

ANOTHER PURE MASONIC ISSUE

The Dominican Republic has issued another “Pure” Masonic stamp – the third release by this nation to honor our Fraternity. On March 2, 1970 they commemorated the 8th InterAmerican Masonic Conference with a pair of stamps and then noted the 125th anniversary of Freemasonry in the Republic on October 24, 1983. This year, on October 25, they released a stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic. The official government First Day Cover is shown here.

(I was provided with a single stamp and this FDC by Mr. Abdul Aziz, a member of our Unit, and I loaned the stamp to the Editor of “The Northern Light” to illustrate this release in the upcoming “Stamp Act” in February. I had ordered several copies of the stamp from Herrick when they first announced they had it – in late November - and they have placed my order on “back-order” an action which appears to be the norm when I order multiple copies. I have ordered copies directly from the postal authorities in the Dominican Republic and should be able to provide singles to interested members soon – the cost will be \$2.00 each plus a SASE.)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

None – Why???

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None – that I know of

Brethren – Are you spreading the word about our Masonic Study Unit in the Masonic and Philatelic circles? There must be some Masons who are stamp collectors that are not members. We would love to include them in our membership list.

We are saddened to learn that Bro. Peter Westbere's father passed away on October 31st nine days after his 88th birthday.

We received e-mails from our members in Brazil pointing out that the floods and mudslides which occurred in the state of Santa Clara – the home of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Brazil – have caused significant damage with many brothers experiencing many difficulties such as losing their homes and possessions. Bro. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, President of that Club, has asked for aid and assistance to the extent possible. He can be contacted at The Masonic Philatelic Club of Brazil, P.O. Box 3085, Florianopolis, SC, 88010-970, Brazil.

The National Topical Convention and Stamp Show for 2009 will be held in the Dayton Convention Center located in downtown Dayton, OH on June 12-14, 2009. The Crowne Plaza Hotel adjacent to this facility will be offering special rates for those attending the Show. The theme of NTSS '09 will be twofold – the 60th anniversary of the ATA, founded in 1949 by Jerry Husak (he also reactivated the Masonic Study Unit in the 1970s) and the 100th anniversary of the first Wright Military Flyer to the US Army for evaluation. The USPS will offer flight related pictorial cancels on each of the three days and The Gambia will release a sheet of nine stamps and a souvenir sheet picturing various US military aircraft during the show. Thematic exhibitions are encouraged.

Bro. Stan Longenecker, noted Masonic cover producer and Masonic Philatelist supreme, finds several ways to keep himself active in philatelic circles. He recently authored an article on the 275th Anniversary of Strasburg, PA, which appeared in the November-December issue of "Permit Patter" – the bi-monthly Bulletin of the Mailer's Postmark Permit Club, Inc.

CORRECTION – RODERICK SAMUEL McLAUGHLIN

Bro. Trevoy Frey spotted a "disconnect" in Bro. Golding's article on Bro. McLaughlin which appeared in the September-October issue. Bro. Golding re-checked his research notes and has provided revised dates for Bro. McLaughlin's Masonic degrees. He was Entered on November 27, 1894, Passed on January 22, 1895 and Raised on February 29, 1896. These dates more appropriately tie to his birth date of September 8, 1871.

WILLIAM PIERCE PRICE

Several years ago I handled the sale of Bro. Ben Rutman's Masonic stamp collection and contained therein was a Free Frank cover signed by W. P. Price with a pencil annotation of "Masonic Member of Congress". Since that time I have tried to find information on the Masonic biography of this individual. In August 2007, I wrote to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Georgia for insight and his initial response was that no information was available. Now, just over a year later, I have received a positive response from Bro. David Canaday of Smyrna, GA who performs such tasks for the Grand Secretary as the Grand Lodge Office is not set up for that type of research. The Grand Lodge of Georgia Proceedings for 1876 document the fact that Bro. W. P. Price was the presiding Master of Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38 located in Dahlonega, Lumpkin County at that time; this Lodge was chartered in 1844 and still appears in the List of Masonic Lodges. He also provided a copy of a page from the "History of Lumpkin County" which documents the obituary of Col. William Pierce Price. It states "After the funeral; services were over at the Baptist church his remains were followed to the cemetery by his Masonic Brethren, cadets, Daughters of the Confederacy, school children, and many other people and were buried yesterday afternoon by the side of his wife, with Masonic honors."

Born January 29, 1835 in Dahlonega, he attended the common schools and was apprenticed to the printer's trade. He moved to Greenville, S.C. in 1851 and attended Furman University there. He left before graduating to take charge of the editorial department of the Southern Enterprise, a Greenville newspaper. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1856 and commenced practice there in Greenville. During the Civil War he served in the Confederate Army as an orderly sergeant in Kershaw's Second South Carolina Regiment. He was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1864-66 and moved back to Dahlonega in 1866. He served in that state's House of Representatives in 1868-70 and then served in the Congress from 1870 to 73. He also served in these branches in 1877-79, 1880-81 and 1894-95. He resumed the practice of law and served as president of the trustees of North Georgia Agricultural College from 1870 to 1908. He died in Dahlonega on November 4, 1908.

**PHILIP MOORE CALLOW KERMODE
MANX HISTORIAN**

Philip Kermode was born at Auckland Terrace, Ramsey on the Isle of Man, on March 21, 1855. He was the son of Rev. William Kermode, then Chaplain of St. Paul’s, Ramsey, later Vicar of Maughold and then Rector of Ballaugh and Jane Bishop of Shelton Hall, Staffordshire. The family inherited Claughbane, near Ramsey, and young Philip Kermode lived for a number of years in the old mansion house there. He attended King William’s College for some years, afterward being articled to Mr. (later Sir) Alured Dumbell. He was admitted to the Manx Bar in 1878 at the age of 23. He never married and his unmarried sister, Josephine, better known as the poet, “Curshag” kept house for him. His legal labors continued throughout most of his life and he was Clerk to the Justices at Ramsey until he became Curator of the Manx Museum. He founded the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society in 1879 and discovered the “Nassa Kermodei Fossil Seashell” which was named for him. He died in 1932.

Bro. Marshall Cubbon, well-known archaeologist, stated that Kermode had a reputation for seriousness and was seldom seen smiling and no doubt his position in the Island legal profession accounted for his membership in the local Masons; the thought of him, incongruously decked out in his apron with one trouser leg rolled up to the knee will always bring a touch of humanity to the mind. He was a member of the “St. Maughold Lodge” No. 1075 located in Douglas, Isle of Man. He was made Provincial Junior Grand Warden of Douglas in 1900. He is pictured on an Isle of Man stamp issued on February 27, 1979 as part of the set honoring the centenary of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society.

-Article provided by Bro. Edward Levey, Victoria, Australia

GEORGE WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY COVER

The cover shown to the right is from Bro. Stan Longenecker’s Album of February 22 cancels It was addressed on February 21, 1859 and cancelled in Philadelphia on February 22, 1859 – an excellent example of a Washington’s Birthday cover.

STAMPS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS

The USPS will release a souvenir sheet containing six stamps on February 12, 2009 to honor Civil Rights pioneers. Twelve individuals are pictured on these stamps, Bro. Norman Lincoln has provided Masonic information on three of them.

Medgar Wiley Evers was born July 25, 1925 in Decatur MS. He joined the army in 1943 and fought in the European Theater of Operations. After his discharge he enrolled at Alcorn State University where he played football, served on the debate team and was elected junior class president. After graduation he obtained a job as an insurance agent and in 1951 married classmate Myrlie Beasley; they had three children. He became a Civil Rights activist and organized boycotts to end segregation. On June 12, 1963 he was murdered by Byron de la Beckwith who was finally convicted and died in prison in 2001. Medgar Evers was a Prince Hall Mason and a member of the Scottish Rite. He is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

John Robert Clifford was born September 13, 1848 on a farm near Moorefield, VA of free parents. In 1864 he became a member of the 13th Regiment US Colored Heavy Artillery. After the Civil War he attended Storer College in Harpers Ferry, WV. In 1875 he became principal of the colored school in Martinsburg, WV. The following year he married Mary Franklin with whom he had three children. In 1882 he founded a newspaper "The Pioneer Press" and in 1887 was the first African-American to pass the bar exam in WV. In 1892 he argued the case of Carrie Williams vs the Tucker County Board of Education which resulted in equal pay for Negro teachers as well as an equal length of schooling for Negro students. In 1906 he organized the Niagara Movement which was the forerunner of the NAACP. He died October 6, 1933 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery. He served as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia in 1892-93.

Charles Hamilton Houston was born in the District of Columbia September 3, 1895. He graduated from Amherst College where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first fraternity for African-Americans. He also earned a Phi Beta Kappa and was the class valedictorian. He then attended Harvard Law School where he earned a Juris Doctoris Degree and was the first of his race on the Law Review Editorial Board. He joined his father's law firm and later became dean of Howard University Law School where he helped train Bro. Thurgood Marshall. As General Counsel for the NAACP he built the groundwork which led to the Supreme Court decision in "Brown vs Board of Education". He died April 22, 1950 in Washington, DC. He was a 33rd Degree Prince Hall Mason.

FINLAND MASONIC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Back in the July-August Newsletter, we featured a Masonic Anniversary Celebration which resulted in the creation of a personal Masonic-oriented stamp and a special cover bearing that stamp. The effort was led by Bro. Fredrik Kjellman, Secretary of Brahea Lodge No. 15 located in Pietarsaari, Finland. The June creations were an advance prelude to the 50th anniversary celebration held on December 12, 2008.

The anniversary festivities at the Lodge attracted 130 Masons including the Grand Master of Finland and six of his deputies. Bro. Kjellman has prepared a second personal stamp for the actual anniversary date – it pictures an altar piece which was made as a glass painting by the Fraternal Brothers Curt Ulfstedt and Gunnar Westerlund. The design describes the human life cycle from birth to death using various Masonic symbols. It took these two craftsmen six years to complete the work of art. The glass painting itself is 1000 x 1500 mm, stands on a podium, is surrounded by pillars on both sides and is backlit to enhance its beauty. The overall dimensions are 1500 x 2350 mm.

The December 12, 2008 FDC and its insert are shown here as well as an enlargement of the altar piece used for the stamp design. There are also two different post cards which have been cancelled on December 12 – one for each of the two stamp designs, the Lodge Seal and the Altar Piece. I do have a limited supply of the 12/12/08 FDC and both post cards available to members of the Unit who would like to include them in their collection. We have not yet “tested the market” to determine a retail value for each but I believe that the FDC should be priced at \$5.00 and the post cards at \$3.00 each, \$5.00 for the pair. Please send your orders to me as Bro. Kjellman has stated that any proceeds realized will go to our Unit.

MASONIC COVERS – FOR BETTE DAVIS ASSOCIATES

Bro. Ted Jacobsen has created two covers for the recent Bette Davis stamp issued by the USPS. Since Female Masonry is not as popular in the US as it is in the old world, he has chosen two Masons associated with her career to be the subject of his cachets. Darryl F. Zanuck, noted Producer, Actor, Writer and Director and Legendary Moviemaker was a member of Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, CA. William Wyler, Master Film Director who directed Bette Davis in “Jezebel” for which she won an Academy award, was a member of Loyalty Lodge No. 529, Los Angeles, CA. Bro. Ted has published these covers under the name of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York; your editor does have a very limited number of them available and will provide one or both for a SASE.

INDIA STAMP

Abdul Aziz of Varanasi, India has done some philatelic research for us and has identified a stamp which depicts the first Grand Master of India. Unfortunately, the stamp is not a common usage one but rather is a Court Fee Revenue stamp, He has offered this stamp on eBay and has provided an illustration showing us what it looks like. Shown here, the individual pictured is M. W. Bro. Major General Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan, Nawab of RAMPUR.

UPDATE ON JOHANN JACOBUS KIENHUIZE TOMBSTONE STAMP

Our detectives are still searching for Masonic data on the individual named on the tombstone depicted on the stamp issued by the Norfolk Islands as part of their set to note a Jewish Resting Place in that nation. Bro. Eddie Levey is trying to obtain the information from The Adelaide Masonic Centre. Hopefully we will be able to summarize this case in the next issue of the Newsletter. In the meantime, the stamp is shown here.

MASONIC TEMPLE, CAERNARVON CASTLE, NORTH WALES

On my United Kingdom tour in September we did visit Caernarvon Castle but at the time I did not recall the following article which I had received some time ago from our Brothers in the UK. I am sure there is nothing like it there now. This fine old building dates from the 13th century but had been allowed to fall into disrepair and was not restored until the middle of the 19th century. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall were to visit Caernarvon in 1868 where they were then known as the Prince and Princess of Wales.

It was difficult enough to find a suitably large enough hall in which to receive them and it was decided to restore and repair the Queen's Tower, from a window of which the first Prince of Wales had been shown to the people. Included was a nice sized room which was handsomely decorated. After their visit the place started to get neglected again and someone thought it would make a good place for a Masonic Temple for Lodge Segontium No. 606, the members of which were looking for new premises.

Enlisting the support of the local Member of Parliament and the Deputy Constable of the Castle, the Constable of the Castle gave his approval and the brethren raised the money required to again restore the Queen's Tower. The Lodge was so named after Segontium, an early Roman city in the area and it seemed appropriate for the Lodge to make this ancient building their home. The post card shown is titled "Masonic Lodge now demolished from Caernarvon Castle". The ceiling was blue with gold symbols, most of the furniture was white and gold and the upholstery "Masonic blue". The impressive dedication ceremony was carried out on May 24, 1872 (Queen Victoria's birthday) and was attended by a large number of Masonic dignitaries. The Lodge now meets in the new Masonic Hall on Castle Street in Caernarvon.

COVER FOR MASONIC CELEBRATION

This year the special Masonic cancel for the Florida, Alabama Masonic Celebration Station at the end of June was completely overlooked by yours truly. I saw this cover on eBay, however, which tends to make up for my oversight.

DE GETANDE RAND – STAMPS AND COVERS

Bro. Emiel Crab has provided copies of the recent releases of stamps and covers for our edification. Information on their acquisition will have to be addressed to him at P.O. Box 42, 2930 Brasschaat, Belgium.

It appears that there are two covers utilizing personal stamps – one for the 150th anniversary of the West Friesland Lodge No. 45 in Hoorn. There also are two different personal stamps created for De Getande Rand – one displaying the Square and Compasses and one displaying the Square and Compasses, the two Pillars of the Second Degree and the Mosaic Pavement.

BARBARA MANDRELL AND KEN DUDNEY

Let this be ample warning if stamps are produced for Barbara Mandrell and/or her husband Ken Dudney. She is a member of Eastern Star and her husband belongs to Hendersonville Masonic Lodge No. 369, Hendersonville, TN.

-with thanks to Bros. Dwight Seals and Norman Lincoln

MASONIC COVERS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Bro. Frank Elliott had a great year of covers for the various Masonic events which he supports with special event releases. His Christmas distribution this year contained fifteen different covers, a couple of dinner programs and a book mark of Masonic significance. One of the covers bears special notice – it was prepared for the Presentation of 50 Year Service Medals at Queen Victoria Lodge No. 294 on October 24, 2008. The recipients were Wor. Bro. Francis H. Elliott, Past Provincial Grand Lodge Librarian, and Wor. Bro. Edward Wilson. The Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Leslie V. Johnston and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. John Dunlop were in attendance. Congratulations, Bro. Elliott, it must have been an impressive ceremony.

A couple of the others are shown here for illustrative purposes..

NEW ISSUES

The new issues of Masonic interest cited in the January issue of Scott's Stamp Monthly are very skimpy:

Canada – 2284 – 9/8/08 – R. Samuel McLaughlin

Mexico – 2574 – President Miguel Aleman Valdes

ITALIAN MASONIC POSTAL CARDS

The Italian Association of Masonic Philately which is part of the Grand Orient of Italy has been issuing some very impressive oversize (5.5" x 8") postal cards commemorating various Masonic events and anniversaries. The picture side has a piece of artwork which is pertinent to the Lodge being honored or the event being recognized and the address side bears a special cancellation for the occasion. Two of the latest emissions are shown here. Should anyone desire further information, it is recommended that he contact Bro. Massimo Morgantini, Via Marco Tabarrini 15, Roma 0017, Italy.

LATEST AUSTRIAN MASONIC COVER

Bro. Dr. Herbert Schmid-Korlath has provided a copy of his latest Masonic cover produced for his Phils-Masonica-Club Quatour Coronati Wien (No.84) along with his latest Newsletter. His address is Hackenberggasse 29/33/3, Wien a-1190 Austria.

VICTOR SMORGAN AC*

Victor Smorgan AC* is pictured on a stamp issued by Australia on January 23, 2008 as part of the Living Legend series called Australian Legends of Philanthropy. * The AC following his name denotes that he is a Companion of the Order of Australia. AO is an Officer of the Order of Australia, equivalent to the British OBE.

Bro. Victor Smorgan was initiated into King David Lodge No. 460, United Grand Lodge of Victoria on August 15, 1943, passed on January 17, 1944 and raised on June 19, 1944. He resigned on August 19, 1968.

Victor Smorgan was born January 2, 1913 in Mariupor in the Ukraine. He emigrated to Australia in 1927 and established Smorgan Consolidated Industries serving as chairman until his retirement in 1994. An industrialist and philanthropist, he ran a kosher butchery with his two brothers and over the ensuing decades they built a vast family business empire encompassing steel, meat, paper, plastics, forestry and commercial property. He quotes his recreations as being the Arts and cooking. He is married to Loti (AO) in 1937 and they have four daughters. Their enormous contributions to a wide range of medical and arts institutions in Australia include the Smorgan Outpatients Wing at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear hospital and the Loti and Victor Smorgan Gallery of the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

-many thanks to the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) for this article.