



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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Whole No. 195

JOEL ROBERTS POINSETT

The recent Christmas Season reminded us that the poinsettia plant was named for a prominent Freemason. Brother Poinsett was a Past Master of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Charleston, SC and Recovery Lodge No. 31 also of South Carolina. While he was serving as Minister to Mexico he started five Lodges receiving their Charters from the Grand Lodge of New York – they later formed the Grand Lodge of Mexico. The plant named for him is found on several world-wide stamps and many Masonic Cacheted Covers featuring him have been created.



Born March 2, 1779, in Charleston, SC, Joel R. Poinsett was a physician, botanist and American statesman. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the first Minister to Mexico, a U.S. Secretary of War from 1837 to 1841 and a co-founder of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science and the Useful Arts (predecessor of the Smithsonian Institution). He was also the namesake of Poinsett County, Arkansas, the historic Poinsett Bridge in Greenville County, South Carolina and Poinsett State Park in Sumter County, SC. He died December 12, 1851. While Minister to Mexico from 1825 to 1830, he visited the southern part of Mexico and discovered the plant which later became known as the poinsettia. The Aztecs referred to this winter-blooming plant as *cuetlaxochiti* but it was commonly referred to as the Mexican fire plant because of its bright red color. Being an avid botanist, he sent several samples home to the US and by 1836 it was most widely known as the "poinsettia".

-with many thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals and his informative "Masonic Did U Know" e-mails.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

206. Lawrence A. Burden, 1432 Larkhaven Crescent, Ottawa, ON K1C 5A1

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None that I know of.

Bro. Burden, our newest member, is a Sergeant in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and was recently transferred to the Ottawa headquarters a year ago. Having been a Mason for 28 years, he became involved in the Scottish Rite there. He also got back to stamp collecting in a limited fashion – he had been a collector during his Cub Scout days. Inspired by Bro. Chris Murphy’s book “Postage Stamps and Freemasonry”, published in 1988, he developed an interest in Masonic Theme Stamps. He has published an article in the “Canadian Stamp News” and is endeavoring to get more Brethren in Ottawa and throughout Canada interested in Masonic Philately. He hopes to start a Masonic Stamp Club attached to the Valley of Ottawa. Bro. Larry would appreciate hearing from any of our members located in the Dominion.



LODGES OF RESEARCH

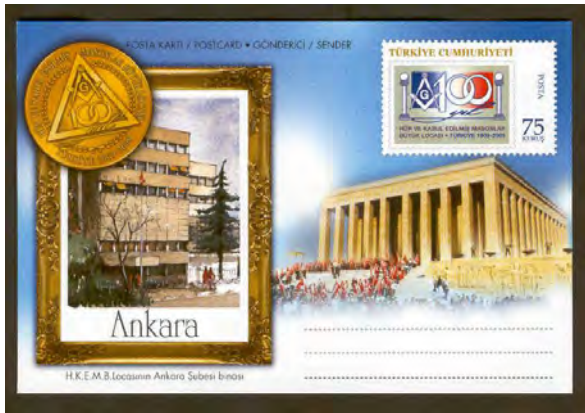
Bro. Seals also commented in one of his e-mails that the American Lodge of Research was organized by the Grand Lodge of New York in 1931 – it is the oldest Masonic Research Lodge in the United States. It has been continuously active and productive since that date and maintains a web site – <http://wwwnymasons.org/cms/ALR> Although its activities were originally directed towards the study of Masonic history in the United States, the Lodge now encourages work in wider and more general topics of Masonic study.

There are a number of Research Lodges in existence throughout the world very similar to this one in New York. I belong to one in Maine and used to belong to the one in Great Britain. I have seen summaries of annual proceedings of one in New Hampshire and one in Connecticut. I understand that another one is being formed in my area in the near future. These groups of Freemasons are interested in the entertainment, inspiration and information to be found in an application of the principles of scholarship and historical investigation to the study of the origins and history of the oldest fraternity in the world. If you are a Master Mason in good standing, you should consider sitting in one of these Lodges. If you are a student of the Craft, you should consider joining as a corresponding member. The findings and new information provided by these Lodges can be used for developing new cases within our efforts of Masonic Philately.

Please note that the previous Newsletter was Vol. 34 No. 4, not No. 3 – My bad!!

TURKISH MASONIC POSTAL CARDS

Bro. Emiel Crab has been able to identify and provide a copy of the three postal cards issued by Turkey which commemorate Freemasonry in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. He can be contacted at Nothomblei 8, 2930 Brasschaat (MTH), Belgium.



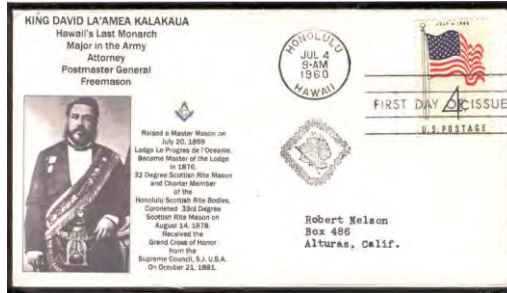
DAVID KALAKAUA – KALAKAUA I

David Kalakaua was born November 16, 1836 in Honolulu and was the last reigning King of the Kingdom of Hawaii – from February 1874 to January 1891. Serving after King Kamehameha V and Lunalilo, the elected King for eleven months, he was often called The Merrie Monarch. He was credited for bringing back Hawaiian culture after nearly going extinct from half a century of Christian suppression and built Iolani Palace, the only royal palace that exists on American soil today, at a cost of \$300,000. By 1890 his health began to fail and his doctor advised him to travel to San Francisco – he died there on January 20, 1891. His final words were, “Tell my people I tried.”

On December 20, 1874, a special meeting of New York Lodge No. 230 was held to exemplify the third degree for the edification of a Brother – His Royal Highness David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands. Member and Past Master (1875) of Le Progres de l’Océanie Lodge No. 124 (Supreme Council of France), Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, he received his degrees in 1859. After the degree exemplification in New York, the Bible on which George Washington had taken his oath of office was displayed. The King asked that the book be opened at the page where the oath was administered. He took the book in both hands and kissed the page saying “I thank God for this privilege”.

DAVID KALAKAUA – KALAKAUA I

King Kalakaua I was pictured on stamps issued by Hawaii in 1875 and 1884 and has been honored on several Masonic Cacheted Covers.



BERT LAHR – IRVING LAHRHEIM

Brother Irving Lahrheim, better known as Bert Lahr, was a member of Pacific Lodge No. 233, New York City, NY having joined there on December 7, 1918. Although he has not yet been depicted on a postage stamp, one of his crowning achievements has been so honored – “The Wizard of Oz”. His likeness has been incorporated into cachets produced for that stamp and others over the years.



Born in New York City on August 13, 1895, he dropped out of school at the age of 15 to join a juvenile vaudeville act and worked his way up to top billing on the Columbia Burlesque Circuit. In 1927 he debuted on Broadway and played to packed houses performing classic routines. His first major success in a stage musical, of many which followed, was achieved in 1928 as the prize fighter hero of *Hold Everything!* His feature film debut occurred in 1931 with *Flying High* but aside from *The Wizard of Oz* his movie career was rather limited. According to his son, Bert had terminal cancer but did not know it when he signed to film “*The Night They Raided Minsky’s*” – his last film. He agreed to shoot an extensive night scene outdoors in New York City on a cold December night, leading to the pneumonia that was the immediate cause of his death on December 4, 1967.

“GOOD” SHOOTER AT FORT HOOD WAS A RAINBOW GIRL

Former Rainbow girl, Kimberly Munley is hailed as a hero for bringing down the Fort Hood shooter while taking three bullets herself. She was a member of North Carolina Wilmington Assembly 29, now Goldenrod Assembly 29 where she served as Worthy Advisor and also as the North Carolina Rainbow Grand Musician. She was also a member of the Grand Cross of Color.

-Thanks again to Bro. Dwight Seals for these two articles

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

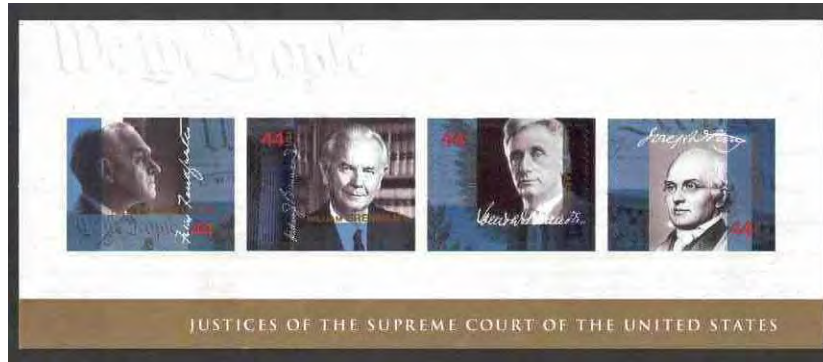
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JOSEPH STORY

The USPS released the small strip sheet of four stamps honoring Supreme Court Judges on September 22, 2009. This series includes Joseph Story who was a member of Philanthropic Lodge in Marblehead, Massachusetts.



Felix Frankfurter, William J. Brennan, Jr., Louis D. Brandeis, Joseph Story

Born at Marblehead, MA on September 18, 1779, Joseph Story's father had been a member of the Sons of Liberty who took part in the Boston Tea Party in 1773 and had moved to Marblehead during the Revolution. As a boy, Joseph studied at the Marblehead Academy until the fall of 1794 when his father withdrew him from the school because the schoolmaster beat him for some minor offense. He was accepted at Harvard University, on his second attempt, with the class of 1798. He was an excellent and well-behaved student, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated second in his class. He read law under Samuel Sewall in Marblehead, then a congressman and later a State Chief Justice, and Samuel Putnam in Salem.

Admitted to the bar at Salem in 1801 he was hired as counsel to the powerful Republican shipping firm of George Crowninshield & Sons. He was also a poet having published several of his creations. Elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1805 he was elected Salem's representative in Congress. After a few years in private practice he was again elected to the House and served as Speaker in 1811. In November of that year he became the youngest Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States being nominated by President James Madison to a seat vacated by William Cushing. Soon after his appointment, the Supreme Court brought into plain view the powers which the United States Constitution had given it over state courts and state legislation; Bro. Story had a very large share in many remarkable decisions and opinions from 1812 to 1832. In 1829 he moved from Salem to Cambridge and became the first Dane Professor of Law at Harvard University, meeting with remarkable success as a teacher and a sitting Supreme Court judge. He was a prolific writer publishing many reviews and magazine articles, delivering orations and publishing books on legal subjects. He died at his home in Cambridge on September 10, 1845, and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery where he was one of the principle speakers at its dedication in 1831.

UPCOMING ISSUES FROM AUSTRALIA

Bro. Edward Levey informs us that two upcoming issues will be of Masonic interest. Both will be issued in February - the first will commemorate the bicentenary of Governor Lechlan Macquarie. The second will be a miniature sheet commemorating John Goffage (Chips Rafferty).

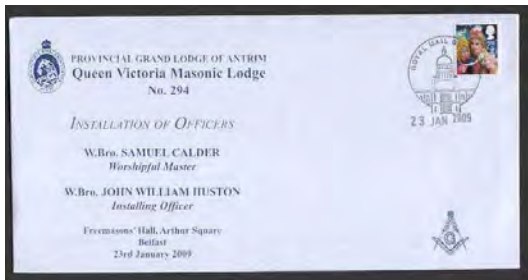
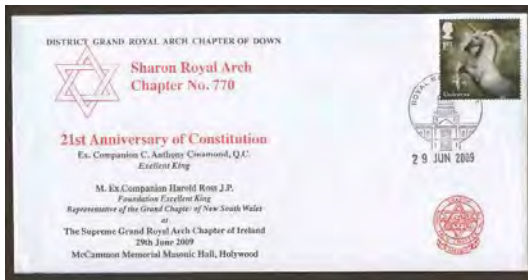
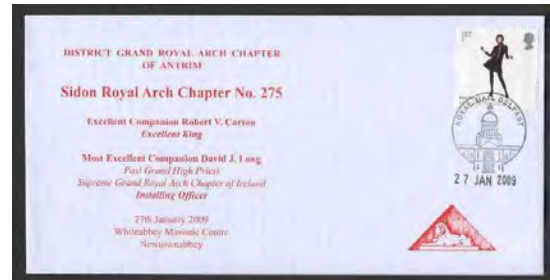
TRULY A MASONIC HOME

Bro. Seals has forwarded a photo of a house in Brazil that had been sent to him by W. Bro. Alan Blevins. It is worthy of illustration here.



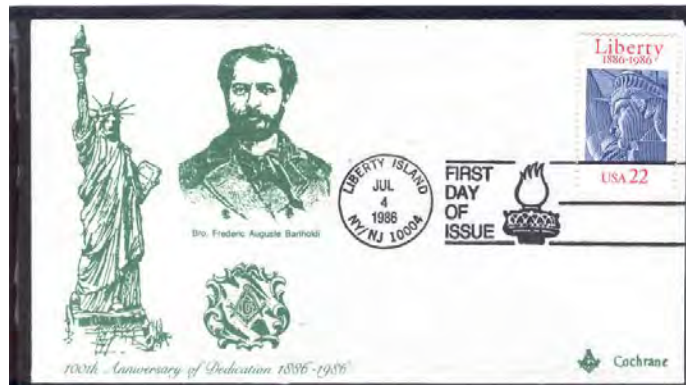
MASONIC CACHED COVERS FROM IRELAND

Bro. Frank Elliott has sent his Annual Christmas/New Year letter and has enclosed several Masonic Cached Covers he has prepared for Masonic activities in his sphere. Some are shown here. He can be contacted at 11 Wood End, Holywood, Belfast BT16 9PN, Northern Ireland.



FREDERIC AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI

Frederick A. Bartholdi has been honored on several stamps issued around the world – either picturing him or his famous creation – the Statue of Liberty. He has also been included in the designs of several cachets prepared for covers franked with those stamps.



Bro. Bartholdi was one of the early members of the Lodge Alsace-Lorraine in Paris which was composed of prominent intellectuals, writers and government representatives; he was initiated on October 14, 1875. When his famous statue *Liberty Enlightening the World* was completed he convened his Lodge to review it, even before the statue was shown to the U.S. Committee. On June 19, 1884, the Lodge, as if it were a pilgrimage, went in a body to review the masterpiece that was to be the gift of the French people to the United States. On November 13, 1884 he delivered a lecture and gave the Lodge a report on the history and various methods used in the execution of his statue. When he came back from his visit to the U.S. in 1887 he told the Lodge members of the ardent welcome he had received and of the wide enthusiasm created by his work.

Born April 2, 1834, in Colmar, Alsace-Lorraine, Bro. Bartholdi eventually went to Paris to further his studies in architecture and painting. He made a long trip to Egypt and Yemen where he heard about the Suez project and envisioned a giant lighthouse standing at the entrance to the canal. He drew plans for it and presented them to the Egyptian Khediv, Isma'il Pasha in 1867 and again (revised) in 1869 but the project was never commissioned. He then returned to Colmar to become an architect. He switched his emphasis to sculpture and his first major work was a monument to General Rapp in Colmar. He enjoyed a great deal of success in Alsace and in 1879 was awarded a design patent for the Statue of Liberty. This patent covered the sale of small copies of the statue and sales of them helped raise money to build the full statue. The French government had wished to present a gift to the U.S. in time for the Centennial in 1876. Bartholdi's plan was to have the statue complete in time for the Centennial Exhibition but production delays were chronic and only the right arm with its torch was completed in time. Visitors to the Exhibition were charged a 50-cent admission to climb a ladder and travel inside the statue's arm. The admission charge was used as a fund raiser to build a pedestal for the statue. The cornerstone for the statue was laid on August 5, 1884, but completion was delayed until 1885. Newspaperman and Freemason Joseph Pulitzer made a vigilant editorial campaign to renew interest and funding for the pedestal. Bro. Bartholdi died of tuberculosis on October 4, 1904, in Paris and is buried in Paris' Cimetiere du Montparnasse.

-Article inspired by "Stamp Insider" article submitted by Bro. Don Osborne

VASILIJ MIHAILOVIC GOLOVNIN

Vasilij M. Golovnin was a member of the Lodge “Trois Flambeaux” (Three Lights) located in St. Petersburg from 1816 to 1822. He had the function of First Supervisor in this Lodge but left on November 12, 1818 and went to the Lodge “Sphinx” also in St. Petersburg where he held the same position. This Lodge was in existence from 1810 to 1822. He also served as First Supervisor and Orator in the Lodge “Alexandre du Lion d’Or” of St. Petersburg which existed from 1817 to 1822. Bro. Golovnin was also a member of the Chapter “Du Phenix” and had a pseudonym of “Chevalier des sept Tours”. On August 6, 1822, Tsar Alexander I, although he was a Mason himself, banned Freemasonry in Russia because of a Congress of the Holy Alliance in Verona. His successor, Nicholas I, renewed the prohibition in 1826 and succeeded in suppressing Freemasonry in Russia for a long time.

Russia issued a set of stamps on November 22, 1994 to honor the 300th anniversary of the Russian Fleet. The first stamp in the series pictures Bro. Golovnin and the Kurile Island Expedition.



Vasilij M. Golovnin was born April 19, 1776 in Gulnyki in the province of Ryazan, Russia. Son of a noble family he became a Russian Navy Officer, Vice admiral and sailor who, in 1807, explored and mapped the coasts of the Russian part of Alaska, including the Kuril Islands and Kamchatka, for Tsar Alexander I. He had received his diploma and commission from the Russian Navy College in 1792. Following this expedition he created a signal code for the navy. His adventures took him around the world twice – first with the cutter Diana (1807-09) via Alaska and the second on the frigate Kamchatka (1817-19) around the Cape of Good Hope. In 1811, while on the Diana, he was captured with part of his crew on Kunashir where they were conducting research. They were held captive for two years and were interrogated but received fair treatment. Negotiations for release were successfully completed in June 1813. He wrote a book on that series of adventures. His trip around the horn was less eventful and he returned to St. Petersburg in just two years. He was appointed assistant director of the Marine College in 1821 and Quartermaster General of the Fleet in 1823. He died of cholera on July 11, 1831 in St. Petersburg.

-many thanks to Bro. Emiel Crab for his translation of this article from
“De Verlichte Loep”, Newsletter of “De Getande Rand”

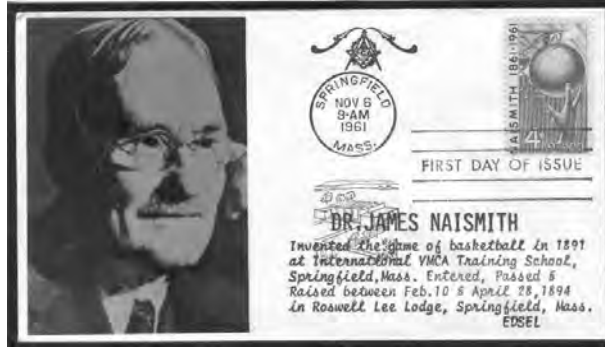
A PIN FOR MASONIC PHILATELISTS

Your Editor recently purchased the pin shown to the right on eBay. I thought it was very appropriate to those of us who take our Masonic Philately seriously. It is 1 inch wide and was designed by a philatelist named Mark Bardell of Owings Mills, MD. (I am not sure if he is a Mason.) The pins are made by a Bro. Richard James while Mark is the distributor and eBay seller. Richard James has his own web site (<http://gbp.net/rtj>) Mark can be contacted at markbedell1@verizon.net The cost I paid was \$5.00 and he will offer a 50 cent discount for a quantity of 25 or more.



JAMES NAISMITH

The United States issued a stamp on November 6, 1961, to commemorate the centenary of the birth of James Naismith. Bro. Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891 while he was employed by the School for Christian Workers (now Springfield College) of Springfield, Massachusetts.. He was challenged to devise a game which could be played indoors after the weather became too severe for football, baseball and other indoor sports.



James Naismith was born on November 6, 1861, at Almonte, Ontario, Canada. He earned his baccalaureate degree in three years at McGill University in Montreal and also found time to play rugby on the side. Several years later, after another three years of study, he was awarded the Doctor of Medicine degree by Gross Medical College. He spent most of his life working with young people and serving as a minister to small churches in his spare time. In 1898 he accepted a position with the University of Kansas at Lawrence as both Director of Physical Education and Chaplain. He remained there for the rest of his life with the exception of a period during World War I in which he served in a seriously needed social hygiene unit in France working mostly in the front line trenches. He died November 28, 1939, in Lawrence Kansas, amazed at the wide acceptance of his game and not realizing that he had done anything outstanding in inventing it. He later became a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame. He would be totally awed by the March Madness which results today from this sport among the various colleges in the nation.

Bro. Naismith received his three degrees in 1894 in Roswell Lee Lodge, Springfield, MA, being entered on February 10, passed on March 17 and raised on April 28. On January 9, 1922, he was admitted to Lawrence Lodge No. 6, Lawrence, KS and served as Master there in 1927.

-again, inspired by an article which appeared in the “Stamp Insider” issued by the Valley of Buffalo Family Life Stamp Club which meets weekly at the Masonic Community Center, Cheektowaga, NY.

DE GETANDE RAND’S ANNUAL MASONIC PERSONAL ISSUE



JAIME ZUZARTZ CORTESAO

It is known that Jaime Cortesao was initiated into Freemasonry in 1911 in the Lodge “Redencaa de Coimbra”. It is highly probable that he was not a member of the Fraternity for any real length of time. Portugal issued a set of stamps on March 19, 1980 to honor the Leaders of the Republican Movement; Jaime Cortesao was included in that set.



Jaime Cortesao was born April 29, 1884, in Anca, Catanhode, Portugal and studied at the universities of Coimbra, Porto and Lisbon. Following studies in the Greek language and Law, he finally graduated in 1909 majoring in medicine. In 1907 he had founded the magazine “Nova Silva” with two other persons and established the magazine “The Eagle” in 1910. He became a member of the Republican Republic in 1908 and in 1912 participated in the Portuguese Renaissance movement. Following the closure of his medical practice in 1912 he returned to Porto and became a professor of History and Literature at the Lyceum Rodrigus Freitas.

In 1914, he supported Portugal in its intention to participate in the First World War and volunteered for service in France as a military doctor in the Corps Expedicionario Portuguese. He was honored with the presentation of the War Cross in 1918 and upon his return to Portugal was arrested by the Sidonistas who had risen to power. He became a member of the Academy of Sciences and ceased his cooperation with the Portuguese Renaissance. He was one of the founders of the illustrated magazine “New Seara”. Appointed director of the National Library in 1919, he retained that position until 1927. He was appointed leader of the Revolutionary Government in Porto in 1926 and when the military dictatorship became a reality, he was accused of having participated in an attempt to overthrow this new government. He was dismissed as the National Library Director and condemned to exile. He lived in France until the invasion of the Germans in 1940 when he had to flee to Brazil via Portugal. Upon arrival there he was imprisoned for some time after which he worked at the card department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and performed research at the Itamaraty Historical Archive and the National Library. He settled in Rio de Janeiro as a professor at the university specializing in the history of Portugal and the discovery of Brazil. He was honored with the title “Citizen Benemerito de Sao Paulo” in 1952 and received the Order of “Cruzeiro do Sol”. He returned to Portugal in 1957 and almost immediately was put in prison accused of assisting in the set-up of an underground movement. Released the following year, he was elected President of the Portuguese Writers Association. He died August 14, 1960 in Lisbon, Portugal.

-Thanks to Bro. Emiel Crab, “De Verlichte Loep” and “De Getande Rand”

I WISH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU

**A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
MAY 2010 EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS**

JULIAN CONSTABLE SMITH

Born September 11, 1885 in Elkton, Maryland, Julian C. Smith attended the University of Delaware graduating in 1907. He received his appointment as a second lieutenant in January 1909 and underwent his basic training as a Marine officer at the Marine Barracks, Port Royal, South Carolina. Ordered to the Marine Barracks at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in September 1912, he was transferred to Panama and then to the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico from April to December 1914. Returning to Philadelphia as a member of the 1st Brigade of Marines, he saw duty in Haiti and Santo Domingo before returning to Philadelphia and being assigned to the Advanced Base Force there. Following his promotion to captain in 1917 he was ordered to a course of instruction at the Naval War College in Newport, RI and then to Quantico, VA as an instructor in the Marine Officers' Training Camps. He saw service in command of a machine gun battalion in Cuba in 1919 and the following year was ordered to two years of sea duty on the staff of the Commander, Scouting Fleet. He then served in the office of the Chief Coordinator, Bureau of the Budget, and attended the Army Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, KS, graduating in 1928. After serving a three year tour of duty in Nicaragua, he returned to Quantico and was appointed to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In June 1938 he became the Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Brigade at Quantico until his promotion to brigadier general at which time he was ordered to London serving with the Naval Attache, American Embassy. Promoted to major general in 1942 he assumed command of the Fleet Marine Force Training School at New River, NC. and then Commanding General Expeditionary Troops, Third Fleet. He took command of the Department of the Pacific, with headquarters in San Francisco, CA and following the end of the war, served at Parris Island, SC until his retirement on December 1, 1946.

Gen. Smith holds the Navy Cross for heroism in Nicaragua, the Distinguished Service Medal for his part in the Tarawa campaign and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Service Medal for his performance as Commanding General, Expeditionary Troops, Third Fleet, in the capture of the Southern Palaus and Ulithi Atoll. He died November 5, 1975 and is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Bro. Julian C. Smith was a member of Union Lodge No. 48, Elkton, Maryland. He is pictured on a stamp issued by Niuafu'ou on May 12, 1992 included in the souvenir sheet commemorating the 50th anniversary of the start of World War II in the Pacific Theater. The stamp of concern depicts Bro. Smith. Other stamps on the sheet show President Franklin D. Roosevelt, General Douglas MacArthur and General Lemay.



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of note to Masonic Philatelists were announced in the January 2010 issue of Scott Stamp Monthly.

United States – 9/22/09 – 4422 – Supreme Court Justices, including Joseph Story.

Burkina Faso – 4/8/97 – 1120Y – Death Centenary of Heinrich Von Stephan.

Ireland – 8/14/09 – 1847/1850 – Composers consisting of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, George Frederic Handel, Joseph Haydn and Frederic Chopin – a Souvenir Sheet is also listed.

Liberia – 5/4/09 – 2567/69 – U.S. Presidents. All shown on three sheets along with one Stamp depicting the Presidential Seal. A Souvenir Sheet showing Pres. Obama is listed as 2570.

Macedonia – 3/18/09 – 470/1 – Composers consisting of Trajko Prokoplev/Todor Skalovski and George Frederick Handel/Joseph Haydn.

JOSE DOMINGUES DOS SANTOS

According to the article in the July 2009 issue of De Verlichte Leop, Bro. Dos Santos was known to have been a member of the Freemasons from 1922 on. His Masonic pseudonym was Cimoudin. He was pictured on a stamp issued by Portugal on March 19, 1980 as part of a set to honor the Leaders of the Republican Movement.



Born August 5, 1885 in Lavza, Portugal Jose D. dos Santos studied at the Theological Seminary in Porto and then law at the university in Coimbra. Upon receipt of his degree certificate he established a law practice in Porto. At the same time he was appointed a professor at the Industries and Trade Institute in Porto and later at the High Institute for Trade when it replaced the first learning Institute. He became a politician with liberal interests and joined the Partido Democratico (Democratic Party) being elected to parliament for the first time in 1926; he served three terms representing Porto. He founded the newspaper “Die Tribune” in Porto and following the monarchy and the counter-revolution under Pimentel, Dos Santos served briefly as the civil governor of Porto. He was appointed Minister of Labor and Social Welfare in July 1919 and during his term he was confronted with a train drivers’ strike which escalated to a bomb attack and shootings. Massive intervention eventually ended the strike after three months. He was retained in the Ministerial role through several presidencies until 1921 when he was appointed Minister of Justice, followed in 1924 by Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs. He was elected president of the Republican Party of the democratic left wing but after the military insurrection of May 28, 1926, all democratic freedoms were abolished and the political parties were forbidden. He participated in an uprising in 1927 and went into exile to France at its end. He continued to be an important opponent of the dictator Salazar in the 1950s via French newspapers and radio. He was allowed to return to Portugal in 1954 and died in Porto on August 16, 1958.
