



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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ANOTHER QUASI-MASONIC ISSUE

Another country has “joined the band wagon” with the issuance of a set of stamps/souvenir sheet which is designed to attract Masonic collectors. St. Thomas & Principe is located in the Gulf of Guinea 150 miles off the West Africa coast. I don’t recall too many research reports indicating that this was a prime area of Masonic activity to warrant the issuance of a Masonic oriented set of stamps but such an item is offered by select dealers.



Alexander Pushkin of Russia, Louis Armstrong of the US, Oscar Wilde of Ireland and Wolfgang Mozart of Austria are pictured as well as Winston Churchill of Great Britain. It has already been shown (in early 1996) that Louis Armstrong was not a Freemason – although he was claimed to be a member of Montgomery Lodge No. 18 of New York, there was no such Lodge in the Prince Hall organization. Researchers confused him with Bro. Harry W. Armstrong who was a Prince Hall Mason of Hiram Lodge #18 in New York.

Alexander Pushkin became a Mason while in exile in the town of Kishinev in South Russia by joining Ovid Lodge on September 17, 1921. Oscar Wilde was made a Master Mason in Apollo University Lodge No. 275 on May 25, 1875 and Wolfgang A. Mozart was initiated on December 14, 1784 in the Lodge Zur Wohltatigkeit in Vienna.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

None to report at this time but several requests for information and applications have been received lately – please spread our word to your Masonic and Philatelic associates.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

358. Bro. J. H. Mayer, 2e Wyksreed 11, 8415AG Bankebok, Netherlands

RESIGNATIONS:

259. Mark H. van Houten of the masonic Home in Burlington, NJ.

Brethren and sisters, the activity level amongst our members appears to be maintaining a good level but we do not seem to be growing – unfortunately, that seems to be a pattern of the time we are living in. There are too many other interests and attractions clamoring for our attention and our spare time. The various countries around the world are not helping much by their not issuing many stamps of interest to our specialized topic.

In an effort to try to bring the Masonic Study Unit up to date in this technical age, I have been trying to teach this old dog new tricks. I am the first to admit that I am not a computer wizard or “geek” but I have been experimenting with Microsoft Word to try to create an e-mailable version of our Newsletter. I first experimented with a “book” on my recent trip to the UK – incorporating about 300 of my digital photos into a text relating our experiences. It worked out quite well so I moved on to the most recent (January-February 2009) Newsletter and sent trial copies to some of the members I correspond with regularly. The response was very favorable so I am creating this issue in the same format. I hope to be able to shift from one column to two depending on the content of each page. We will see how it goes. One of the obvious advantages will be the appearance of color in the e-mail version; the cost of carrying the color over to hard copies will be too much as I don’t want to raise the dues – the increased postage costs in the US are bad enough, I don’t have to compound the problems. Those who would like to receive this issue via e-mail, please send me an e-mail (radpm@comcast.net) requesting the same. If there is enough positive response we will probably be able to develop a two-tiered cost structure with a significant reduction for the electronic version.

One last “editorial comment” – I have not been receiving many inputs for articles for the Newsletter. Bro. Emiel Crab has been very helpful in providing translations of articles from De Verlichte Loep and I try to use those which have not appeared previously in The Philatelic Freemason. Bro. Maurice Beazley of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain has also been a great help with his quarterly magazine. The results of more research would be appreciated.

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**INPUTS FROM BRO. PETER WESTBERE
BRO. BILL WERBER and ABRAHAM DORAS SHADD**

Bro. Westbere reports that the oldest living baseball player in Major League Baseball passed on to the Celestial Lodge above on January 22, 2009 at the age of 100 – six months shy of his 101st birthday. He signed with the Yankees in 1927 and played with them in 1930 and 1933. He moved on to the Boston Red Sox from 1933 to 1936 and then to the Philadelphia Athletics 1937-38, Cincinnati Reds 1939-41 and New York Giants in 1942. He held several records, played on the pennant-winning Cincinnati Reds 1939 and 1940 World Series and appeared on the first televised ball game in Ebbets Field between the Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers on August 26, 1939 being the first to be at bat. He was a member of Stansbury Lodge No. 24 in Washington DC.

Bro. Westbere has also forwarded a FDC (February 2, 2009) of the latest Canadian Black History stamps. Abraham Doras Shadd (1801-1882) is pictured and there is a possibility that he may have been a Prince Hall Mason – he has not yet had opportunity to research the issue. Can anyone else help on this question? He was born in Wilmington, Delaware, married a woman from North Carolina and fathered 13 children earning a respectable living as a shoemaker. He supported the Underground Railroad activity from his homes in Wilmington, DE and West Chester, PA as a conductor and President of the National Convention for the Improvement of Free People of Color in 1833. He and his considerable family moved to North Buxton, Ontario in 1853 and was the first black man elected to a political office in that area in 1858 becoming Counselor of Raleigh Township.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BRO. W. P. PRICE

The Wor. Bro. William Pierce Price article which appeared in the previous Newsletter was forwarded to his Mother Lodge. They have provided some information from their files. In 1850 Blue Mountain Lodge #38 purchased a building on the square in Dahlonega for Lodge business and to rent out. A legal dispute occurred between the Lodge and the hotel next door over the property line and shortly after settlement, Bro. Price bought the property for his law offices. He later had it torn down but used the framing to build a house on Price street, now the Cecil Parks house. Wor. Price served as Master in 1876 and he was one of the speakers at a Lodge of Sorrow held on May 29, 1885 to commemorate the 104 brothers who had died since the Lodge was established in 1844. They also sent along a copy of the P.M. they have of Wor. Bro. Price.

ROBERT BURNS BIRTHDAY COVER

Bro. Ted Jacobsen has created another Masonic personal stamp and applied it to an excellent Masonic Cacheted Cover published under the name of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. He has provided your editor with a few copies which are available to those who provide a #10 SASE. Another great job, Bro. Ted.



BRAZILIAN MASONIC COVERS

Bro. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, President of the Clube Filatélico Maçonico do Brasil has forwarded copies of the latest Masonic cacheted covers which they have released. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from him at Caixa Postale 3085, 880-10-970 Florianopolis – SC – Brasil or electronically at www.filateliamaconica.com or clubeselo@terra.com.br



INPUTS FROM FRANCE

Bro. Jean Prouteau of the Clube Philatelique Jean Theophile Desaguliers headquartered in La Rochelle, France, has provided this Philatelic cover which is franked with a personal stamp which he created. It is a beautiful example of what can now be done with the advent of personal stamps allowing the collector to create his own. Thank you for sharing it, Bro. Prouteau.



Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy of Bouc-Bel-Air, France has provided his input to the veracity of some of the claims of Masonic membership made here and elsewhere of certain noted individuals. We appreciate his inputs because they are the result of research performed in the proper arena.

Jean Francois de Galaup, Comte de La Perouse – OK

Richelet – He was never a Mason in France (Ed. – I don't have him in my master matrix)

Le Corbusier (Chas-Edward Jeanneret-Gras) – He was not a member of the Alpine Grand Lodge. The potential of his belonging to the Grand Lodge of France is still under investigation.

Anouth (or Aunouth) Beejadur – His membership is still being investigated. There are many Lodges named “Bienfaisence” and it would help knowing the town in which he is believed to belong.

ALBERT PIKE LABELS



Bro. Allan Boudreau has been looking into the labels which Bro. Albert Pike used on his correspondence. He has been provided with a copy of a full sheet of them. Bro. Pike is said to have used them only on the letter inside, not on the envelope as claimed by Bro. George B. Clark.

USS CONSTITUTION – CAPT. SAMUEL NICHOLSON

The article below was contained in an e-mail fairly recently. It provides a more “human” outlook on the tales of the USS Constitution. The first Commander of this famous frigate, which is now berthed in Boston Harbor and still makes annual “turn around” sails, and is commonly known as “Old Ironsides” was Samuel Nicholson. Bro. Nicholson was a member of Lodge No. 17 of Queenston, MD.



The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last for six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers. However, let it be noted that according to her ship’s log, “On July 27, 1798, the USS Constitution sailed from Bostyon with a full compliment of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum. Her mission was “To destroy and harass English shipping.”

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The USS Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of water. GO NAVY!

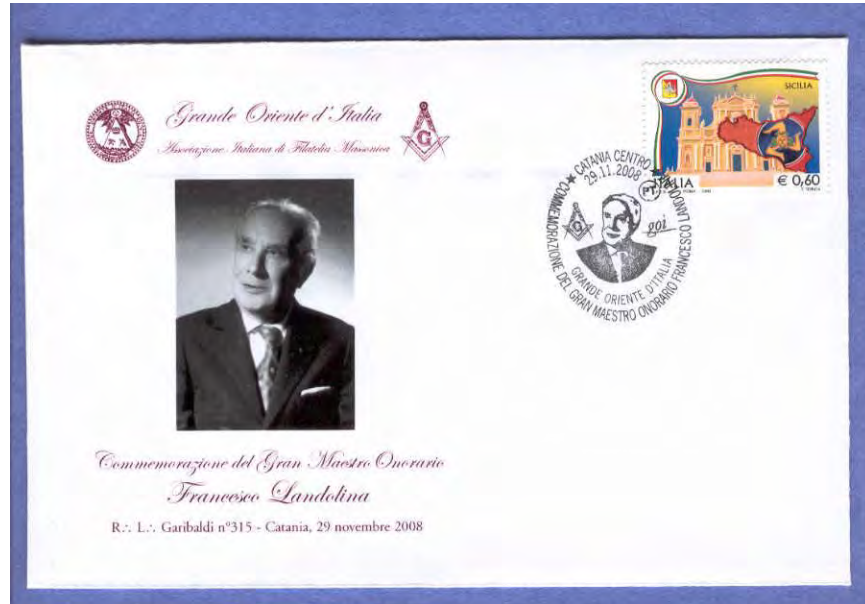
BRO. JIM HOGG CARD



Bro. Jim Hogg has again created a Masonic First Day Card. Done for the Corinthian Column postal card, it is in a limited number. They are available from him at P.O. Box 60112, Fort Myers, FL 33906.

ITALIAN MASONIC COVERS AND CARDS

Bro. Massimo Morgantini, Secretary of the Associazione Italiana di Filatelia Massonica of the Grand Orient of Italy has provided us with a sample of their latest philatelic releases. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from him at Via Marco Tabarrini 15, 00179 Roma, Italy or at massimomorgantini@yahoo.it



MASONIC DID U KNOW

Bro Dwight Seals conducts an interesting e-mail knowledge information distribution network under the title of "Masonic Did U Know. Inputs are voluntary as is distribution. If you have any interest in this, contact him at djseals@verizon.net

SIR PHEROZESHAH MEHTA

Born in Mumbai, India on August 4, 1845 he was very liberally educated and became a prominent lawyer, political leader and activist. He was knighted by the British government for his contribution to the Indian legislation. He studied literature and history following high school and received his MA cum laude; he was the first Parsi to attend the University of Mumbai. He then attended the University of Oxford. While in the United Kingdom he became a member of Indian and East-India associations where he met a large number of Indians who later became very famous and influential. He returned to India in 1868 and started up his own law office. He was active in the movement to change and reform the city council and toward that end he wrote the municipal law for Mumbai that took effect in 1872. Eventually he gravitated his attention to politics and in 1885 was appointed the first President of the Council of Mumbai, a position he held to his death. He stimulated a following of “western” training to improve the national situation and contributed significantly to improvements in education, hygiene and health care. He was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress and became its president in 1890. By 1887 he had been appointed to the Legislative Council of Mumbai and in 1893 to the Indian Legislative Council. He was knighted in 1904 and following a visit to the United Kingdom in 1910 he was appointed vice-chancellor of the University of Bombay. The following year he helped establish the Central Bank of India. To further spread his ideas, he started the Bombay Chronicle, an Anglophone magazine in 1913 that became an important chronicle of the political issues. Many of his comments helped Mahatma Gandhi transform his passive resistance into actions. He died in Mumbai November 5, 1915.



was a member of Aryan Lodge No. 30, Mumbai, under Scottish jurisdiction and was Great-Administrator (District Officer?) of the Grand Lodge of Scotland for Mumbai. He is shown on an stamp of India released on August 4, 1996 for the anniversary of his 100th birthday.

Pheroza
h Mehta

LEWIS SHEPARD STONE

Lewis Stone was born November 15, 1879 in Worcester, MA. He joined the Army and served in the Spanish-American War. He then went on the stage and reached Broadway in 1912 in “Bird of Paradise”. He was in 6 more plays before going off to war again in the US Cavalry in World War I. Upon returning, he went to Hollywood never returning to the stage. After signing in 2 silent films, he signed on with MGM for 29 years and had a very successful career being nominated for an Academy Award in 1928. He died in Beverly Hills, CA on September 12, 1953 and was a member of Silver Trowel Lodge No. 415, Los Angeles, CA - by Bro. Norman Lincoln in “Masonic Did U Know”.

MRS RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE

Rukmini Devi received the 33 degrees of Co-Masonry in 1939. She was elected top the Supreme Council in 1958 and was a member of that body for many years. Along with her husband, Bro. George Sydney Arundale who had also received the 33 degrees, she visited many Lodges and Chapters in the Eastern Federation. She visited many other parts of the world with her husband. At the time of her death she held the rank of V. Ill. Rukmini Devi Arundale (33rd Degree). She was honored by India with a stamp issued to commemorate her birth centenary.



Born February 29, 1904, her father was a renowned Sanskrit scholar and her mother was from Thiruvaiyaru, a great center of music. At the age of seven she came into contact with the Theosophical Society in which her father took an active interest. It was there that she met Dr. S. S. Arundale, a dedicated educationist and former principal of the Central Hindu College in Varanasi. She shocked the conservative Brahmin community when she married Dr. Arundale in 1920, much her senior in age and a foreigner. Her activities within the Society included the production of several plays in which she paid extreme attention to every detail. She began to travel after her marriage and took a keen interest in whatever art she came in contact with. On one of her trips from Bombay to Australia, Anna Pavlova, the famous Russian Ballerina, was a fellow passenger and the two formed a lasting friendship with Anna teaching Rukmini to dance. She was advised and wanted to learn the Indian dancing but there were few teachers because the Indian dances had degenerated to disrepute. She was determined and persistent. She finally located a reputable teacher who was willing to teach her and she mastered the art. In December 1935 she gave her first public appearance – at the Diamond Jubilee Convention of the Theosophical Society. The response led her to found the Kalakshetra – originally named the International Academy of Arts. Soon Kalakshetra started teaching dance. This school evolved into a major complex comprising The college of Fine Arts, The Besant Theosophical High School, The Maria Montessori School for Children, the Craft Education and Research Centre and the U. V. Swaminatha Iyer library also known as the Adyar Library. She was a multi-faceted individual deeply involved in many activities. She was responsible for introducing a Bill for prevention of cruelty to animals and involved herself in a Vegetarian Congress, UNESCO and other relief work. She passed away on February 24, 1986 after a long illness.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Swami Vivekananda was born January 12, 1863 in Calcutta, India. His original name, before he became a monk, was Narendra (or Narendranath) Dutta. He became one of the most well-known and influential leaders concerning Vedanta and yoga and was very influential in the Hindu reformation movement. At an early age he demonstrated qualities of wisdom with a good memory and practiced meditation. It was soon clear that he was an academic genius with a photographic memory. He was athletically active, played amateur theater and studied singing and music. He doubted the sense of superstitious uses and discrimination on the basis of the caste system and religion. He attended the Presidential University in Calcutta in 1879 and the University of the Scottish Church the following year to study philosophy, western logic and philosophy and the history of the European countries. He started questioning concerning God and the presence of God and was led to join the Brahma Samaj, an important religious movement at the time. This movement did not have the answers he was looking for and he met Sri Ramakrishna in November 1881 and in 5 years of training under him he changed from a restless, searching young person into an adult ready to give up everything for his notion of God. Following the death of Ramakrishna he and other disciples took the oath and became monks – giving up all earthly property and he became a travelling monk with his only possessions being his clothing and begging cup. During his wanderings he met people of all levels and developed the idea that renovation and change of the Indian society structure had to change to survive. Following a three day meditation on a rock now known as the Vivekananda Memorial he expanded his wandering introducing yoga and Vedanta, the philosophy of non-dualism. He founded one of the world's largest benevolence organizations, the Sri Ramakrishna mission, and the largest convent order in India, the Ramakrishna Math. His influence was recognized by all the Indian leaders of the 20th century and he is accepted as the source of inspiration for the Indian independence movement. He died in Calcutta July 4, 1902 as the result of a stroke proving out his own forecast that he would not live to the age of 40.

Vivekananda was a member of the Lodge “Anchor and Hope” No. 1 in Calcutta being initiated February 9, 1884, passed April 15, 1884 and raised May 25, 1884. He is pictured on a stamp issued by India on January 17, 1963 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth.



ARDASEER CURSETJEE WADIA

Ardaseer Cursetjee Wadia was an Indian shipbuilder, engineer and inventor born in Bobmay, India on October 6, 1808. He was the grandson of the founder of the Wadia ship builders dynasty in 1736. By the age of 14 he was working at his father's shipyards with a strong interest in steam machines.. The first ship he designed was launched in 1833. On March 10, 1834 he was the first to install gaslights in his house and garden. He was chosen an external member of the Royal Asiatic Society. He travelled in 1839 to the United Kingdom to develop himself further in the field of steam machines. During that period he designed and built a steam machine which he shipped to India so it could be made there. On May 27, 1841 the Marquis of Northampton chose him to be a member of the Royal Society – the first Indian chosen as a member of that elite group. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1855 until his retirement on August 1, 1857. He settled in Richmond, United Kingdom where he died November 16, 1877.

Ardaseer Cursetjee Wadia was a member of the Lodge "Rising Star of Western India" No. 42, Scottish Constitution where he was initiated January 21, 1844, passed on July 17, 1844 and raised on November 19, 1844. He served as Treasurer of this Lodge from 1845 to 1851. He is pictured on a stamp issued by India on May 27, 1969.



NEW ISSUES

The new issues of Masonic interest announced in Scott's Stamp Monthly.

Brazil – 3045 – 4/21/08 – Block of 10 stamps picturing famous Brazilians. Included are Dom Perdo I, Deodoro Fonseca, Duque de Caxias, Jose Bonifacio, Tiradentes.

Cuba – 4658A – 12/7/08 – Single stamp picturing General Antonio Maceo Grajales

Dominican Republic – 1453 – 2008 – 150th Anniversary of Freemasonry there

Gambia – 3161 – 6/12/08 – Souvenir sheet part of set picturing US Landmarks – shows Mount Rushmore.

Marshall Islands – 927 – 8/14/08 – Miniature sheet of 16 stamps picturing personalities of the Wild West. Included are Charles Goodnight, Chief Joseph, Kit Carson, Buffalo Bill Cody and John Fremont.

Russia – 7080 – 8/8/08 – Souvenir sheet picturing Emperor Nicholas I (Anti-Mason who lived 1796-1858)

South Africa – 1380/1 – 7/15/08 – Two sheets honoring Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE EDITOR'S ALBUMS

