

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

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## TOMMASO BALDASARRE CRUDELI

Tommaso Crudeli was born December 21, 1703 at Poppi (Arezzo, Tuscany) and received his law degree in Pisa, Italy. The first Masonic Lodge in Italy was founded in the 1730s by an English agent – Phillip von Stosch. Bro. Crudeli was a free-thinker and apparently joined the fifth Masonic Lodge founded in the country in 1733 – it was located in Florence. He was arrested in Florence on May 9, 1739 by the Holy Roman Inquisition and was imprisoned for sixteen months in the S. Croce Church. He was released from prison in April 1741 and sentenced to house arrest in Poppi. He died almost four years later in Poppi on March 27, 1745 and was buried in a common grave in S. Fedele Abbey. His literary works were put on the Index Librorum Prohibitorum on October 15, 1747 and were burned in the Piazza della Signoria in Florence. Because of his membership in a Masonic Lodge he is often celebrated as a martyr for Freemasonry, even though he died four years after his imprisonment.

Bro. Crudeli was featured in the personal stamp issued by the Associazione Italiana di Filatelia Massonica of the Grande Oriente D'Italia in 2003 and a special cover on July 7, 2003, commemorating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.



- With many thanks to Bro. Leo Zanelli who developed this article from a Wikipedia reference and submitted it to the Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) for publication in their Magazine, Issue No. 130 of October 2010.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

144. Clifford K. Cyphers, P.M., 36 Bicentennial Lane, Bethel, VT 05032.

145. George Stephan, P.M., 111-15340 19A Ave., Surrey, B.C., Canada V4A 9W1.

### **ADDRESS CHANGES:**

466. Yvonne Powell, 26 Jasmine Lane, Valley Stream, NY 11581

175. Emiel Crab, Bredabaan 372 A.2.7, Brasschaat, Belgium

### **CLOSED ALBUMS:**

284. Th. J. de Gier, late of Bilthoven, the Netherlands, on August 31, 2010. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Both of our new members have been Masonic Philatelists for some time and we welcome them to the Unit. Five years ago, Wor. Bro. Cyphers made a framed display of Masons on stamps which hangs on the wall at White River Lodge, his home Lodge.

In the September 2010 issue of their EMESSAY NOTES, the Masonic Service Association of North America noted the passing of Pamela Murphy, widow of Audie Murphy, a well known Mason, on April 8, 2010. Most of us have Audie, the most decorated WWII hero and a noted actor, in their collection as he has been honored by several stamps and covers. Pamela established her own distinctive 35 year career working as a patient at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital, treating every veteran who visited the facility as if they were a VIP. Any soldier or Marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure her boys got to see the specialist they needed. If they didn't, watch out. This issue also lists known Masons as taken from the MSA publication Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers – somewhat different from some of the exaggerated lists which abound on various web sites. The MSA web site is [www.msana.com](http://www.msana.com) and they are located at 8120 Fenton Street, Ste. 203, Silver Springs, MD 20910-4785.

Bro. Alan Golding of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, recently sent in a letter commenting on the “postal history” aspect of our Newsletter. He notes the various stamps used to frank the envelopes – I try to use commemoratives or older issues whenever possible. He also notes the various postmarks applied – I have a habit of mailing the Newsletters from New Hampshire and Maine as well as Massachusetts. The cancels vary from clean circular date stamps to the heavily-inked roller cancel which “kills” the philatelic value of a cover. His latest Newsletter, however, shows a unique solution. The USPS fails to apply any cancel to many mailings – particularly to foreign destinations. His latest mailing had Canadian cancellations nicely applied.

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### **MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION**

President

E. E. “Gene” Fricks

25 Murray Way

Blackwood, NJ 08012

[genefricks@comcast.net](mailto:genefricks@comcast.net)

Editor & Secretary-Treasurer

Robert A. Domingue

59 Greenwood Rd.

Andover, MA 01810

[radpm@comcast.net](mailto:radpm@comcast.net)

Annual Membership: \$10.00 – USA; \$12.00 – Canada & Mexico; \$16.00 – All Other

## LATEST MASONIC COVERS FROM ITALY

Bro. Massimo Morgantini has sent in the latest set of Masonic cacheted covers created by the Associazione Italiana di Filatelia Massonica of the Grande Oriente D'Italia.



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AIFM-GOI



Summer Solstice – San Galgano Abbey



200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour

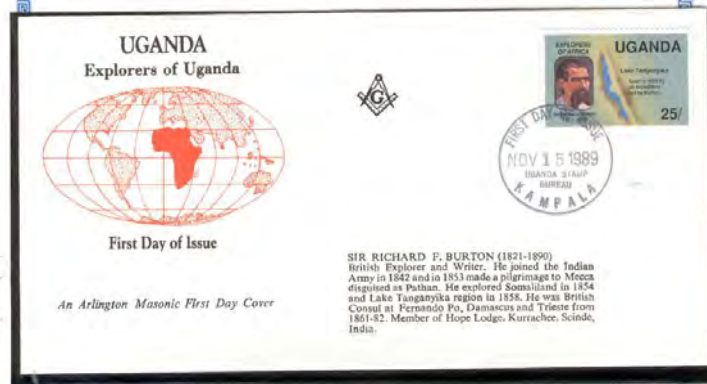


Rome Italian Capital Day – September 20<sup>th</sup>

Bro. Morgantini would like to establish an exchange program with Units producing Masonic covers. Unfortunately, we have not generated covers as a Unit since the late 1980s. If any member would like to rectify this situation, I believe the members would be behind him.

## SIR RICHARD FRANCIS BURTON

Richard F. Burton was honored on a stamp issued by Uganda on November 15, 1989 as part of a set to recognize explorers of Uganda. A Masonic cacheted cover was also prepared for Masonic Philatelists by Arlington Covers. Burton was a giant in stature and achievement but his work was rarely appreciated in the land of his birth where hypocrisy was a barrier to enlightenment and many years had to pass before the value of his research and writings were fully realized.



Although Burton was born in Torquay, England on March 19, 1821, his family lived on the continent and before he went to Oxford, he was fluent in French, Italian and several dialects as well as Latin and Greek. He was later to master 25 languages and another 15 dialects and became a translator of considerable distinction. He had an extraordinary range of talents as a linguist, writer, poet, anthropologist, botanist, physician, and was reckoned to be one of the finest swordsmen in Europe. After his marriage to Isabel Arundel, a Roman Catholic aristocrat, he obtained posts as a diplomat but he was an embarrassment to the Foreign Office just as he had been to his superiors in the East India Company – because of his liberal views and outspoken comments.

He was a subaltern in Bombay when he met Captain Walter Scott, nephew of the novelist, whom he assisted when they were both sent to Karachi under Sir Charles Napier, the hero of Sind. Burton and Scott became friends and Napier recognized Burton's talents and used him as an intelligence officer to obtain information from the bazaars where he went disguised as a merchant. As a major, Napier had been initiated in 1807 in Doyle's Lodge of Fellowship in Guernsey, a Lodge named after Sir John Doyle who was Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1822-4. When Sir Charles Napier was Governor of Sind in 1845 he laid the foundation of a new Masonic Hall in Karachi at the invitation of the Lodge of Hope No. 337 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Richard F. Burton was later initiated in this Lodge.

Although he did not seek office in Freemasonry, Burton was interested in mysticism and was initiated into the Dervish Order of Bismilla-Shah where, after a due period of probation, he was elevated to the position of Murshid, or Master of the Mystic Craft. He claimed to be well acquainted with the tenets and principles of this form of oriental

order which dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This was to become useful when he went on his pilgrimage to Mecca disguised as a Dervish and succeeded in entering the sacred Kaaba. In the Fraternity, the builders of the Kaaba (Cube) are represented by three Principles and there are 33 degrees of the Order. During Burton's travels he came across secret societies with quite terrible oaths while their secrets were more closely guarded than any in Freemasonry.

In 1855 Burton undertook a voyage of exploration to discover the source of the White Nile and set out from Zanzibar with a young assistant and brother officer, John Hanning Speke. On a second expedition after the Crimea War, they arrived weak and ill at Lake Tanganyika when Speke went on alone to Lake Victoria Nyanza. Speke's subsequent claim to have discovered the source himself led to a quarrel between the two and the day before they were to appear together before the British Association in 1864, Speke was mysteriously killed by a shotgun. His claim as to the source was later proven to be correct and Speke had named it Ripon Falls after Lord Ripon who became Grand Master of England in 1870-74.

In Brazil, Burton found that the Amazon women soldiers were not nearly as formidable as people had been led to believe and formed the opinion that a small force of charladies armed with broomsticks would soon have scattered them. He wrote many books on his travels and although he was deeply interested in the eroticism of the east, he carefully avoided publishing what might give offense until he published his highly-praised translation of *The Arabian Nights*. He was concerned about prosecution and was prepared to defend his action in publishing but no prosecution was sought.

On a visit to the United States in 1880 he met Brigham Young, the head of the Mormons whose founder, Joseph Smith, a Freemason, had been murdered by a mob. Burton found much to admire in the Mormon religion and Brigham Young agreed that it contained many of the more desirable features of other religions as well as the moral principles of Freemasonry. Young may have been a member of the Craft.

When he was dying in Trieste on October 20, 1890, his wife Isabel sent for a priest and Burton was received into the Roman Catholic Church although he was probably already dead at the time and it was only at her insistence that the priest was persuaded to proceed. The body was taken to England and he was eventually buried in a specially designed tomb at a ceremony which appalled most of his friends and which many others gave excuses not to attend. A mass has been said every year on the date of his anniversary but his tomb in the churchyard at Mortlake, near London on the river Thames, has been sadly neglected.

- This entry has been extracted from an article which was printed in the Masonic Square in December 1977 and was repeated in *The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine* of October 2010, Issue No. 130. Many thanks to "BPH"



## COMMENTS REGARDING FINNISH MASONRY

Bro. Sven R. Mossberg, 33deg, a regular reader of my article, *The Stamp Act*, appearing in the Scottish Rite quarterly magazine, *The Northern Light*, recently wrote commenting about the two personal issue stamps issued for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brahea Lodge No. 15 in 2008.



He stated: “The Finnish Post Office must have a favorable opinion of Masonry since a Lodge celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> managed to get permission to issue two “personal issue”, yet official, stamps in its honor.

“Brahea Lodge No. 15 is one of the Lodges belonging to the Grand Lodge of Finland, which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of New York in 1924, the first Lodge under its jurisdiction, Suomi Lodge No. 1, having been chartered, also by the Grand Lodge of New York, in 1922. Incidentally, one member of Suomi Lodge was Jean Sibelius, who has also been the subject of stamps from various countries. Suomi, by the way, is the Finnish word for Finland.

“Finland is one country where two Grand Lodges operate side by side. S:t Agustin is a Lodge operating under “Stor Capitlet I Finland” (The Grand Chapter in Finland) under the Grand Lodge of Sweden. The history behind the two Grand Lodges dates back to prior to the 1809 war in which Sweden lost Finland to Russia. S:t Agustin was established in 1756, closed during the Russian occupation and reinstated in 1923.”

We were able to illustrate the “personal stamps” at the time of their release in 2008 through the courtesy of Bro. Fredrik Kjellman, creator of the two stamp designs.

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## POSTAGE STAMPS AS AN INVESTMENT

The latest issue of the magazine published by the Belgian postal authorities includes an article of this title which discusses an unusual study which made the international press this summer. It was conducted by scientists Christophe Spaenjers (Tilburg University) and Elroy Dimson (London Business School). They advocate that if one is looking for a lucrative investment, postage stamps could be a good bit of business. Their study examined the development in the price of valuable British postage stamps between 1900 and 2008 based on catalogs which were available in Great Britain.

Based upon assessments and sales of several collections over the past few years I cannot endorse such a theory. I could agree with it for those high priced rarities but not for general collections and the new concept of grading shadows any sure-return of value approach on many of those rarities. The marketing techniques of many of the leading stamp dealers also reduce the potential of financial gain for many areas. I am of the firm belief that philately should be approached with the outlook of personal pleasure rather than financial gain. Any comments?

## 2011 UNITED STATES STAMP PROGRAM

Bro. Norman Lincoln has again provided his review and comments on next year's stamp program as recently announced by the USPS. In conclusion he states that "Only the Mark Twain issue prevents Masonry from being completely excluded." His detailed comments are:

If I were preparing first day covers, I might include one for Bro. Joseph Walkes who was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. *(For those who do not remember Bro. Walkes, he was a strong pioneer for the recognition of Prince Hall Masonry. He was a member of our Unit and was considered one of the top authorities of who was and who was not an African-American member of Freemasonry – Prince Hall or Profane. He was the author of several books on Prince Hall Masonry and was very strong in his convictions. I can well recall his chastisement when I claimed Louis Armstrong was not a Mason and helped lead me to the source of information which proved that there was a misidentification, several years ago.)*

The jazz issue does not include any real individuals. This is unfortunate as there were several good jazz pianists such as Nat Cole and Earl Hines. Lionel Hampton could be used for percussion. I guess you would have to have Al Jolson as the Jazz singer. I really don't care for the saxophone or the bass so someone else will have to find them.

Helen Hayes was a winner of the Tony, Emmy, Grammy and Oscar. She was hired to act by Brother Lew Fields.

Robert Anderson and Pierre G. T. Beauregard were the Masonic opponents at Fort Sumter while McDowell and Johnson at Bull Run were not Masons.

Fred Offenhauser was one of the names associated with the Indianapolis 500. He built winning cars and was a Mason. Several winners were also Masons – Ward, Ruttman, Vukovich.

The scientists and Latinos pictured were not Masons.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, aka Mark Twain, was our sole representative. His Masonic history has been well recorded and will be re-visited when the stamp is released next year.

Thank you, Bro. Norman.

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### CHANGE OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION

Since the illustrations for the newsletter are embedded rather than added to print-outs, we can now officially offer electronic versions (in color) rather than snail mail – there are advantages to both. Several members have already elected to receive it by e-mail but we have not made any price considerations. Several other ATA Units also offer electronic copies at a cost of \$5.00 per year and I believe that we could take the same position. Please let me know your thoughts and whether or not you would like to switch over; I would adjust expiration dates accordingly.

## NETHERLANDS MASONIC COVERS

Bro. Emiel Crab has provided a copy of the latest covers issued by the Netherlands study group, De Getande Rand. Details on their acquisition can be obtained from him at [Emiel.a.c@gmail.com](mailto:Emiel.a.c@gmail.com) or Bredabaan 372 A.2.7, Brasschaat, Belgium.



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## BRO. JEAN-**CLAUDE VILESPY'S MASONIC WEBSITE**

Bro. Jean-Claude has created a new website for Masonic Philately. The address is <http://philateliemaconnique.com/> and the associated e-mail is [mirah@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mirah@wanadoo.fr). This site is written in French and English and is presently comprised of about 10,800 Masonic stamps, 1270 personages in over 343 countries and a dictionary with 3500 personages in 2721 Lodges across 187 countries. It also offers an index of the Masonic Study Unit Newsletters and is updated regularly. He would also like to establish worldwide contacts and exchanges. His personal e-mail is [jean-claude.vilespy@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jean-claude.vilespy@wanadoo.fr)

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## RECENT ACQUISITION





ALFONS MARIE MUCHA  
and the  
NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Alphonse Marie Mucha was born July 20, 1860 at Ivancice, Moravia, which was later part of Czechoslovakia. He began his studies in art in Brno but was refused entrance to the Academy in Prague in spite of his obvious talent. Instead, he entered the well-known stage design workshop of Kautsky-Brioschi-Buckhardt in Vienna. He found a supporter in Count Khuen and decorated his mansions in Moravia and Italy. Only then did he study successively at the Munich Academy of Art and the Julien Academy in Paris. He arrived in America in 1904 where he taught in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. His first major successes were posters advertising Sarah Bernhardt in her various roles. He returned to his own country in 1910 and worked over a period of almost 30 years on a monumental painting called "Slavonic Epic" – it has never been permanently installed. In 1918 he designed the first series of postage stamps released by Czechoslovakia. One of the leaders of this new nation, he became a victim of the Nazi takeover on July 14, 1939.

The National Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia was founded in Prague in 1923 and was subsequently oppressed by Hitler in 1939. After World War II the Grand Lodge briefly reappeared, only to be banned by the Communists from 1948 to 1988. It was revived in 1990 and renamed the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic in 1993. Currently, six Lodges work under this body, four in Prague, of which Lodge Alfons Mucha is the latest addition (May 1999), catering largely to French ex-patriots. This Lodge is named for Alfons Marie Mucha who received his three degrees in 1919 in the Lodge "Jan Amos Komenski" in Prague. He received his Scottish Rite degrees in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1922 and was the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Czech A.A.S.R. from 1922 to 1936.

Czechoslovakia honored Bro. Mucha with a stamp picturing him that was issued in 1960 on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Stamps he designed picture Hradacany Castle in Prague on the regular issue, doves on the special delivery stamp and numerals on the postage due and newspaper stamps.



- This article is a composite of previous articles written by Bro. Norman Lincoln, the Marshal Loke files and an article which recently appeared in The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine.

The following articles were provided by Bro. Emiel Crab in his translation of "De Verlichte Loep", Issue 92, of "De Maconnieke Filatelistische Studiegroep De Getande Rand" – many thanks.

## JUAN FERNANDEZ DE SOTOMAYOR y PICON

Juan F. De Sotomayor was born November 1, 1788 (or 1777 or 1779) in Cartugena de Indias, Colombia. He served as a priest in a parish in the city of Mompox in 1810 and was nominated "Comisario del Santo Oficio de la Inquisition" in that city. He was very enthusiastic at the start of the revolution. On October 5, 1814 he was elected deputy of the Cartagena State for the confederation congress of the combined provinces of Nueva Grenada and Tunja; he was immediately elected president of the congress. When the Expeditionary Force under the command of Spanish General Pablo Murillo arrived, he and other patriots fled and hid in the mountains to avoid going to the scaffold. Merciful consideration of several priests assisted the patriots and they remained hidden in a house of friends until January 25, 1817 when a royal amnesty decree was issued by Fernando VII in Madrid.

From 1823 to 1826 Sotomayor held a seat in the House of Representatives from the Province Mompox. In 1825 he was appointed as a member of The Bible Society of London, founded in Bogota under the protection of the Freemasons Bro. Gen. Santander and Bro. Pedro Gual. He was also one of the members of the Convention of Ocana held April to June 1828. A total of 73 members took part and were under the leadership of Bro. Simon Bolivar and Bro. Paulo Francisco Santander – it was a continuation of the 1921 Congress Constituyente de la Gran Villa del Rosario in Colombia. In October 1828 he was appointed professor and Dean of the College of Muestue Senorie del Rosario de Bogota. From 1831 to 1849 he served as the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cartagena and on June 19, 1832, he was made responsible for the Diocese of Cartagena as confirmed on December 19, 1834 by Pope Gregory XVI and supported by his friend Bro. Paulo Francisco Santander, President of the Republic. He died March 30, 1849 in Cartagena, Colombia.

Juan Fernandez de Sotomayor was a member of the Lodge "Les Tres Virtudes Teologales" in Cartagena in 1809 and in 1822 transferred to the Lodge "Beneficiencia" in that same city. He is pictured on a stamp issued by Colombia on September 11, 2009 for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence.



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## ANDRES CERON SERRANA

Andres Ceron Serrana was initiated into the Andres Lodge "Filantropia Bogotana" No. 16 (now No. 4) Bogota in 1850. He was raised to the degree of Master Mason on April 8, 1864 in the presence of Bro. Mosquera. He served as Orator of his Lodge from 1864 to 1865. He was pictured on a stamp issued by Colombia on January 28, 2010 as part of the set to honor leaders.

## ANDRES CERON SERRANA (Contd)



Born December 20, 1822, 1822 in Popayan, Colombia, he received his law degree in 1847 from the University of Cauca. He was then appointed to various positions such as Judge of the Supreme Court, delegate to the Province Popayan, member of the Senate of Cauca, President of the National Congress and a professor at the University of Cauca. He participated in the Liberal Revolution of 1860-61 under the command of his friend Bro. Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera and with him conspired executing unlimited political power. He was Secretary of the Provincial Government of the Republic of Colombia from July 18, 1861 to February 9, 1863, participating in the expulsion of the Jesuits from New Grenada. He served as governor of the Bogota Federal District and as a member of the Convention Rionegro in Antioquia.

He served as a member of the House of Representatives in 1853, 1864 and 1865, was promoted to General of the Republic in 1866 and President of the Sovereign State of (Gran) Cauca from 1869 to 1871. He then served as Senator of the Republic from 1872 to 1875 and Minister of War from 1878 to 1879 but died in a boat training crash on June 16, 1879 in Bogota.

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## ANTONIO MORALES y GALAVIS

Antonio Morales was initiated in a Lodge in Venezuela in 1817 or 1818 and in January 1820 became a member of the Lodge "Libertad de Colombia" No. 1, Bogota which had been founded by General Santander. He is pictured on one of the set of stamps issued by Colombia on November 24, 2009 to honor freedom fighters.



Born September 6, 1784, Antonio Morales graduated in 1808 with a Doctor of Law degree, was a celebrated hero in Grenada and a leading figure in the revolution for independence in Bogota on July 20, 1810. He worked with his father at the time of revolution up to the time when his father was executed in 1816, He had participated in training of the Liberation Army under the leadership of Ortega, Urdaneta, Santana and Baraya in 1811/12 and when the Spanish Army occupied Bogota in 1816, he fled to the province of Casa Mere, presented himself as a Venezuelan and participated in campaigns in 1817 and 1818. He became a member of Congress in 1819 and joined the armies of Bros. Bolivar and Santander. He received a battlefield promotion to Colonel from Bolivar for bravery shown during a campaign in Nueva Granada. He was later appointed governor and military commander of the Province of El Socorro.

## ANTONIO MORALES y GALAVIS (Contd)

Following his marriage in 1820, he was appointed commander of the stronghold at Guayaquil in Ecuador established after its liberation, traveled to Quito for discussions and returned to fight in a battle at Guayaquil in May 1822. Promoted to Brigadier General of the Colombian Army in 1823, he was appointed General and commander of Quito in 1824 and in 1825 Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Colombia for Central America to the United States. He fought with General Flores in a bloody battle to end the power of Don Vicente Rocafuerte in 1835. He served as military commander of Panama City from 1847 to his death on June 8, 1852.

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## NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been identified in the October and November issues of Scott Stamp Monthly and the first combined Linn's/Scott Stamp Monthly issued on October 18, 2010.

Albania – 10/16/09 – 2870/1 – Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, pair of stamps and S/S

Belgium – 2/22/10 – 2416/20 – Authors who lived in Belgium; 2420 shows Victor Hugo.

Chile – 12/18/09 – 1841 – Gabriela Mistral, Block of 4 stamps

Dominica – 10/30/09 – 2715 – J. F. Kennedy, sheet of 4 stamps, one pictures L. B. Johnson.

France – 5/13/10 – 3817 – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stamp Bourse in Paris, S/S of 5 stamps, one pictures F. D. Roosevelt.

Gambia – 4/15/10 – 3242/3 – President A. Lincoln, two S/S of 4 stamps each, 3243c shows Theodore Roosevelt.

Great Britain – 5/13/10 – 2795/2806 – Britain in World War II, 2975 pictures Winston Churchill.

Maldiv Islands – 7/20/09 – 2988/9 – 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Man on Moon, 2989 is a S/S and pictures the crew including E. E. Aldrin.

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## MASONIC PHILATELY OFFERS

Over the past few months I have been compiling a topical listing of Masonic symbols pictured on stamps and a price list for those which I have that are available for sale. They can be e-mailed or sent via snail mail for \$1.00 to cover the required postage. I also have available two copies of Gregory R. Lucy's "Freemasonry in the Making of a Nation" (\$5.00 each + Shipping – one has the stamps but they are stuck down), one copy of Charles O. Clausen's "Masonic Stamp Album" (\$5.00 + Shipping), and two sets of the two George B. Clark's "A Masonic Stamp Collection", Vol. 1 & 2 (\$5.00 per set + Shipping). First come, first serve.