

Journal of the

FREEMASON MASONIC STUDY UNIT









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

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Whole No. 175

FRANTISEK JOSEF von GERSTNER

The Czech Republic issued a stamp on February 22, 2006, to mark the 250th birth anniversary of Franz Gerstner. He had been previously honored by Czechoslovakia in 1957 by a stamp which depicted the School of Engineering in Prague – Scott 808.



Born in Kommotau, Bohemia on February 23, 1756, he was educated by the Jesuits in his home town, and became particularly interested in mechanics and mathematics. He continued his studies in Prague while supporting himself by playing the organ at the St. Bartholomew Hospice. In 1778 he qualified as an engineer, went to Vienna to study astronomy in 1781, was appointed to the Prague observatory in 1784 and in 1789 became professor of mathematics and mechanics in Prague. He was appointed in 1785 to a commission in Vienna for the reform of higher education in Austria. By 1798 he was lecturing on natural sciences, physics and mathematics and in 1806 became director of the newly founded Polytechnic Institute of Prague, being one of the founders. The Institute at this University which is currently dedicated to artificial intelligence and cybernetics research bears the name "Gerstner Laboratory".

His most important books were "Theory of Waves" (1804) and "Handbook of Mechanics" (1831). He specialized in hydrodynamics and river transportation and helped build the first iron works and first steam engine in the country. In 1807 he suggested a horse-drawn railway between Ceske Budojovice and Linz - an effort accomplished between 1827 and 1829 by his son Frantisek Antonin Gerstner. He served as an imperial consultant for public works for the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was knighted in 1811. By 1828 his health was deteriorating and he died in Vienna on June 25, 1832.

Bro. Gerstner was a member of the Lodge "Wahrheit und Einigkeit zu den Drei Gekronen Saulen" (unity and Truth by the 3 Columns) in Prague.

-With thanks to the Editor of the Masonic Philatelic Club (of GB) Magazine

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

112. Dr. Robert D. Vrzal, 4340 Camden Ave., Omaha, NE 68111

103. Allen L. Formby, 105 Cloud Rest Court, Hot Springs, AR 71901

118. James D. Parmiter, 242 Brock Rd., Springfield, PA 19064

119. Th. J. de Gier, Jan van Eijcklaan 232, 3723 BC Bilthoven, The Netherlands

120. H. Hacken, Waalreseweg 79, 5554 HB Vlakenswaard, The Netherlands

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None (that we are aware of)

A recent letter from Bro. James Hogg of Fort Myers, FL relates some sad experiences he is having with his parents following a serious auto accident and unrelated illnesses. These events have seriously curtailed his stamp collecting activities. Bro. Jim has generated Masonic Cacheted covers in the past and recalled that he designed a cachet for the Battle of Cowpens Postal Card released on Jan. 17, 1981. It was printed for him by Bro. Richard Needham (Mahdeen Covers). We wish him the best in handling and surmounting his problems.

There was a recent article in Linn's by George Griffenhagen, Editor of the ATA *Topical Time*, which stated that there were 555 frames of thematic exhibits at Washington 2006. He proceeded to identify each topic which was displayed and, unfortunately, Masonic Philately was not included. We missed an excellent opportunity for Masonic Awareness as well as publicity for our Unit. The ATA booth did have copies of our Newsletters for distribution and membership applications but I have not been able to tie any direct results to that offering.

I recently received a letter from a member who noted that he read that the Unit has slide programs and a speaker's bureau. I am not sure where this claim has been documented but I do know that several of us have developed and have given presentations on our topical hobby in the past. The questionnaire sent out with the previous Newsletter was designed to identify those who have, can and will perform such actions.

So far, about 28% of the members have responded to the questionnaire. Of these, 82% are active collectors and 75% collect worldwide related philately. 92% collect stamps, 72% First Day Covers and 42% Post Cards. 87% collect the pure Masonic issues and Masonic Symbols on stamps, 65% collect stamps picturing Masons and 42% like the group scenes. 42% have or will write articles, 28% have or will give talks and 42% would like to correspond with fellow members. 7% have indicated a desire to establish a stamp exchange within the unit. As soon as I get a few more returns, I will attempt to translate this data into a logical presentation and suggest some follow-up actions. Thanks to those who have sent in their completed questionnaire and a request to those who have not yet done so to please complete them and mail them back to me.

A NON-MEMBER SHOWS APPRECIATION

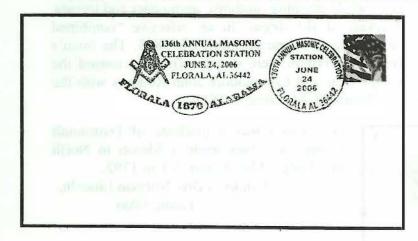
Bro. Jim Dougherty of Austin TX has sent along this picture of his boy cat, Bunny, exhibiting one of his antics. He often plops down by Jim's computer to "help". This particular time he found an interesting article in The Philatelic Freemason. Perhaps he had insight into his ancestors and had learned that a far distant relative had sailed with Bro. Palmer and wanted to learn more.



RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION ON CATHOLICS AND FREEMASONRY

Bro. Emiel Crab has provided his insight into the attitude of the present Pope to Freemasonry:

"In view of the dominant position of the Catholic Church in Belgium I can confirm that the position of the Vatican did not change. A few years ago I found on the internet a declaration of Cardinal Ratzinger, today Pope Benedict, in which he was very clear that membership of Freemasonry was not allowed for Catholics. Perhaps this position also helps to understand the position of the so-called 'irregular Lodges' in countries dominated by the Catholic Church, we simply do not have another choice in these countries. Perhaps the freedom of religion as declared in the so-called regular Masonry one day could include the freedom of choice of not belonging to a religion, as this is in fact the only 'important' difference between regularity and irregularity."



Shown here is the special USPS cancel approved for use for the 136th Annual St. John's Day Masonic Celebration in Florala, Alabama. It was cited in Linn's Postmark Pursuits

INTERESTING 2/22 COVER FROM BRO. STAN



Bro. Stan Longenecker has provided a copy of this cover from his 2/22 collection which was mailed from Madison Square Station, NYC to Washington, DC – posted and received the same day. The Corner Card is for the American Lyceum Circle – part of a nationwide organization founded in 1826 for "mutual instruction in the sciences and in useful knowledge generally". It was addressed to Mary Desha, a Lexington, KY native who became a teacher in Alaska and went on to be one of the founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her grandfather, Joseph Desha (1768-1842), was a Major General, Governor of Kentucky from 1824-28, received his degrees in St. John's Lodge No. 11, Flemingsburgh, KY in 1806 and demitted to Lodge No. 74 in KY in 1812.

EATON, OHIO, BICENTENNIAL CANCEL

The town of Eaton, Ohio, was founded by William Bruce (1762-1832) who was not a Mason but his son was a member of Bolivar Lodge No. 82 Chartered in 1826. The town was named for William Eaton although it is unlikely that he ever knew about such action.

William Eaton was born in Woodstock, CT, joined the Army at an early age and served until April 1783 when he was appointed US Consul at Tunis. Because of his experience in the North African region, he was appointed Navy agent for the Barbary Regencies on May 26, 1804. He found the deposed leader of Tripoli, Hamet Karamanli, and created an alliance with him. From there he established a group of mercenaries to begin the takeover of Tripoli starting with Derne. He managed to trek with a small detachment of Marines and his mercenary force over 500 miles while stopping mutinies, arguments and threats. Supported at sea by Isaac Hull, Captain of the *Argus*, in an effective "combined operation", Eaton led the attack in the battle of Derne on April 27, 1805. The town's capture and the threat of further advance on Tripoli were strong influences toward the peace negotiated in June 1805 by Tobias Lear and Commodore John Rodgers with the Pasha of Tripoli. General Eaton died in Brimfield, MA June 1, 1811.



Bro. Eaton was a graduate of Dartmouth College and was made a Mason in North Star Lodge, Manchester, VT in 1792.

- Thanks to Bro. Norman Lincoln, Eaton, Ohio

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND POST CARDS

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has issued a set of seven color postcards from a collection of original paintings in Freemason's Hall, Edinburgh. Details of the source and cost of the postcards are provided at the end of the following notes relevant to each which it is hoped will in some measure assist in collector's "write ups".

William St. Clair of Roslin (1700 – 1778) First Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1736 – 1737.

Initiated into Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No. 2 in May 1736. On the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736, William St. Clair signed away the hereditary rights of the St. Clairs of Roslin as Grand Master Masons of Scotland in favour of an elective office. He was Captain of the St. Andrews and Leith Golf Clubs.

John Murray, 4th Duke of Atholl Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1778 – 1780.

On 25th February 1775, aged 19 he was Initiated, Passed, Raised and Installed as Master of Grand Masters Lodge No. 1, England. Four months later on 25 June 1775 he was installed as Grand Master of England which office he held from 1775 to 1781 and 1791 – 1813.



Francis Charteris, Lord Elcho (1749 – 1808) Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1786 – 1788

Master of Lodge St. John, No. 57, Haddington in 1780. He was an affiliate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No. 2.



William Inglis of Middleton, W.S., Substitute Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1805 – 1828.

Writer to the Signet and Law Agent in Scotland. Played a prominent part in the negotiations under which the Lodge of Kilwinning returned to the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1807. Bro. Inglis was appointed to represent the Lodge of Kilwinning at Grand Lodge.



Installation as Grand Master of the Religious and Military Order of The Temple of the Rt. Hon. George Augustus Frederick John Murray, 2nd Lord Glenlyon, afterwards 6th Duke of Atholl in the Music Hall George Street, Edinburgh on 11th March 1846.

Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1843 – 1864 Initiated in Dunkeld lodge No. 14, November 1841. First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. Grand Master of the Order of The Temple.

John George Stewart-Murray, Marquis Of Tullibardine, 8th Duke of Atholl K.T.

Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1909 – 1913 Initiated in Dunkeld Lodge No. 14 on 24 October 1892 Exalted in Royal Arch Chapter No. 40 and joined the Order of The Temple in 1920.







Edward James Bruce (1881 – 1966) 10th Earl of Elgin and 14th Earl of Kincardine K.T.

Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1921 – 1924.

Deputy Grand Master and Governor of The Royal Order of Scotland 1925 – 1934.

Chairman of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

The postcards detailed above come in a protective packet fronted with a card bearing miniatures of the above postcards. The set of postcards are available from;

The Grand Secretary; The Grand Lodge of Scotland; Freemason's Hall;

96, George Street; Edinburgh; EH2 3DH Scotland.

The cost including postage in the U.K. is £3 per set. For overseas purchases the cost is £5 per set including postage. Please remit in U.K. £ sterling only.

-Article Provided by Bro. Jack Turpie, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Thanks to the Magazine of the Masonic Philatelic Club for the illustrations (although I think one has been duplicated by error).

GUATEMALAN PRESIDENTS WHO WERE MASONS

Our Unit President, Bro. Gene Fricks, has forwarded some pages from EL QUETZAL which identify some of the early Presidents of Guatemala. One of them, Bro. Jose Maria Orellana, we know was a Freemason. The others, from the descriptions of their policies, might well have been – but further research is required to dig out the information on their membership and affiliation. Can anyone help??? Bro. Orellana was initiated in the Lodge "Concordia" No. 6, Guatemala City.



General Jose Maria Orellana (1872-1926) was the 6th Guatemalan president shown on a stamp – Scott No. 238, issued in 1929. He took over the presidency after overthrowing don Carlos Herrera on December 5, 1921 and was confirmed by an election on February 22, 1922. Besides improvements to roads and railroads, his greatest title to fame was the monetary and banking reform to replace the devalued peso by the Quetzal which remained on a par with the US dollar for 50 years. His administration was not exempt from discontent, with two newspapers closed down and student demonstrations (Huelga de Dolores). While in office and visiting Antigua, angina pectoris took his life unexpectedly on September 26, 1926.

Other Presidents cited were don Jose Cecilio del Valle, Miguel Garcia Granados, Justo Rufino Barrios, Jose Maria Reina Barrios, Manuel Estrada Cabrera, Jorge Ubico Castaneda, Carlos Castillo Armas, Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro and Carlos Manuel Arana.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - NETHERLANDS FREEMASONS

Bro. Regoor has provided some additional information on a couple of the Masons pictured on the covers published by "De Maconnieke Academie".

Bro. Henk Zeevalking – For many years he served as the professional Secretary of the Dutch Grand Lodge and later was Secretary of State for the Dutch Government. He died on February 23, 2005.

Adriaan van der Hoop – Born in Amsterdam in 1778, he became a partner in the Amsterdam banking company of Hope & Co. in 1815 and became a self-made man and millionaire. The contacts he developed with the tsars of Russia gave him a central role in the running of the bank. He was host to both Alexander I and Alexander II on their official tours to Holland in 1814 and 1839, respectively. He was also on excellent terms with the Dutch royal family assisting both King Wilhelm I and his son, Wilhelm II in their business affairs. He held various political offices including that of Amsterdam city councillor and member of the Upper House of the States General or Dutch Parliament. He developed a magnificent collection of paintings by world-famous masters and bequeathed it upon his death in 1854 to the Amsterdam Historical Museum and the Rijksmuseum; at that time his collection amounted to more than 250 paintings. He was a member of the Amsterdam Lodge "Wilhelm Frederick".

KARLHEINZ BOHM



On March 30, 2006 Austria issued a stamp to mark the 25th anniversary of the charity "Menschen fur Menschen" (People for People) founded by Bro. Karlheinz Bohm. He is a member of the Lodge "Zur Kette" (the chain) No. 430 in the Orient of Munich. The term "Orient" is a German Masonic term designating the town/city/location of the Lodge. He was initiated into the craft on his 46th birthday, March 16, 1974 and was raised on March 13 1978.

Bro. Bohm was born in Darmstadt in 1928. The son of the conductor, Prof. Dr. Karl Bohm, his brief studies were interrupted by the call of the theatre. In 1948 he was appointed assistant director in Vienna, making his debut at the National Theatre in 1949 followed by appearances on a variety of stages. His breakthrough came with the Sissi trilogy by Ernest Marischka (1955-57). As Kaiser Franz Joseph at the side of Romy Schneider, he conquered the hearts of a million fans. Having filled numerous film roles, he returned to the theatre again in 1976.

Deeply moved by the plight of the people in the refugee camps of Ethiopia, Bro. Bohm founded Menschen fur Menschen aid organization in Germany on Nov. 13, 1981 and has worked for it in an honorary capacity ever since, spending several months a year living in the most primitive condition in Ethiopia and using the rest of the year for media events and lectures to draw public attention to his foundation's activities. He is helped by his fourth wife, Almaz, an Ethiopian who manages the aid operation that has been transformed into a foundation. Around 220 million Euro has so far been raised by the organization.

In 1981, Karlheinz bet on a German TV show that "not one in three viewers would donate one German Mark, one Swiss Franc or seven Austrian Schilling for the people of the Sahel Zone". He lost the bet and his life took a decisive new turn. After the show, with DM 1.2 million in his pocket he flew to Ethiopia and the country would not let him go. His commitment to this country has given him a new and fulfilling field of activity. The foundation has pursued a large number of projects in seven regions of Ethiopia such as the construction of wells and ecological agriculture, training and education programs, the construction of schools – the tenth school was opened in 2005 – and the development of the health system. To date, three hospitals have been built and most recently Karlheinz has been campaigning against female circumcision. He was awarded the World Social Award in 2002 presented by Michael Gorbachev.

- Article generously provided by the Masonic Philatelic Club (of GB)

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

President

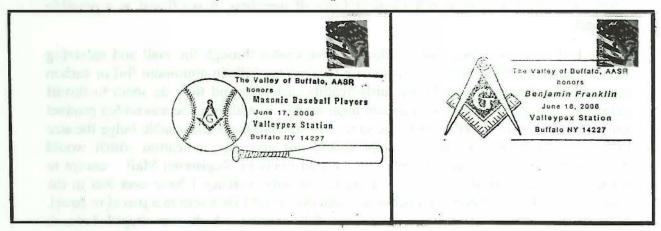
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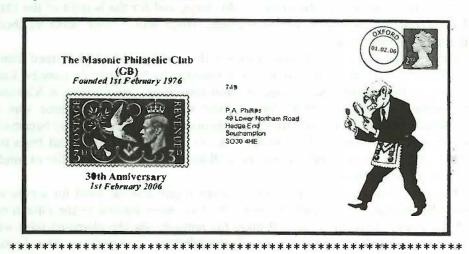
MASONIC CANCELLATIONS FROM BUFFALO

The Valley of Buffalo sponsored two special USPS cancellations for use during the local stamp show, VALLEYPEX, held in Buffalo, NY on June 17-18, 2006. Shown here, they honor Masonic Baseball Players and Bro. Benjamin Franklin.



COVER FOR MASONIC FILATELIC CLUB 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Bro. Maurice Beazley has provided a few copies of the cover prepared by The Masonic Philatelic Club (GB) on February 1, 2006, to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Club with the request to find them some good homes. First come, first serve – please contact me if you are interested in one.



PHILATELY - HOBBY OR INVESTMENT

Bro. Lewis Janzow authored an article with this title which appeared in the April 2003 issue of the *U. S. Stamp News*. Perhaps I will find room to present it in a future Newsletter but if anyone desires a copy now, please ask. It deals honestly with the topic and presents outlooks which most of us veteran collectors already know.

INTERNATIONAL PAYMENT

A couple of our members have questioned as to the best way to pay for stamps or covers ordered from out of country individuals, clubs or dealers. I have developed an explanation of the approach which I use — I am sure it would not be endorsed by the USPS and may not meet with agreement from all members. It is offered as a possible approach.

I have had very good luck with sending US banknotes through the mail and receiving them in payment from others. We take care to wrap the bills in aluminum foil or carbon paper. Both of those materials are fairly readily available and they do seem to thwart detection by those who wish to intercept legal tender. In addition, the assembled product should be enclosed in a letter about the same size so there is no discernable bulge the size of a bill. The outside of the envelope should not give any indication which would distinguish it. For that reason I prefer not to send items by Registered Mail – except to South America where that method is a must. The only currency I have ever lost in the mail was a \$50 US bill that was enclosed in one of several FDCs sent in a parcel to Israel. I made the mistake of insuring it for the full amount which was stupid because reimbursement of any "lost" Registered international mail is limited to about \$35.00. Actually, I created a red flag to someone to purloin the package.

MASONIC ORIGIN FOR PHILATELY?

In the issue of the Weekly of August 31st, 1907, I note an article treating of the origin of the word "Philately," in which the writer reaches the conclusion that all writers have, that have come under my observation, that it is derived from two Greek words meaning "loving or fond of" and "tax". I have reached other conclusions as to the origin of this term, and for the benefit of the class who term themselves philatelists, will give a brief account, which will, I hope serve to shed some additional light upon the mooted question.

There was found in the year 1773, at Paris, a society the members of which termed themselves "Philalethes or Seekers of Truth." This Society was founded by Savalette de Langes, keeper of the Royal Treasury, within the Masonic Lodge of Amis Reunis as a side degree in Masoniy. The word literally means "Friends of Truth" but in their work the highest degree was termed "Philalethes or Searchers after Truth" and from the designation of this degree they became known as "Philalethes or Seekers of Truth." This Society had an eventful existence, and from the high rank and celebrity of many of its members became well known to the rank and file of intellectual life in Paris a century ago and less.

When the business of searching for postal tax stamps began and the need for a new word to designate those who indulged in the pastime was felt, what more natural to the citizen of Paris who first used the words "Philatelist" to call upon his memory for the elements with which to compose it? Remembering the famous society of "Philatelise" as searchers after Truth, by a slight variation he had it exact — "Philatelist," a searcher after that which taxes, in other words, a Stamp Collector. I do not think there is any reasonable doubt but the word is thus derived.

 Article written by H.B. Phillips which appeared in the Sept. 9, 1907 issue of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News - Thanks to Bro. Gene Fricks for this input.

The first mention of the term "Philately" in print occurred by Arthur Maury in his Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste, November 15, 1864.

MASONIC NATIONAL ANTHEM?

In 1922 songwriters Gilbert Dodge, Ed G. Nelson and Harry Pease wrote "For every Boy Who's On the Level There's a Girl Who's On the Square". They also wrote "Peggy O'Neill". Eddie Nelson appeared in four movie shorts and made piano rolls from 1917. He was a friend of Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake (both Prince Hall Masons). All together his name appears in over 84 songs; Pease had over 56 songs. They wrote "The Pal That I Loved Stole the Gal That I Loved" for the musical 'Grab Bag' in 1924 and "When a Black Man's Blue" for 'Brown Buddies' in 1930. Nelson was active until 1956 writing such Nashville hits as "Setting the Woods On Fire" with Fred Rose.

Although the titles of some of these songs relate to Masonic allegories, no evidence can be found that either songwriter was a Mason.

- Article contributed by Bro. Norman Lincoln, Eaton, OH

MASONIC CHIEF JUSTICES

The April EMESSAY NOTES states that 36 of the Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court have been Freemasons, five of whom have served as Chief Justice and three have served as Grand Master of their state. Seven of the more notables were cited:



Bro. Oliver Ellsworth – Nominated by Bro. George Washington, he served as the third Chief Justice from 1796 to 1800. He was a charter member of St. John's Lodge at Princeton, NJ.

Bro. John Marshall – He served the Grand Lodge of VA as Grand Master from 1793 to 1795 having become a Mason during the Revolutionary War and was a member of Richmond Lodge #10. He served as Chief Justice after Ellsworth and presided over the trial of Bro. Aaron Burr for treason.

Bro. William H. Taft – Nominated by Bro. Warren G. Harding, he was Chief Justice from 1921 to 1930. He was made a "Mason at sight" by Grand Master C. S. Hoskinson of Ohio and later affiliated with Kilwinning Lodge #365 in Cincinnati.

Bro. Robert H. Jackson – Appointed by Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt he also served as prosecutor at the War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg. He was a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge #145, Jamestown, NY.

Bro. Frederick M. Vinson – He served as Chief Justice from 1946 to 1953 having been nominated by Bro. Harry S Truman. He was a member of Apperson Lodge #195 in Louisa, KY.

Bro. Earl Warren – He followed Bro. Vinson as Chief Justice from 1953 to 1969 and during his tenure the Supreme Court made sweeping changes in both Criminal and Civil Rights Law. He was a member of Sequoia Lodge #349, Oakland, CA and served as Grand Master of CA from 1935 to 1936.

Bro. Thurgood Marshall – The first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court, he sat on that bench from 1967 to 1991. He was a member of Coal Creek Lodge #88 under the Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been announced in the philatelic media: SCOTT STAMP MONTHLY: (September and October 2006)

Argentina – 1/21/06 – 2368 – Bartolome Mitre

Belgium – 1/23/06 – 2128 – Wolfgang A. Mozart

Solomon Islands – 10/18/05 – 1034 – Battle of Trafalgar Bicent. – Adm. H. Nelson.

 $Togo - \frac{1}{24}/06 - \frac{2011}{2} - Friedrich von Schiller$

Tuvalu – 7/28/05 – 972b – Battle of Trafalgar Bicent. – Adm. H. Nelson

Tuvalu – 9/21/05 – 976a and 977a – End of World War II, 60th Anniv. – Winston Churchill and Harry S Truman

Venezuela – 8/5/05 - 1652e, f and j – 16th World Youth and Student Festival – S. Bolivar LINN'S:

1/27/06 – Bulgaria – Mozart's 250th Birth Anniversary – se-tenant with label

5/17/06 – France – The Operas of Mozart – 6 values and S/S

5/19/06 - Slovenia - Painted Beehives - 1 value

6/1/06 – Netherlands – Dutch Choice – 5 pairs of stamps with labels, includes
Freemasons emblem with Square & Compasses and Max Havelaar

6/17/06 - Monaco - Mozart's 250th Birth Anniversary - 1 value

6/22/06 - Grenada - Mozart's 250th Birth Anniversary - 1 S/S

6/22/06 - The Gambia - Mozart's 250th Birth Anniversary - pane of 4 se-tenant stamps

6/22/06 - Vatican City - Mozart's 250th Birth Anniversary - 1 value

6/30/05 - Austria - Mozart in Salzburg - 1 value

7/3/06 – Antigua & Barbuda - Mozart's 250th Birth Anniversary – pane of 4 se-tenant stamps

7/18/06 - Great Britain - National Portrait Gallery - 10 stamps, include Winston Churchill and Walter Scott

8/7/06 - US - American Motorcycles - 4 se-tenant values, includes the 1940 Indian



Now that the summer months are over and our vacations behind us, we can devote more time to our collections, research, correspondence and attracting new members to our Unit. Help us grow – the more members, the more sources of information and the more brain cells applied to research. There is a lot of information just lurking in corners waiting to be "discovered".