August. He has also been elected to the Executive Board of the National Stamp Dealers Association.

Bro. Lewis Janzow is Secretary Emeritus of Olive Branch Lodge in Millbury, MA. (I thought that the only way Secretaries left that position was by passing to the Celestial Lodge above.)

Our "Parent" organization, the American Topical Association, has changed its web site to www.americantopicalassn.org effective January 1 of this year. They will also be providing to the units a listing of those members who indicate an interest in that particular topic. Perhaps we may be seeing some new members. I have received several letters of inquiry over the past couple of months so we may increase our ranks through return of the applications provided.

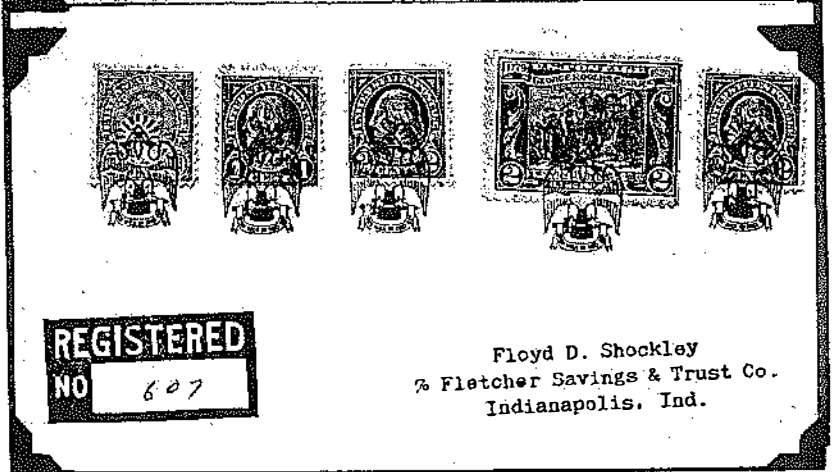
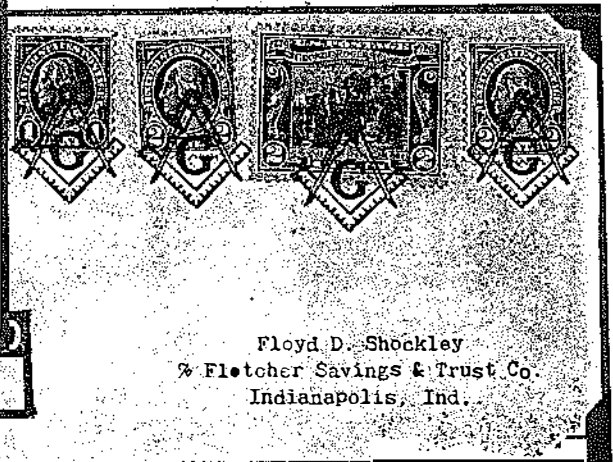
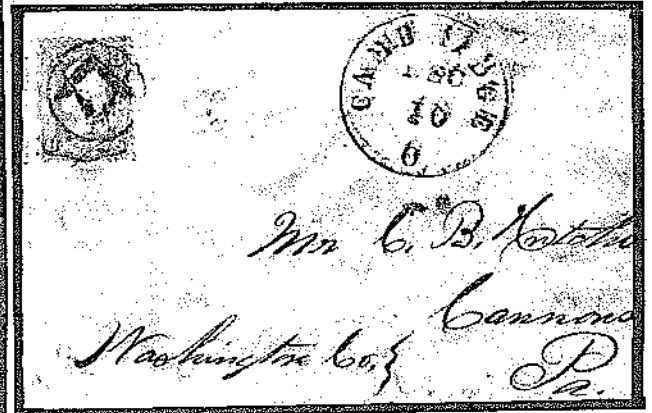
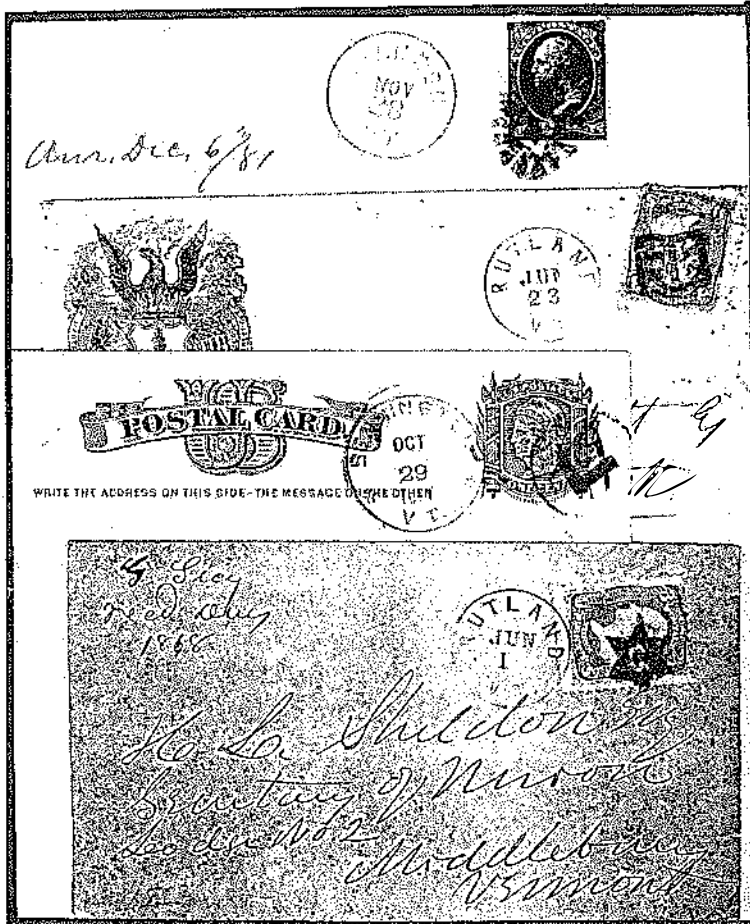
Washington 2006 international philatelic exhibition will be held in the Nation's Capitol from May 27 to June 3, 2006. The annual ATA convention will be held in conjunction with that event and sponsors of the exhibition are soliciting original articles which could be used to acquaint non-philatelic groups with what we collect. Anyone desiring further information on this effort should contact your Editor.

The Masonic Study Unit has been affiliated with the American Philatelic Society for 25 years, one of ten specialty societies to reach this milestone in 2004. They plan to honor 25-year affiliates by presenting each with a special 25-year affiliation certificate during the annual Affiliate/Chapter luncheon at STAMPSHOW 2004 in Sacramento this August. Hopefully Bro. Stahl will be able to represent us at that presentation and I would ask anyone else in the area or attending the show to let us know and plan on supporting Bro. Stahl. I am sure that the Unit would gladly foot the cost of the luncheon for this recognition.

Bro. Mo Nafzinger, a former member of the MSU and a Past President of the GWMSC was involved in a very serious accident in late March that claimed his wife and left him in very bad shape in intensive care with, among other things, a broken knee. We all offer him our condolences and wish him a speedy recovery. I had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Mo at the Annual GWMSC Meeting on Feb. 22 this year. He is a real gentleman, undeserving of this misfortune.

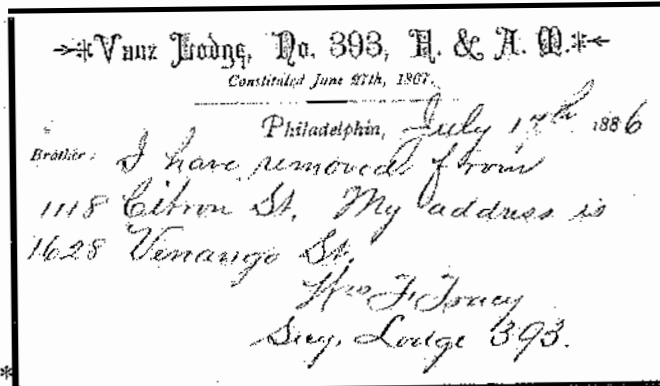
MORE MASONIC FANCY CANCELS

Recent displays of Masonic Fancy Cancels in previous issues of the Newsletter have spurred several of our members to send in copies of similar covers with cancels which they have in their collection. The two groups of covers shown on this page were sent in by Peter Huntsman of Montpelier, VT. The single cover display was submitted by Bro. Don Podratz of Eureka, CA.



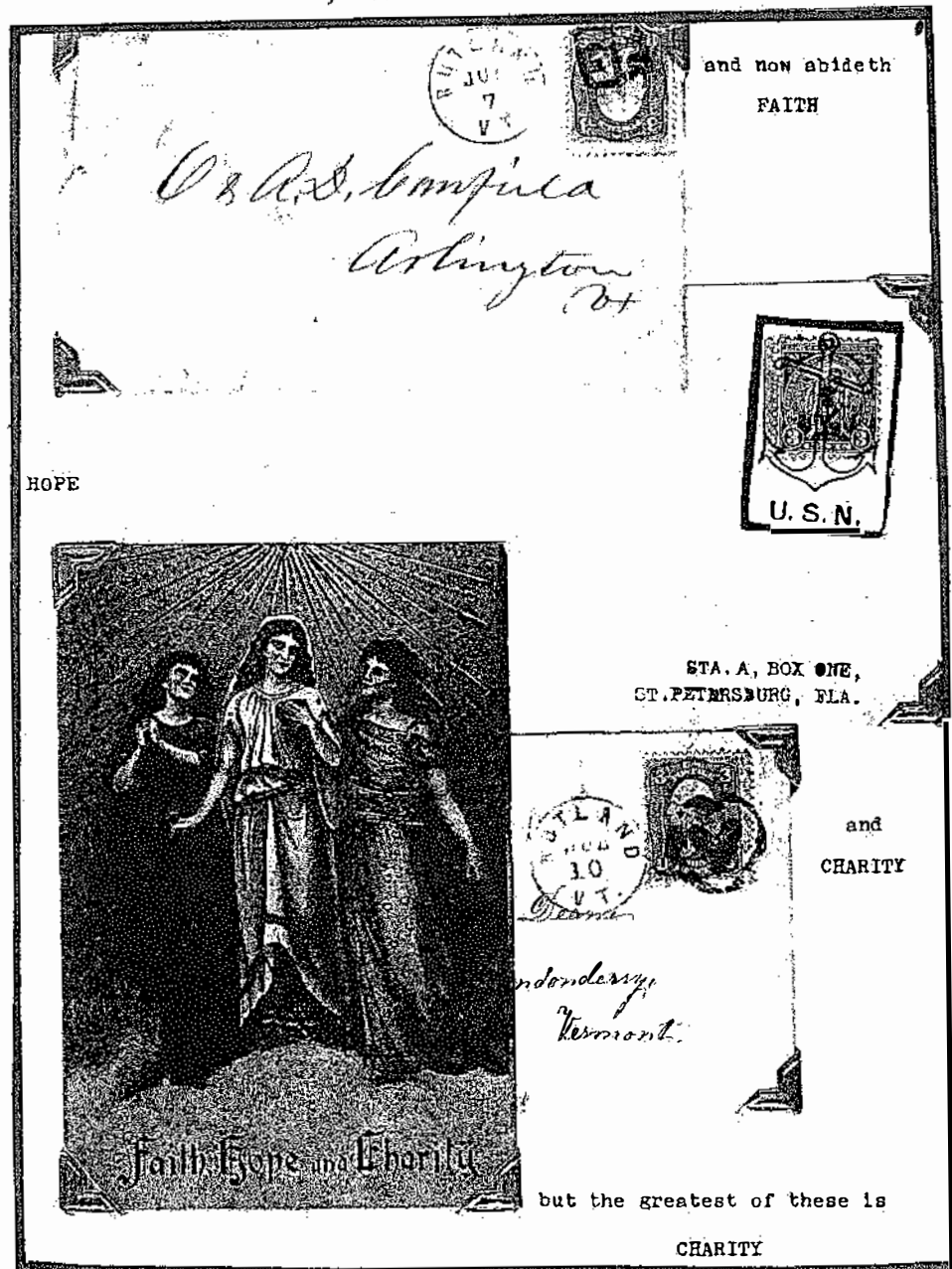
A CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION FROM 1886

A recent acquisition from eBay



DISPLAY UNITING POSTCARD, COVERS AND CANCELS

A Peter Huntsman creation which unites a postcard, covers and cancels to illustrate Masonic allegories.



MASONIC EXHIBIT

About a year ago, Bro. Ed Floyd literally died on an operating table but was brought back to a full recovery. During his recovery, he took the opportunity to bring his Masonic Stamp collection up to date. He is very active in the Lodge in Katy, TX as well as in The Valley of Houston. The Westside Scottish Rite Club and a Westside Shrine Club are located in Katy; he is Secretary/Treasurer of the former. Near the beginning of the year he took the plunge and prepared a Masonic Postage Stamp Exhibit for presentation at the Stated Meeting of the Westside Scottish Rite Club on March 20. Nine of the fifteen pages are shown here to demonstrate examples of a wonderful project. We should all try this to increase the exposure of our hobby to our brethren.

THE MASONS

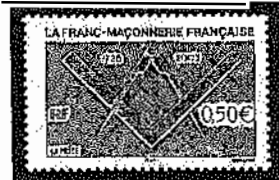


The Masons, or Free Masons, are a worldwide fraternity of men dedicated to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is not a religion but a man must be of good moral character and have a personal belief in a Supreme Being to become a member. Masonry takes a good man and makes him better.

Just what is a Masonic postage stamp?

It is simply a regular postage stamp that is easily recognized because it depicts a Masonic symbol, or, it honors one who is a Mason *without identifying him as such* or it depicts an item, piece of music or work of art done by or identified with one who is a Mason, *and again, without identifying him as such.*

Shown above is a truly Masonic Stamp. The "in your face" universal Masonic symbol, Square and Compasses, leave no doubt about that. Below, a few more obvious examples.



On the following sheets we see "Masonic" postage stamps. The persons shown were Brother Masons or the event/item shown was the work of a Brother.

ETHICS OF ADD-ON CACHETS ON FIRST DAY COVERS

There are many Masonic First Day Covers offered on eBay. Some of them are “Add-Ons” – cachets which are applied to the First Day Cover, or any commemorative item, after the cancellation for the FDOI or event has been applied to the item. Many of these are identified as “Add-Ons” but others are not. John White of FDC USA, Pine Bluff, NC, has been a vocal advocate for declaration of “Add-Ons” and has prepared a treatise on the subject. Excerpts from this paper are presented here with some additions from the Editor.

He states that there are three types of Add-Ons – Planned, Non-Planned and Counterfeit.

Planned – Many cachet makers who produce hand-drawn and/or hand colored/painted artwork do not apply their artwork until the cancellations have been applied, so to remove the risk of damage to items they have already spent time and labor creating. These types of “add-on” cachets are accepted by collectors as ‘legitimate’ as long as the cachet maker planned to produce a specific design to the items before they were cancelled (or serviced) by or for the cachet maker. Many will add the date for each item and the actual number produced so there will be no questions about it later.

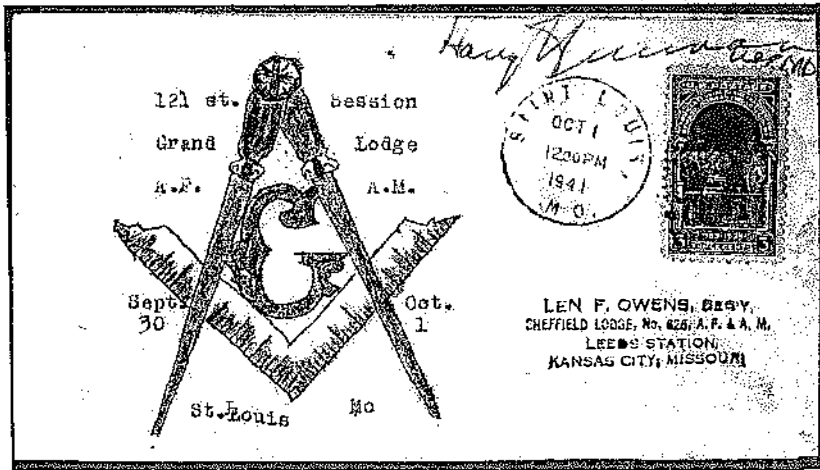
Un-Planned – These are cachets applied to the commemorative item after the item was cancelled, with no pre-planning of adding the artwork before they were acquired by the cachet maker. As each item is produced, the cachet maker puts their logo or name and the month/year the artwork was added on the item so there will be no questions in the future. If the cachet maker believes more will be produced later, “cont” is noted by the logo/date and a record is maintained.

Counterfeit – Some counterfeits involve the application of a First Day of Issue cancellation on a prepared cached cover well after the FDOI – an outright forgery. Others involve the addition of cachets to covers which were processed with no intention of receiving cachets or the cachet is placed over a previous cachet. Various warning signs are identified such as computer generated cachets, artwork over an address or extremely close to the cancellation, reference in the cachet to dates after the stamp issue date and no identification of the cachet maker. By not identifying the “add-on” status a novice is led to believe that they were pre-planned and the same credibility of preparation and planning that many cachet makers put into their work is assumed. Unfortunately, many of the unidentified “add-ons” are realizing higher prices purely because they are done on older issues – those cachets would never have withstood the effects of time and exposure had they been applied at the time of stamp issue.

Individuals can add spice to their items by personalizing the artwork or using any available graphics or text. It is important that any creations be identified with the individual’s name or logo and the date applied so that the next owner of the item will not confuse it to be original artwork of the period. I have seen many examples of Masonic Cacheted Covers which fall into this category that have not been identified as “add-ons”. They may be unique but they should be properly identified. In too many cases, however, the cachet maker keeps producing more and more covers until the demand ceases and one never knows how many copies exist.

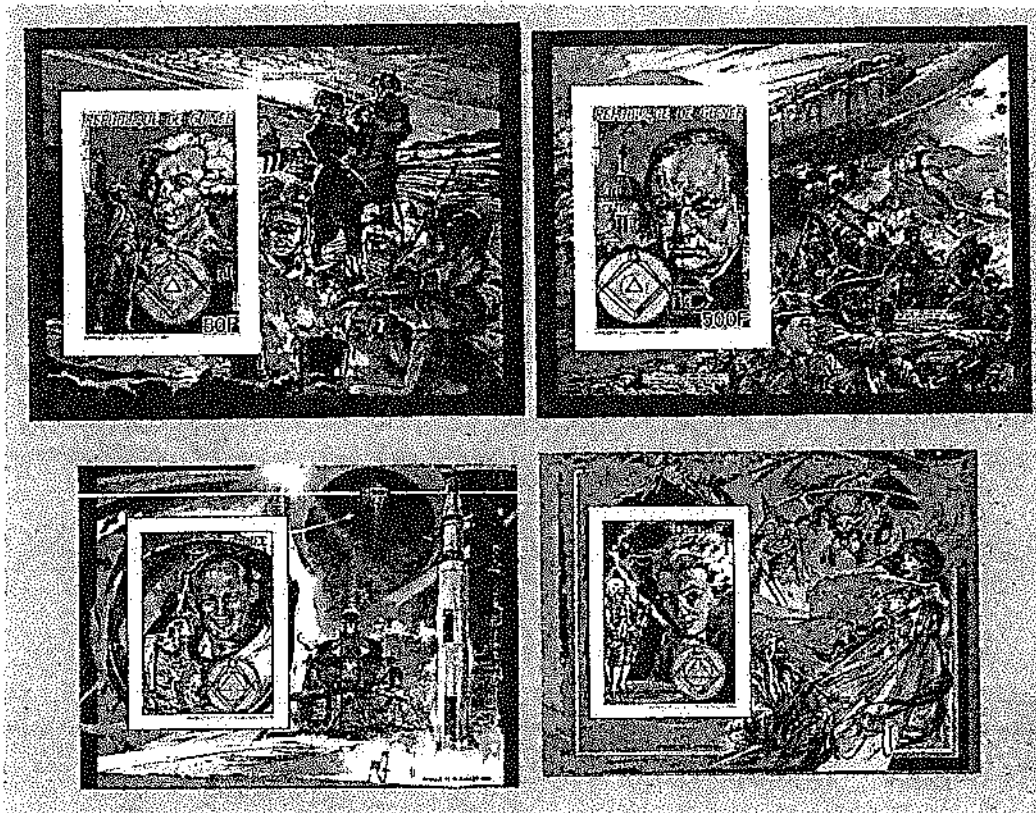
INTERESTING AUTOGRAPHED MASONIC CACHETED COVER

Bro. Peter Westbere has sent in this copy of a very interesting cover to commemorate the 121st Session of the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1941. (I have never seen this cover before.) To enhance the cover ever further, it was signed by Bro. Harry S Truman when he was a US Senator for Missouri. At the time, he was ending his term as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.



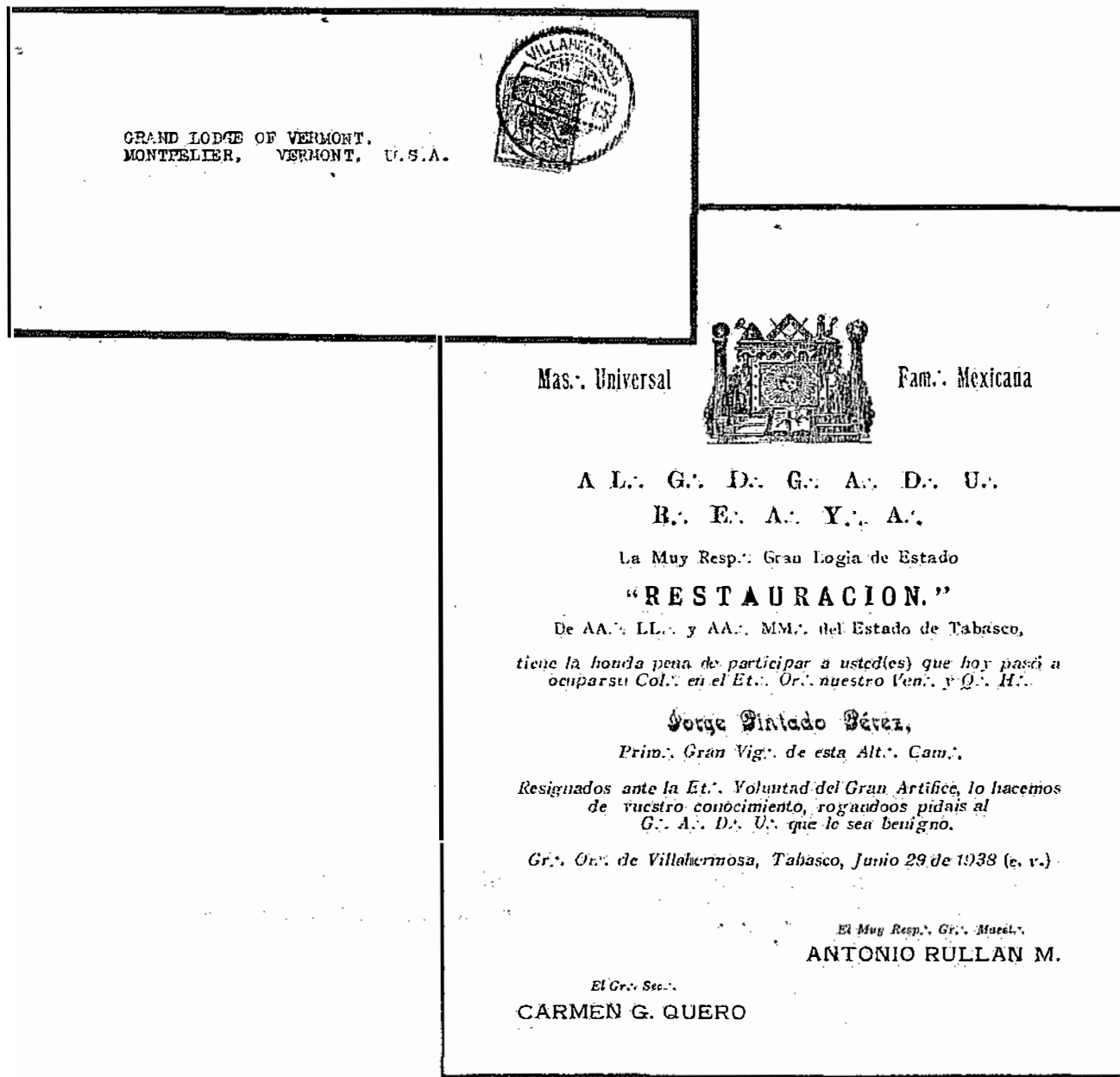
REPUBLIC OF GUINEE MASONIC SOUVENIR SHEETS

During the GWMSC Annual Meeting, Bro. Stephen Kapp spoke to me of the Masonic souvenir sheets he had from the Republic of Guinee. He recently sent in a copy of these sheets for illustration purposes. They picture Bros. Lafayette, Churchill, Aldrin and Mozart. Thank you, Bro. Steve.



MASONIC MOURNING CARD/COVER

Peter Huntsman has sent in this interesting Mourning card which was sent from a Grand Lodge in Mexico to the Grand Lodge of Vermont in 1938.



MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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JOSEF KSAWERY (or XAVER) ELSNER

Up to the reign of Poland's last King, Stanislaw Poniatowski, opera had been the preserve of the nobility, with Italian and German operas being given in court theatres. Under Poniatowski, Poland enjoyed a cultural flowering that included the building of the National theatre in 1779 and the writing of the first Polish Operas. Josef Elsner was appointed Principal Conductor of the National in 1799, holding that position for the next 25 years. His early operas, before 1799, were in German, but all his works for the National Theatre were in Polish. These operas were extremely popular and because they contain elements of Polish musical folklore and are considered precursors to the Polish national style in opera. Today Elsner is remembered, if at all, as being Chopin's composition teacher from 1819. He was also the director of the Warsaw Conservatoire and an influential critic.

Josef Elsner was born June 29, 1769 in Grodkow, Silesia. He studied violin, voice and organ and founded a school for organists in Warsaw. He wrote 32 operas, 17 masses, 7 ballets, 3 symphonies and many other quartets and sonatas. He died April 18, 1854 in Warsaw. He was a member of the Lodge "Bouclier du Nord" in Warsaw, founded in 1779, while the Duke Ignaz Potocki, a co-worker of Kosciuszko, was Grand Master. He composed a Masonic hymn in 1805. His likeness is shown on a Poland stamp, Scott NB22, issued in 1942.



-article contributed by Bro. Norman Lincoln of Eaton, OH

NEW ISSUES

A few new issues of Masonic note have been announced in the philatelic media.

2003 – Liberia – European Masters, 4 stamps, 4 se-tenant stamps and a souvenir sheet - all picturing works of A. Durer.

March – St. Helena-- Famous People in Medicine, 4 values, including A. Fleming.

March 19 – Ireland – Ernest Shackleton Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917, 2 se-tenant pairs of stamps, a souvenir sheet with a se-tenant pair of stamps and a prestige booklet with 16 stamps.

April 6 – Isle of Man – D-Day 60th Anniversary, 4 se-tenant pairs of stamps and souvenir sheet with 4 se-tenant stamps, including Winston Churchill.

EDITORS COMMENTS

First off, my apologies for shortchanging you all in the last issue – I did not realize that there were only 11 pages of text until I received the job back from the print shop. It was too late to add on then. This issue is a bit different from the norm – because of the limited number of inputs and limited time. Those received were quality, educational and showpieces. Let me know what you think. I am almost through the transition necessitated by the passing of Bro. Otto – his daughter has found all (I believe) of the correspondence he had received. I appreciate the offers I have received to step in to help, I may shed the added task before too long – but it is not onerous. Have a great summer.

