

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

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Whole No. 167

## MASONIC STAMP FROM ITALY DOES IT OR DOES IT NOT EXIST?

Your Editor and Bro. Maurice Beazley of the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) have both seen an illustration of another Pure Masonic issue – this time from the country of Italy. Masonry is quite active in that country and there are at least two groups of Masonic Philatelists. One could imagine, however that there might be strong religious pressure against the issuance of a stamp for the Fraternity. It is not like the Latin American countries where Catholicism is the predominant religion but Freemasonry is also very strong in its own right. The release we have seen is shown here – but its existence has been denied by the Italian Stamp Bureau, the Italian Grand Lodge and several Italian stamp dealers. Can any member help solve this puzzle? Is the stamp real? Is it a privately printed label? Whatever the answer, one must admit that it would make a nice addition to a collection.



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### ROMANIA SHEETS AVAILABLE

Your Editor has managed to secure a few copies of the Romania Sheet which bears the Masonic symbol. The price is higher than normal, \$7.50 each, so I didn't get many. First come, first serve and, as the ads say, when they are gone, they are gone.

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### MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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Annual Membership: \$10.00 – USA, \$12.00 – Canada & Mexico; \$16.00 – All Other

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS:

233. Marvin Scheer, P.O. Box 8004, Gates Mills, OH 44040

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

25. American Philatelic Research Library, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA  
16823

158. Gasper S. Sciacca, 1 Kilcommons Drive #10, Pembroke, MA 02359

432. Sherman Hayhurst, P.O. Box 1204, Galt, CA 95632

### RESIGNATIONS:

60. Sidney W. Martin of South Australia

210. Edward J. Floyd of Katy TX

Bro. Scheer is a 49 Year member of Forest City Lodge #388, Lyndhurst, OH and has been a stamp and FDC collector for the past 50 years. He just recently got interested in Masonic Covers.

I just recently received an e-mail from Bro. Martin's son, Graham, relating that Bro. Sid "has been in the hospital for about three weeks and is very unlikely to return home. At best, if he makes a full enough recovery, he will see out the rest of his days in a nursing home or the like." Those of us who are "old timers" will recall that Bro. Sid founded the Masonic Stamp Club of South Australia and edited their Newsletter for many years. He was a very avid Masonic Philatelist. Bro. Floyd, also a devoted member has had a series of health problems and wrote "Even at the rock bottom price of only a buck, I still must drop out of the Study Unit". Both will be missed.

Bro. James E. Brommer wrote that this year he has the honor of being in charge of his Royal Arch Chapter, Samuel C. Perkins No. 209. The Chapter is named after a Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania. Bro. Perkins was also a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and was an officer in the Landis Battery (from Philadelphia) during the Civil War. His service during the Gettysburg Campaign included defending an area within three miles of Bro. Brommer's home in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Bro. Charles A Orlick received a 50-Year Member Pin from his Lodge, East Gate Lodge #216, Cumberland, MD; he is a Past Master of that Lodge.

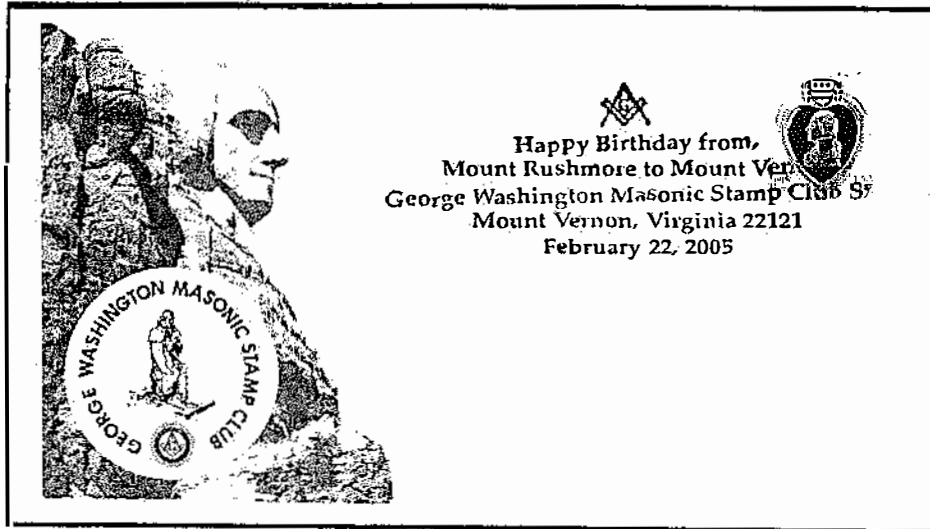
I wish to thank most of you for recognizing the "fatal" mistake I made in the dues expiration notice sent out with the previous Newsletter. I received several comments regarding the greatest gaffes and bloopers of all time, a real bargain, I know you meant \$10, best deal in town, what a bargain, etc. Luckily, for me, only two members took me at my word – much less disastrous for me than it could have been. Thank you.

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## RECENT MASONIC CACHETED COVER ISSUES

### GWMSC

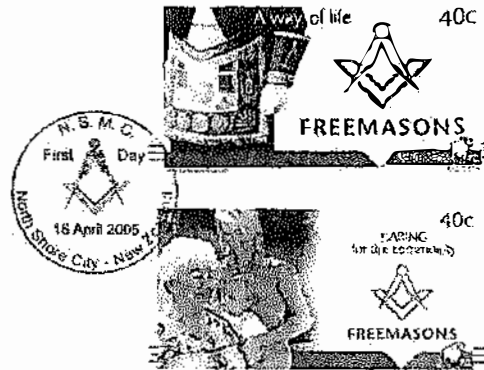
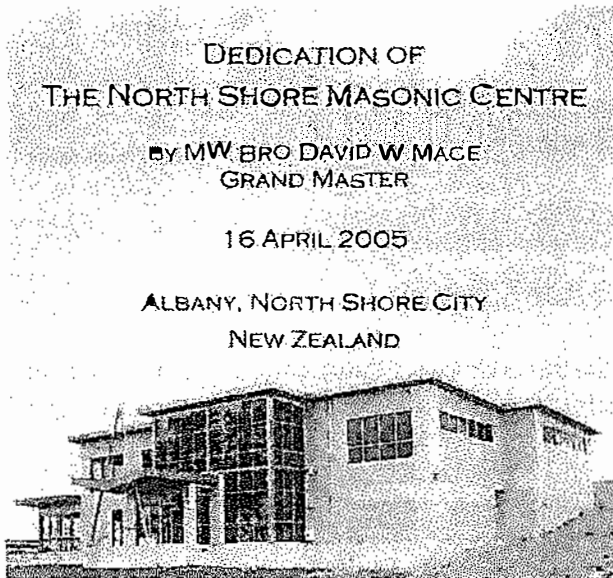
Bro. Stan Longenecker has forwarded a copy of the Annual George Washington Birthday cover for our viewing. Shown here, it is available from him at 930 Wood St., Mount Joy, PA 17552 for the cost of \$2.00 plus a #10 SASE. He also sent along an article from the Mount Vernon Voice of Feb. 22 picturing the cancel and the Postmistress of the Mount Vernon Post Office.



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### NEW ZEALAND

Bro. Vic Fabian is offering a lovely cover commemorating the Dedication of the North Shore Masonic Centre in Albany, North Shore City, New Zealand. The cost is \$5.00, postpaid, from Bro. Vic at 8 Northgate Ave., Glenfield, Auckland 1309, New Zealand.



## COUNT MICHAÏL MICHAÏLOVITSJ SPERANSKY

Born January 12, 1772, in Tsjerkoetino, Gouv. Vladimir in Russia, Michail M. Speransky was the son of a priest in a small village. He was appointed as a civil servant and soon became the most important consultant of Bro. Tsar Alexander I. He strove to improve the condition of the state finances and in doing so introduced an income tax on the nobility. After succeeding in this reform of the finances, he reorganized the form of the government creating new laws and a Constitution patterned after the French model. In 1806 he accompanied Alexander I to a conference with Napoleon Bonaparte in Erfurt, Prussia. Later, Napoleon stated that Speransky was the only person in Russia with a cool, great mind.

His actions caused a lot of commotion in the nobility and among the officials and just before Napoleon invaded Russia, Speransky was accused of making secret arrangements with France. He was banished to Nisjin Novgorod by Alexander in 1812. In 1816 he returned to Russia and was appointed governor of Penza and served as governor of Siberia from 1819 to 1821. He returned to St. Petersburg in 1821 but found he could no longer influence the Tsar. During the reign of Nicholas I, he was responsible for the definitive version of the Russian Laws developed in 1833. He died in St. Petersburg on February 23, 1839.

Bro. Speransky was initiated in 1809 in Lodge Poolster (Fessler's Lodge) in a secret meeting, probably initiated by the intercession of Tsar Alexander I. He was a member of this Lodge from 1809 to 1810 and also belonged to the Lodge "Volk van God". Later he was a member of a governmental commission to oversee the political stature of all Masonic Lodges in Russia. He was also a member of the commission for Dekabrist's affairs and in the Commission "the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1826".



Michail Speransky is shown talking about the Constitution with Tsar Alexander I on a stamp issued by Russia in 2002 to note the history of Russia,

With thanks to the writers and editors of De Verlichte Loep

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## HEINRICH HOFFMAN

In the article on Heinrich Hoffman included in the previous Newsletter, I left out what is probably the most important part – his Masonic affiliation. This oversight was pointed out by several readers – my apologies.

Bro. Hoffman was initiated in 1836 in the Lodge "Zur Einigkeit" in Frankfurt, Germany.

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## MILTON CONRAD SCHMIDT

Bro. Peter Westbere informed us that Milt Schmidt was pictured on one of the hockey player stamps issued by Canada in 2004. He played for and was associated with the Boston Bruins from 1936 to 1973 being elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1961. He was born in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, on March 5, 1918. He is presently living in Massachusetts and Bro. Westbere was able to secure his autograph on a FDC of the hockey stamp which pictures him.



Bro. Schmidt received his degrees in 1954 in Fraternity Lodge which later merged with Fuller Lodge. (Unfortunately, I have not been able to determine the town/city in which this Lodge was located – it is not listed in the book of current Lodges.) He was initiated on May 21, passed on June 18 and raised on September 10 – all in 1954. He demitted from the Fraternity on August 31, 1987.

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## OSCAR PETERSON

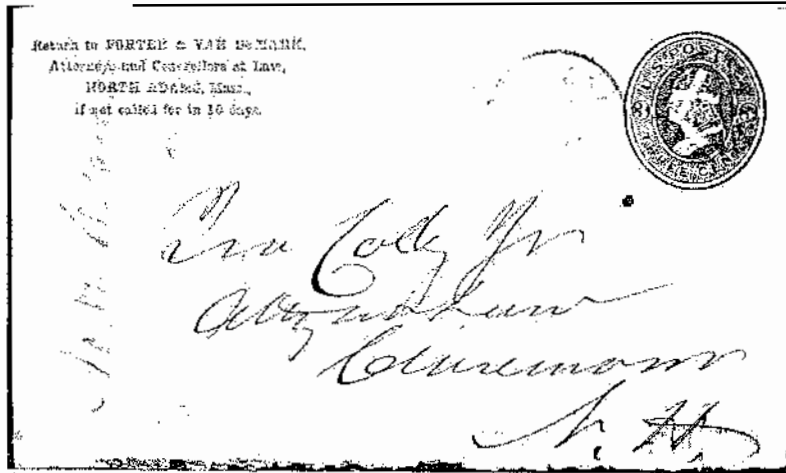
While we are discussing Canadian stamps, we must note that Bro. Norman Lincoln has pointed out that Canada will be honoring Bro. Oscar Emmanuel Peterson on his birthday – August 25. Born in Montréal, Québec, Canada in 1925 he started studying piano at the age of five. In 1945 he began his recording career with RCA Victor; his idol was Art Tatum. He made more than 80 albums. In 1947 he formed a trio and began weekly radio broadcasts. Jazz promoter Norman Granz heard him in 1949, brought him to Carnegie Hall and made him part of the “Jazz at the Philharmonic” series. In 1952 Barney Kessell, guitar, and Ray Brown, bass, joined him for a memorable trio. Herb Ellis replaced Kessell and drummer Ed Thigpen replaced Ellis. In 1968 Peterson began a series of solo piano recordings. He received seven Grammy awards between 1974 and 1991. He received Canada’s highest award: Companion of the Order of Canada and was considered the greatest living jazz pianist. His phenomenal technique was affected by a stroke he suffered in 1993. He was named to the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame in 1995.

The Canadian Encyclopedia states that he is a Mason. Can any of our Canadian members help fill in his Masonic biography?

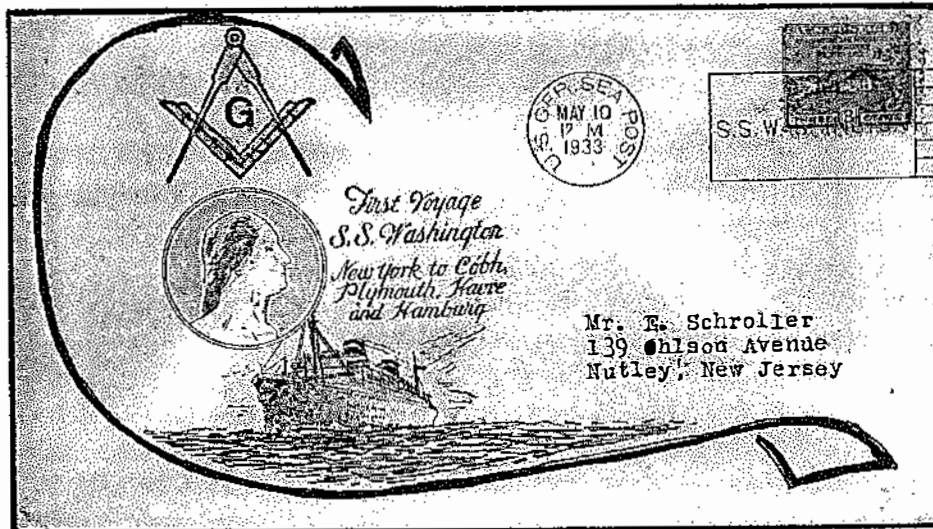
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## INTERESTING BOURSE ACQUISITIONS

New Masonic acquisitions are getting harder and harder to find at stamp shows – at least at reasonable prices. Last weekend I stopped in at the Philatelic Show 2005 held in Boxborough, MA and “got lucky”. After viewing a hand drawn and hand colored Civil War Patriotic Cover which included the Masonic emblem in the design available for \$400 and a copy of Scott 113 with a nice Masonic Cancel, off cover, available for \$200, I stopped at a booth to browse through a box of Massachusetts and Maine covers. The search was rewarded with this North Adams, MA cover with a lovely Masonic cork cancel for the “downto-earth” price of \$7.50. I had asked the dealer if he had any Masonic material and he looked at me as if I had three heads. I almost felt guilty.



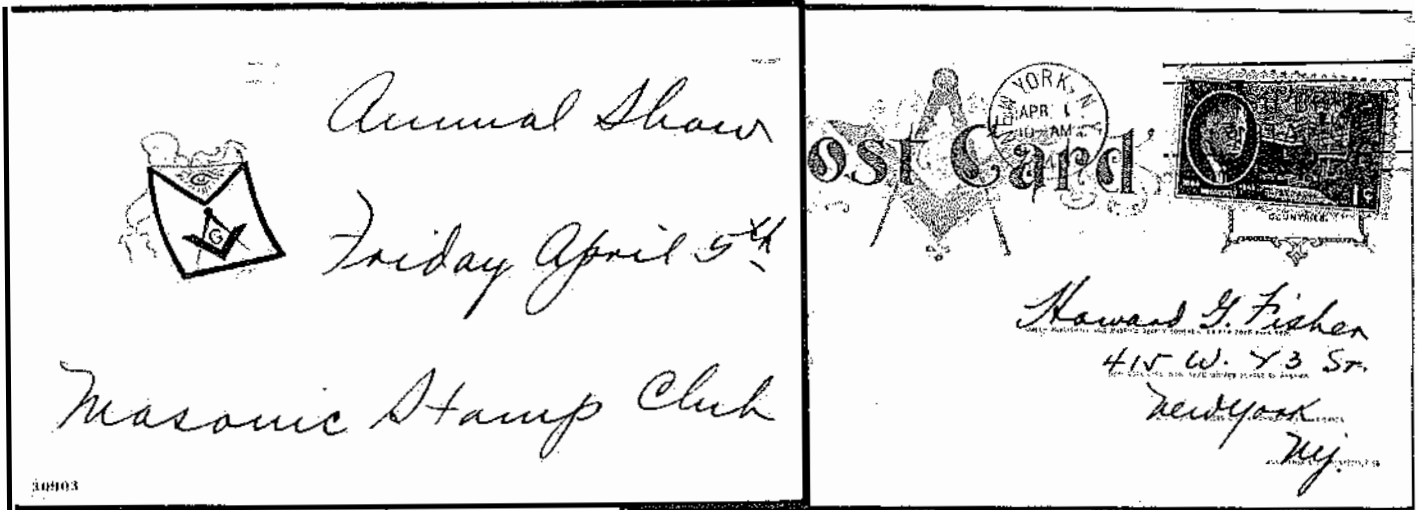
This hand done First Voyage cover for the SS Washington is beautiful and only cost \$15.



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One of our members has commented that it would be helpful if the names of dealers who specialized in our material were listed from time to time. Unfortunately, I am not aware of any dealers who specialize in Masonic material. I have a large stock of “duplicate” Masonic Cacheted Covers available for sale and would gladly provide a copy of my price lists upon request. I also try to stock “Pure” Masonic stamps and some stamps which tie to Masonic Philately. If you have a want list, send it along. Also let me know of any other dealers in Masonics – I will gladly pass them on to all the members.

Coverman, as always, had a partial drawer of "Masonics" at Philatelic Show 2005. This year's search through that drawer turned up this interesting card advertising the Masonic Stamp Club of New York Annual Show of 1946.



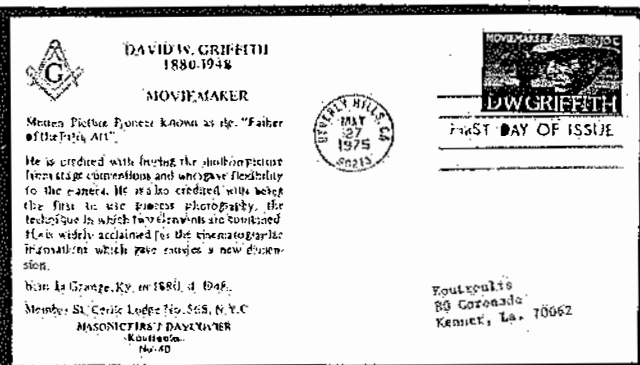
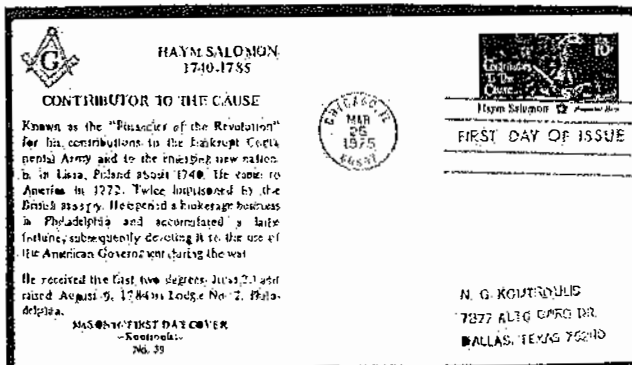
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### NICK KOUTROULIS' LAST TWO COVERS

When Bro. Nick Koutroulis closed out his tenure as Editor of "The Masonic Stamp Collector" in 1975, his last few issues were sporadically spaced. - 4/2/74, 7/30/74, 1/23/75 and 2/15/75. He stated in the 1/23/75 issue, Vol. 7, No. 1, that the last Masonic cover issued was No. 38 honoring Skylab and Bro. Paul Weitz. He also stated that there may be two or three more. This was the last issue and he later stated in a letter to me that his business pressures and a move from Louisiana to Texas forced him to drop the MSU activities.

I tried several times to contact Bro. Nick after that date, without success. A few years later, I saw an article in Linn's which stated that he had served as a judge at the annual ATA convention. The letter prompted by that news was answered and he explained about the business pressures and the move. He also sent along a copy of his cover No. 39 and explained that it had not been sold or distributed because all the MSU material got lost or misplaced during the move to Texas.

Recently, T. L. Qualls of The Woodlands, TX, has been offering a lot of Nick's MSU Cover material on eBay. I contacted him and explained my interest and he informed me that he had acquired a portion of Nick's stock at a Regency auction. More recently, he has been offering copies of Nick's covers #39 and #40 - for Haym Salomon and David W. Griffith - created in March and May 1975. He states that these were not commonly available - confirming what one can derive from the Newsletters. I was able to procure a few sets of these two covers and would be willing to pass them on at a cost of \$4.00 each.



## ANTONIO VINCENTE FELIPPE CELESTINO

Antonio Celestino was born September 12, 1894 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. When he was eight years old he had already started on an artistic career. He had an extraordinary beautiful voice and often sang in churches and clubs as part of national feasts and celebrations. He did not seek payment for these appearances but did receive many compliments, free refreshments and lots of applause, His idol was Enrico Caruso and his repertoire included many opera roles as well as waltzes and sacred music.

He turned professional at the age of 20 in the Sao Jose Theater where he sang his famous song "Flor do mal" (Flower of the evil). This song was recorded in 1916 and several thousand copies were made – but all he received was 10,000 reis. He also appeared in movies, composing his own songs for those appearances as well. He was invited to go to Europe to sing but he never wanted to leave his beloved Brazil. He sang for 65 years and was called "The proud of Brazil". His last performance was in the afternoon of August 23, 1968 in Sao Paulo in front of 200 people. That evening he died and his last words were "Please, don't let me die".

Bro. Celestino was featured on a Masonic First Day Cover for the Brazilian stamp issued on September 12, 1994 to honor his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Unfortunately, no details on his Masonic membership are offered. Perhaps our Brazilian Brethren can help us with this information.



### *Filatelia Maçônica*

**Centenário do Nascimento do Ir. Vicente Celestino – Rio de Janeiro - 12.09.1994**

-thank you, Bro. Henk Godthelp

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NEW MEMBERS NEEDED – ANY RECOMMENDATIONS?



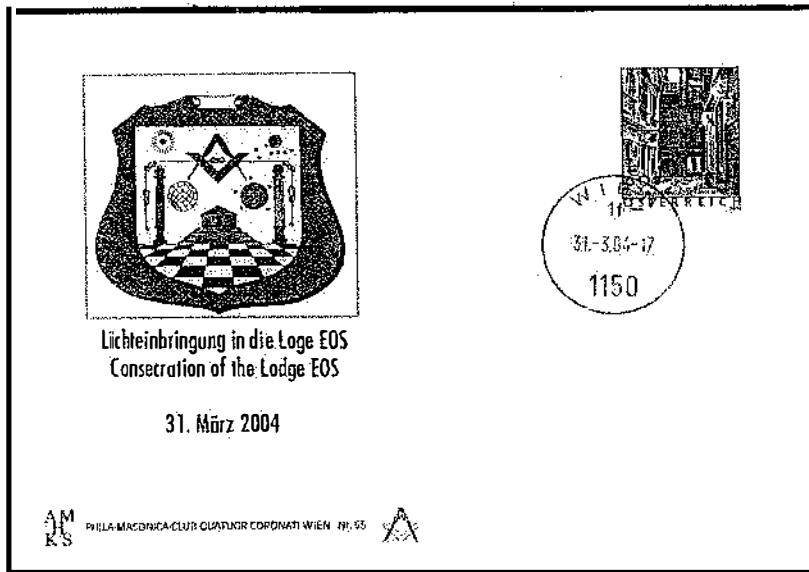
## USPS MARINES

Our President, Bro. Gene Ficks, has provided a good illustration of the block of four US Marines scheduled for release May 21. He states that we know that John A. Lejeune was a Mason, Lewis R. <sup>Butler</sup> might have been, John Basilone definitely was not and he doesn't know about Daniel J. Daly. Can any member help on the questionable or unknown?



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## AUSTRIAN MASONIC COVER



Another very well done Masonic Cacheted Cover created by Bro. Dr. Herbert Schmid-Korlath, President of the Phila Masonica Club. Information on its purchase can be obtained from him at Hackenberggasse 29/33/3; a-1190 Wien; Austria.

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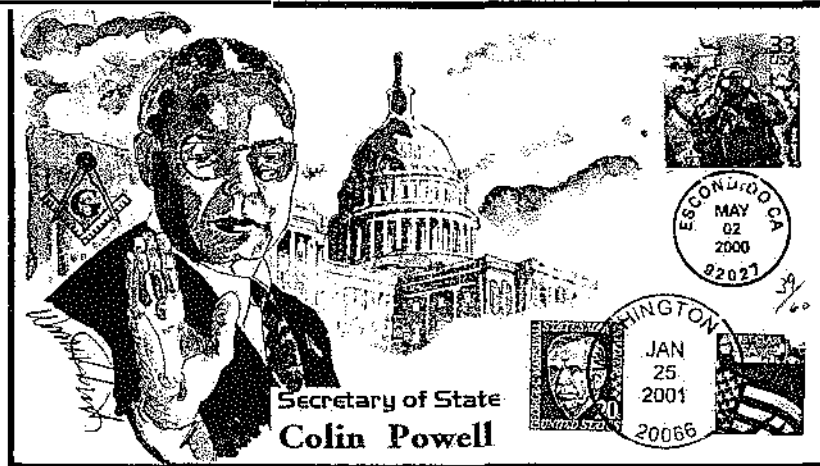
## PABLO PICASSO

Following the article on Pablo Picasso in the previous Newsletter, Bro. Norman Lincoln offers the information that Picasso was a Martinist, not a Freemason. His friend and fellow artist Juan Gris was initiated in Voltaire Lodge, Paris, in 1923.

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## COLIN POWELL

In the previous issue, I listed a new issue which pictured Colin Powell. This fact elicited some questions and comments from the members. I offer here the basis on which I have included him. I realize that Wild Horse Cachets may not be an authority on Masonic membership but someone felt strong enough to include him. I believe that I also have read that he was a Prince Hall Mason but I cannot recall the source. Any help from the members – one way or the other?



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### ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

This past year we have been able to "hold our own", in fact, we grew a bit. Hopefully I will be able to concentrate on awareness this next year and bolster our membership a bit.

Balance on April 1, 2004		\$3199.51
Income	Dues	\$1764.00
	Donations	\$ 16.60
	Interest	\$ 13.48
	Total Income	<u>\$1794.08</u>
Subtotal		\$4993.59
Expenses	Misc. Postage	\$ 12.70
	Newsletter Printing	\$ 629.90
	Newsletter Mailing	\$ 879.48
	Total Expenses	<u>\$1522.08</u>
Balance on March 31, 2005		\$3471.51

The monies still remain in the account set up by Bro. Otto in Cincinnati, OH but have been converted to the MSU/R. A. Domingue. The bank name has changed from Provident to National City. Nothing stays constant these days.

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### INTRODUCE A FELLOW MASON TO MASONIC PHILATELY

## NEW ISSUES

The following issues of a Masonic nature were reported in the May and June Scott Stamp Monthly issues:

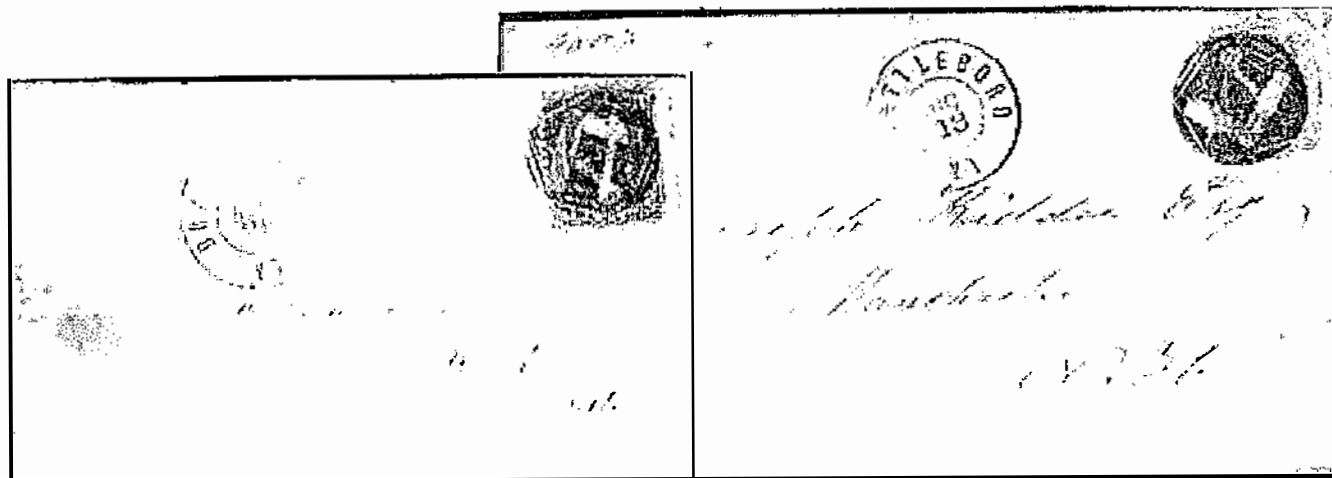
Algeria – 6/14/04 – 1308 – Blood Donation Day  
Bulgaria – 9/20/004 – 4323 – 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Masons in Bulgaria  
Grenada – 9/7/04 – 3465 – Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial  
Grenada – 2004 – 3475 – Ronald Reagan and Colin Powell  
Guyana – 9/27/04 – 3861d – D-Day – Winston Churchill  
                  - 3864d – D-Day – Gen. Hap Arnold  
Marshall Islands – 11/22/04 – 845 - Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial  
Marshall Islands – 1/20/05 – 847 – U.S. Presidents (45 values)  
Nicaragua – 6/22/04 – 2425 – Ruben Dario  
Romania – 12/8/004 – 4688 – Prince Dimitrie Cantemir, Writer and Masonic Emblem

Also – from Linn's

2004 – Equatorial Guinea – Anniversaries, 3 se-tenant stamps including Giuseppe Verdi  
11/29/04 – Gambia – D-Day, pane of 4 se-tenant stamps includes Adm. Ernest J. King  
1/14/05 – Tuvalu – D-Day, pane of 4 stamps including Gen. George C. Marshall  
1/20/05 – Tristan da Cunha – Battle of Trafalgar 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 6 values plus a S/S – includes Adm. Nelson  
1/26/05 – Spain – Civic values, 2 stamps including a heart  
2/1/05 – Isle of Man - Battle of Trafalgar 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 6 values plus a S/S – includes Adm. Nelson  
2/3/05 – Guernsey – Memories of World War II, 5 values including Winston Churchill  
3/29/05 – Nauru - Battle of Trafalgar 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 6 values plus a S/S – includes Adm. Nelson  
3/29/05 – Kiribati - Battle of Trafalgar 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 6 values plus a S/S – includes Adm. Nelson  
4/21/04 – Kiribati - World War II, pane of 10 stamps plus a S/S, includes Winston Churchill  
4/29/05 – Marshall Islands - Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial, 3 se-tenant stamps.

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## A COUPLE OF MASONIC CANCEL COVERS AUCTIONED RECENTLY



## HERMAN WILLEM DAENDELS

Herman Daendels was born in 1762 in Hattem, Netherlands, son of the magistrate of that city. He went to Latin School in Deventer and studied Law at the High School (University) in Harderwijk. He was banished from the country in 1786 because of his resistance to the Stadtholder, William V. He married and went to French Flanders where he became an arms manufacturer. He became a lieutenant colonel in the foreign legion and went with Pichegru and the French Army to Holland to help establish the Batavian Republic. He became Commander in Chief of the Batavian Army and tried to get Holland a top rank in World politics. He was unsuccessful and retired to try to build a charitable institution at his county seat "De Dellen" near Heerde, Holland.

King Louis Napoleon made him governor-general of the Dutch East Indies. He served like a dictator and was instructed to build the Jahn Pos, the most important East-West connection at Java (the entire population worked there as convicts). In the Indies, all the Lodges were closed and he was afraid of a plot against him. After some time he returned to Europe and followed Napoleon to Russia. He died of yellow fever on May 2, 1818 at St. George d'Elmina, Ghana.

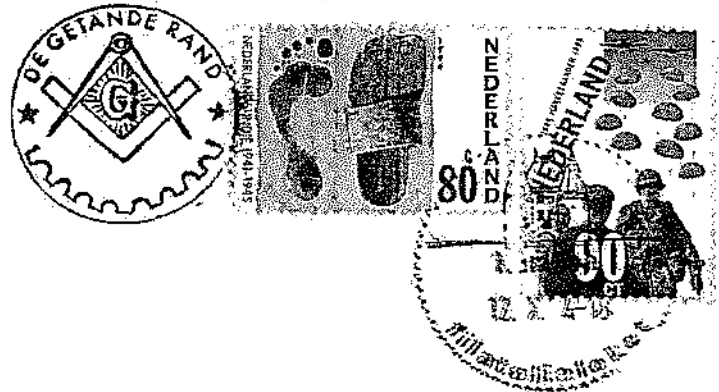
Bro. Daendels was initiated in Lodge Le Profond Silence in Kampen on October 7, 1785. There have been no stamps issued yet picturing Bro. Daendels but he was honored by a cover published by "De Getande Rand".

- Thanks again, Bro. Godthelp

Br .: H.W. Daendels



1762 - 1818



MAÇONNIËKE FILATELISTISCHE STUDIEGROEP "DE GETANDE RAND" Nr. 29

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