

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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GEOFF CAPES

Geoff Capes of the United Kingdom is a World Shot-Putt Champion. Although it is not probable that he is the athlete pictured on the San Marino stamp issued on May 23, 1960 as part of the set to recognize the Olympics held in Rome that year, it would serve as an appropriate illustration for an album page dedicated to him.



Geoff Capes was raised as a Master Mason in October 2003 in Welland Lodge No. 9556 located in Spalding, Lincolnshire, England. In addition to his Masonry, Geoff breeds budgerigars and spends the rest of his time as a Health and Safety Consultant at Seminars. He is also a Company Director of one of the UK's top security companies.

His Shot-Putt Championships ranged from 1970 to 1980 and included 1st and 6th at the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, European Indoor Games and European Games. He currently holds the UK national all-comers record in the Shot-Putt and has competed for Britain in 67 Internationals – more than any other athlete. He holds the record of 34 event wins in International matches – an achievement which still stands. In March 1983 he won the Whitbred British Sports Award for the most outstanding field athlete of the century and later that year received a service medal from the Amateur Athletics Association.

Geoff has held the title of Britain's Strongest Man three times, Europe's Strongest Man three times and World Strongest Man twice. In December 1982 he won the World Highland Games Championships for the third successive year in Lagos, Nigeria. He has successfully competed in the Highland Games in Scotland and many other tournaments throughout Scotland and in the USA throughout the 1980s.

-copied from an article in the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) Magazine submitted by Bro. John Coldron and gleaned from the Lincolnshire Link Provincial magazine.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

None recently but some possibilities loom in the wings – we could use more.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None that have been reported.

CLOSED ALBUMS:

259. Mark H. Van Houten

Bro. Mark had been a long time member and for the past several years was a resident of the Masonic Home in Burlington, NJ

There have been several long term members who have reached advanced years in their lives and have requested termination of their membership. I have taken it upon myself to consider them members emeritus and will continue to disseminate the Masonic Philatelic “light” which we attempt to provide through this Newsletter.

Bro. Larry Burden has informed us that the first meeting of the Ottawa Masonic Stamp Club was held on April 21, 2010. Apparently it was a good start and he looks forward to the small group growing in the future. Best of luck in your efforts and let us know if we can help.

This past week your Editor had the pleasure of culminating a long period (some 30+ years) of correspondence with one of the Unit members – Bob Grimes - with a visit to him on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. I had been to Nantucket previously and had found his house but have never met him or had opportunity to visit. On April 29, we got together for a few hours for a very interesting session. He took me on a tour of the Lodge building of Union Lodge there in Nantucket and adjourned to his home for a mutual collection viewing session. He has a delightful collection of Masonic Cacheted covers and we shared reminiscences of some of the older “greats” of cover production – most of whom we both knew. It was a wonderful experience and I prepared an appropriate cover for our collections to recall the occasion.

Over the past two months I have been trying to help out a long-term friend by assessing his stamp collection and trying to find outlets for it. Over that period, I have learned some very interesting but discouraging facts related to stamp collecting. In reality, my friend was more an accumulator or amasser rather than a true collector. He had been a “customer” of Fleetwood and the USPS for the past 60 years. I developed a full appreciation for the educational content of the material prepared and sold by Fleetwood but have learned that no-one – collectors or dealers - are willing to pay for that education second-hand. The return on such collections is a very low percentage of the catalog value, let alone the original cost. The current value of mint USPS stamps is also greatly reduced with dealers offering much less than face. I purchased some to use for mailing of our newsletters to help him out. The total return of his Duck Stamps, Coin/Stamp combos, mint stamps (US and foreign) and FDCs will be a small return on his investment. We should all recognize this as it may apply to our collections and govern ourselves accordingly – either prepare ourselves for that situation or consider alternate disposal paths such as museums or auctions.

DHYAN CHAND

Major Dhyan 'Chand' Singh, better known as Dhyan Chand, was an Indian hockey player, widely regarded as the greatest player of all time. A legendary center-forward, he is remembered for his goal scoring feats, first as a player and later as captain. He won three Olympic gold medals – 1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin – and was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honor, in 1956. Born August 29, 1905 in Prayag, Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh he moved often with his family as his father was in the Indian Army. He terminated his education after the sixth grade. As a youth he had no serious inclination towards sports although he did enjoy wrestling. Upon joining the Army at the age of 16 a mentor noticed his dribbling skills at hockey. He played in army hockey tournaments and was ultimately selected for the Indian Army team which was set to tour New Zealand. He received the title Chand (literally Moon) from his first coach and rose to a figure of veneration; a number of legends about him are famous in the realm of Indian sport. He retired from the army in 1956 with the rank of Major and died December 3, 1979 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. He was cremated at the Jhansi Heroes ground in his hometown and the Punjab Regiment accorded him full military honors.



Dhyan Chand was initiated in the Lodge Rani, Jansi No. 177, Grand Lodge of India on April 3, 1978. He is pictured on a stamp issued by India on December 3, 1980 – Scott #882.

PURE MASONIC STAMP AND CARDS FROM TURKEY



Your Editor has received a limited supply of the Turkish “pure Masonic” stamps and post cards illustrated in the two previous newsletters. They are personal issue stamps and could only be acquired through Masonic organizations. The costs are \$4.00 for the set of three postal cards and \$3.75 for the individual mint stamp. Please include appropriate postage to get them to you via snail mail.

MASONIC SYMBOLS ON STAMPS

In response to some inquiries regarding Masonic Symbols on stamps, I reviewed and restructured the “narrative” on them which I created in the mid 1960s, adding to it the new acquisitions which I had bought since then. Two pages from the 12 page document follow. If anyone wishes a copy via e-mail (at no cost), please let me know. If you want one via mail, please send \$0.61 for postage (US), \$1.74 foreign.

MASONIC SYMBOLS ON STAMPS

Many of the various symbols of the Blue Lodge have been depicted on postage stamps of the world. Others can be represented with available stamps and a little imagination. This summary was compiled in the 1960s and many additions have been made since then based on the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogues and Scott Monthly Stamp magazines. The sequence selected tries to cover most all of the representations and allegories displayed to a candidate during the performance of the three degrees of the Blue Lodge. There is no claim that this listing includes all applicable stamps. Personal review and discovery are some of the benefits of Masonic Philately.

The great structure referred to most often in Freemasonry is King Solomon's Temple. The original site of this great edifice is now occupied by the Mosque of Omar, also known as the Dome of the Rock.

KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Bangladesh - 185	Belgium - 1780j	Israel 1341
Jordan - 311, 313, 393,	Jordan - 429, 471, 493	Kuwait - 493
Palestine - 68	Turkey - 568, 581	Umm Al Qiwain - N/S

KING SOLOMON'S THRONE

Ethopia - 87

ARK OF THE COVENANT

Israel - 75	Netherlands - B612
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This edifice was contemplated by King David but because he was a Man of War, the effort was accomplished by son and successor, King Solomon

KING DAVID

Israel - 185

KING SOLOMON

Israel - 186	Spain - 2993	Yemen - non Scott (3)
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The temple was built of stones raised from the quarries and cedars from the Forest of Lebanon. Those logs were conveyed by sea on floats to Joppa and thence to Jerusalem where they were set up by the help of special wooden instruments.

QUARRY

Gold Coast - 135	Senegal - 233
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CEDARS OF LEBANON

Lebanon - 50, 115, 137	Lebanon - 247, 365, 406	Lebanon - C438
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CORNERSTONE LAYING

Italy - 234

LOG RAFTS

Austria - B200	Fr. Equat. Africa - C39	Nigeria - 87
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Certain Men of Tyre were employed in its erection.

TYRE HARBOR AND BEACH

Lebanon - 128, C317

MASONIC SYMBOLS ON STAMPS

Modern Temples are designed to be representative of King Solomon's Temple.

TEMPLES

Australia - 290

China - 131/2, 270

Cuba - 558, C135

Honduras - 328

(The Australian stamp shows the older Grand Lodge building in Melbourne - the red-domed building at the upper left side. The Temple of Heaven shown on the China stamps was used for Masonic Lodge meetings in years gone by.)

The three steps usually delineated on the Master's Carpet are emblematical of the three principal stages of human life - Youth, Manhood and Age.

THREE STEPS

Brazil - 314

YOUTH

Monaco - 528

MANHOOD

Monaco - 198

AGE

Monaco - 262

The dimensions of a Lodge are denoted by the Cardinal Points of the Compass.

COMPASS

Cape Verde - 277

Fr. So. & Art. Terr - 21

Germany - 696

Indonesia - B116

Italy - 947

Poland - 730

St. Thomas & Prince - 372

This vast fabric is supported by three great pillars called Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.

THREE PILLARS

Belgium - 504

Libya - C28

WISDOM

France - 330

STRENGTH

Monaco - 210

BEAUTY

Monaco - 210

The Covering of a Lodge is the Clouded Canopy or Starry Decked Heaven where all good Masons hope at last to arrive by the aid of a ladder called Jacob's Ladder.

STARRY DECKED HEAVEN

Argentina - C132

Brazil - 99

Ireland - 389/90

Italy - 1081

Japan - 591, 710

Switzerland - 340

LADDER

Belgium - B346

Czechoslovakia - 1191

Germany - 810

Norway - 577

Spain - 1344

Yugoslavia - 1039

(The Spain issue shows Jacob wrestling with an Angel)

The three principal rounds of the Ladder are emblematical of Faith, Hope and Charity.

FAITH

San Marino - 713

Vatican - 345

HOPE

San Marino - 714

Vatican - 346

CHARITY

San Marino - 715

Vatican - 347

TURKISH MASONIC CANCEL

Another philatelic item (via eBay) from Turkey having a Masonic tie is the cover shown here which carries a special Masonic cancel dated July 13, 2009 but the official cancel is dated July 13, 2008. Any ideas as to why the difference?



DONALD G. INGALLS

Most of us have fond memories of old television series; some of them even starred Masons. Most of you will be surprised to learn that a Past Grand Master of California worked as a story editor, writer and producer for television for 25 years. Donald G. Ingalls was born July 29, 1918 and worked for a time as a refrigerator salesman. He then joined the Los Angeles Police Department in the Public Relations Department where he met future “Star Trek” creator Gene Roddenberry. In 1958 he became story editor for “Have Gun, Will Travel”. In 1959 he wrote for “Tombstone Territory” and “Bat Masterson”. In the 1960’s he worked with “Zane Grey Theater”, “Tate”, “Danger Man”, “Bonanza”, “Whiplash”, “The Virginian”, “The Travels of Jamie McPheeters”, “Daniel Boone”, “Honey West”, “The Big Valley”, “Gunsmoke”, “and “Then Came Bronson”. He wrote two screenplays for “Star Trek”, “The Alternative Factor” 1967 and “A Private Little War” 1968. Meanwhile he joined North Hollywood Lodge No. 542 of which he served as Worshipful Master in 1958. He was elected Grand Master of California in 1979.

In the 1970’s he wrote for “Dial Hot Line”, “The Sixth Sense”, “Police Story”, “Doc Elliott”, “Serpico”, and “Kingston Confidential”. He then turned to feature films writing “Airport 75” for Universal. He also wrote four films for television: “A Matter of Wife and Death” NBC 1976, “Flood!” NBC 1976, “The Initiation of Sarah” ABC 1978 and “Captain America” CBS 1979. His career ended with “Fantasy Island” 1982 and “T.J. Hooker” 1986. He retired to Olympia, Washington where he remained active in Republican politics and wrote a book: “The Watchers on the Mountain” 2006. His 1975 speech “The American Dream” can be found on the web at http://www.whatsamason.org/oration_index.htm

“Star Trek” has been shown on some foreign stamps such as the pair of souvenir sheets recently released by Maldiv Islands on September 29, 2009. I believe “Bonanza” has also appeared on a stamp.

-articled submitted by Bro. Norman Lincoln.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

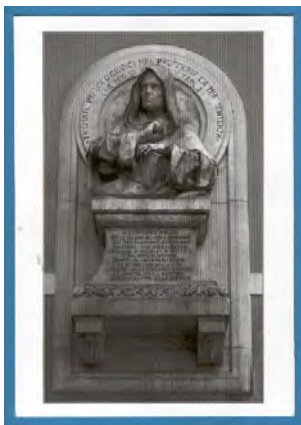
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ITALIAN MASONIC COVERS

The covers and postal card shown below were provided by Bro. Massimo Morgantini, Secretary of the Associazione Italiana Di Filatelia Massonica of the Grande Oriente d'Italia. His contacts are: Snail Mail - Via San Pancrazio 8, 00152 ROMA – ITALY; e-mail – filatelia.massonica@grandeoriente.it; web site - <http://www.grandeoriente.it/>



NETHERLANDS COVER

Bro. Emiel Crab, Nothomblei 8, 2930 Brasschaat, Belgium has sent in the latest cover released by The Netherlands Masonic Philatelic Study Group - De Getande Rand”



Brethren and Ladies: As you can see from this Newsletter, there are very few articles contributed by members for initial publication here. Please consider conducting research and/or writing for publication in YOUR Newsletter. Everyone will benefit

COWBOYS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

On April 17, 2010 the USPS issued four stamps to remember noted cowboys of the motion pictures – all four men pictured were Freemasons.



Roy Rogers was born on November 5, 1912 in Cincinnati, Ohio, as Leonard Franklin Slye. He formed a trio in 1931 with Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer to pursue his cowboy singing career. He later changed his name and left the group to make movies. His first film appearance was in 1935 and in 1938 he replaced Gene Autry in the making of a movie and changed his name to Roy Rogers. He married Dale Evans in 1947, his third wife, and together they were featured in over 100 movies and *The Roy Rogers Show*. The show ran on radio for nine years before moving to television from 1951 through 1957. He died July 6, 1998 in Apple Valley, California of congestive heart failure.

Roy Rogers received his degrees in April, May and June, 1946 in Hollywood Lodge No. 355 and was an Honorary Member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor. Both he and his wife were active in all branches of Masonry and Roy was a 33rd degree Mason.

Tom Mix was born on January 6, 1880 in El Paso County, Texas. In his early life he was a cowboy in Texas, Arizona, Wyoming and Montana. He served in the Army in the Spanish-American War in the Philippines and with the British in the Boer War. Returning to America he served as Sheriff in Kansas and Oklahoma, as a deputy U.S. Marshal and a Texas Ranger, as a livestock foreman in Oklahoma and as a member of the Sells-Floto Circus. He began his motion picture career in 1910 but did not become famous until he joined Fox in 1917. In 1933 he organized his own Circus and Wild West Show making appearances in the US and Europe. He was killed in an auto accident in Florence, Arizona on October 16, 1940.

Tom Mix was raised in Utopia Lodge No. 537, Los Angeles, CA on February 21, 1925 and was an active member of the "203 Club" taking part in degrees. He was buried with Masonic honors.

William Surrey Hart was born in Newburgh, NY on December 6, 1870. He worked as a cowboy but became an actor in New York doing Shakespeare roles as well as spectacles such as "Ben Hur". He first starred in a western movie in 1914 and its success led to many others. His silent westerns remain as a tribute to his vision of a vanished era. He died in Los Angeles on June 23, 1946.

One of the 1973 Royal Arch Mason magazines reported William S. Hart as having been a Mason but details of his membership have yet to be documented.

Gene Autry was born on September 29, 1907 in Tioga, Texas and graduated from high school there in 1925. He began his career as a railroad telegraph operator in Sapulpa, Oklahoma that same year. He made his first phonograph record of cowboy songs in 1929 and was a radio artist for WLS, Chicago from 1930 to 1934, He started acting in 1934. He joined the Army Air Force in 1942 and was discharged in 1945. His career as a singing cowboy and owner of the California Angels is well known. He died of lymphoma on October 2, 1998 in Studio City, CA.

Gene Autry was raised in Catoosa Lodge No. 185, Catoosa, OK in 1929.

OLE BORNEMAN BULL

Bro. Norman Lincoln has reported that Norway issued a new stamp honoring Ole B. Bull on February 5, 2010; he had been previously pictured on a stamp of Norway on June 19, 1985. This famous violinist was born in Bergen on February 5, 1810. His father wanted him to be a lawyer, however, by the age of nine he was playing classical violin. He toured the world giving concerts and spent his summers in the USA, setting up a "New Norway" in Pennsylvania. He first married in 1836 and they had six children. After his first wife died he remarried in 1870 and they had one more child. He collected violins by Guarnari, Stradivarius and others and became interested in folk music. One of his most famous compositions was "Saeterjenten's Sontag" (Herd Girl's Sunday) which was recorded on 78rpm and LP records. He died August 17, 1880.

The home Lodge of Bro. Ole Bull is not known but he was recorded as a visitor to St. Cecile Lodge No. 566 of New York City in March 1868 and the Lodge of St. Andrew in Massachusetts. On October 30, 1845 he gave a concert for the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund of the Grand Lodge of New York which netted \$1,400.

TANZANIAN FREEMASONS

Bro. Trevor Fray reports in the January 2010 Magazine of the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) on a stamp issued by Tanzania on February 23, 2005 as part of a set to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary which pictures two Freemasons – Khalid Khan and Amu Shah. The stamp pictures Bro. Khan, then president of the Rotary Club of Dares Salaam (on the left) presenting President Nyerere with the Paul Harris Fellowship award. Bro. Shah, a past governor of Rotary International District 9200 is in the center background.

Bro. Khan was a member of Dares Salaam Lodge and Bro. Shah is a Past Master of Guiding Star Lodge No. 5299 E.C. Bro. Shah is also Chairman of the Tanzanian Philatelic Association.



WILLIAM MESNY

The members of the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) especially Paul Phillips of Helston, Cornwall, were able to uncover a new case which is documented in the January and April issues of their magazine. William Mesny was a Pioneer in China, a Chinese General and Plant-Collector. A six stamp set issued by Jersey pictures Mesny and some of his activities in China.

The Masonic career of William Mensy involved at least three Lodges: He was initiated on January 28, 1879, passed on February 4, 1879 and raised on February 11, 1879 in Ionic Lodge of Amoy No. 1781, Amoy. Aged 36, he listed his occupation as General, Chinese Military Service. He joined Royal Sussex Lodge No. 501, Shanghai on May 28, 1887 and resigned on April 10, 1889/ He later joined Tuscan Lodge No. 1027, Shanghai on December 26th 1905 and there were no further payments there after 1906.



William Mensy was born in Trinity, Jersey on October 9, 1842. At the age of 12 he went to sea and some years later he deserted his ship and made his way to Hong Kong. He quickly learned the language and made many friends among the merchant class. China was rent with Civil War and he returned to Shanghai trying to raise a company for the Emperor's service. He enlisted a band of scallywags of all nationalities but on the night they were to sail he was overheard speaking French and was arrested by a party of French marines; his party left without him. He embarked on the business of running through danger zones in the various ports making sizeable profits, first in a small sailing boat then in a Chinese junk. He also engaged in some successful speculations in the arms trade being wounded and captured but eventually being rescued by a British gunboat. He volunteered for service in Szu-chuan and Kuei-chon in 1868 and became a Major-General in 1873. He traveled from end to end of China and acquired fame as a plant-collector, "discovering" a number of new specimens. He volunteered for active service on several occasions, married in 1882 and became a Mandarin of the First Class – always wearing Chinese dress and a pigtail. He received several decorations but never abandoned his British Citizenship; he was Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Horticultural Society and of the Imperial Institute. He died in Hankow on December 11, 1919.

ROYAL SOCIETY

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ERNEST SHACKLETON, EDWARD JENNER

Great Britain issued a set of stamps on February 25, 2010 to honor several members of The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge. Benjamin Franklin, Ernest Shackleton and Edward Jenner are included.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, was a leading author and printer, satirist, political theorist, politician, scientist, inventor, civil activist, statesman, soldier and diplomat. As a scientist he was a major figure in the history of physics for his discoveries and theories. He was the first Postmaster-General of the USA.

Ben printed the first Masonic book to be printed in America, titled Mason's Book, being a printing of Anderson's Constitutions. He received his Masonic degrees in February 1731 in St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia and was Secretary of that Lodge from 1735 to 1738. On June 24, 1732 he was elected Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and became Grand Master on June 24, 1734. While serving his country in Europe, he visited many Lodges in the UK and other countries. He assisted in the initiation of Voltaire in the Lodge of Nine Muses, Paris and later officiated at the funeral of that great writer.

ERNEST HENRY SHACKLETON was born in County Kildare, Ireland, February 15, 1874. Educated at Dulwich College he entered the mercantile marine service and was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy Reserve. He made four expeditions to the Antarctic attempting to reach the South Pole. Being more interested in survival than glory, he turned his men around on the first three. During World War I he attempted to traverse the entire continent but caught in heavy ice he had to leave the vessel. After drifting on an ice pack and sailing in an open lifeboat across 800 miles of rough seas, he and his men were rescued without a single loss of life. He died on January 5, 1922 at the start of another expedition.

Bro. Shackleton was initiated July 9, 1801 in Navy Lodge No. 2612, London. He attended the first meeting of Guild of Freeman Lodge No. 3525 in 1911 and was passed in that Lodge on November 2, 1911. He was raised there on May 30, 1913. A year later he was made an Honorary Member and remained a member of both Lodges until his death.

EDWARD JENNER, originator of vaccination, was born May 17, 1749 at Berkeley, Gloucestershire and educated at local schools. Studying surgery at Sudbury and

London he returned to his native town in 1773 as surgeon-apothecary. For many years he considered the feasibility of inoculation with the virus of cowpox as a preventative of smallpox and made his first vaccination of a patient in 1796. He announced his successful discovery to the world in 1798 and within a few years the process was accepted with universal enthusiasm. He died at Berkeley, January 26, 1823.

Dr. Jenner was made a Mason in Lodge of Faith and Friendship No. 449 (now No. 270), Berkeley around 1789 and was raised to the degree of Master Mason there on December 30, 1802. The long interval between the E.A. and M.M. may be accounted for by his prolonged visits to London in connection with his great discovery. He served as Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge in 1811-13.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues which are of Masonic Interest have been reported in the April, May and June issues of the Scott Stamp Monthly.

- Egypt – 6/9/09 – 2039 Sheet of 16 Nobel Lauriates from Africa. Includes Nelson Mandela, Peace (reported to have been a Mason but no proof yet)
- France – 11/6/09 – 3729 – Francisco de Miranda, Revolutionist in France and Venezuela
- Grenada – 7/21/09 – 3730 Souvenir Sheet to honor Abraham Lincoln – includes John A. McClernand and George B. McClellan
- Liberia – 8/22/09 – 2584/2605 – Set of stamps picturing all Liberian Presidents, several of which were Masons.
- Micronesia – 7/20/09 – 810/11 – 2 souvenir sheet for the 40th anniversary of the first Man on the Moon, Buzz Aldrin is shown.

SEBASTIAN FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA

In addition to the new French release cited above, Francisco de Miranda has been honored by many postal releases from Venezuela. He was initiated in 1796 in the French Rite, having been proposed by the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1801 he founded the first Lautero Lodge in London called “The Rational Gentlemen” and five years later formed a Lautaro Lodge in Cadiz, Spain in which he initiated San Martin and O’Higgins. In 1807 he constituted a “Gran Oriente” composed of Lautaro Lodges, Caballeros Racionales Lodge in Cadiz and Gran Reunion Americana Lodge in London. He was also a 33rd degree Mason and during his brief stay in his mother country (1800-1812) he established the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite there.

Born March 28, 1750 in Caracas, he led a romantic and adventurous life. An idealist, he developed a visionary plan to liberate and unify all of Spanish America but his own military initiatives on behalf of an independent Spanish America failed in 1812. He was handed over to his enemies and four years later, on July 14, 1816 he died in El Arsenal de la Carraca prison in Cadiz, Spain. Within fourteen years of his death, however, most of Spanish America was independent having been liberated by the efforts of Simon Bolivar.