

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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ANOTHER PURE MASONIC ISSUE

Romania issued a pair of stamps on November 4, 2010 for the 130th Anniversary of the National Grand Lodge of Romania. Notification of this issue and the Romania Postal Authority release regarding it were provided by Bro. Bill Nadvornik.



[“Speaking about Freemasonry and Freemasons in Romania means to mention first of all that the history of this country, in the last 250 years, has been tightly connected to the representatives of this organization. Since the 18th century, on the current territory of Romania, they founded the first Freemason Lodges, the first one in Galati and the second in Iasi. Their founders were Princely Secretary Anton Mario del Chiaro and the Ruler Constantin Mavrocordat. Among the personalities who are said to have been Freemasons we may mention Horea, one of the leaders of the revolt from 1784, Tudor Vladimirescu, a symbol of the national fight at the beginning of the 19th century, as well as many 1848 revolutionists: Nicolae Balcescu, Vasile Alecsandri, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Costache Negruzzi, Ion C. Bratianu.](#)

[“Under the reign of King Carol I, characterized by a modern sustainable development of Romania, as we may expect, the Romanian Freemasonry was not only acknowledged but it was also given a high importance. In September 1880, in Romania they kindled the lights of the Regular Freemasonry, when was set up the National Grand Lodge of Romania \(as a regular and sovereign Grand Lodge\). From this moment, the Romanian Freemasonry started to attract in its ranks, the elite of the Romanian society consisted of politicians, militaries, artists, entrepreneurs from the middleclass, members of the families descending from rulers of the Romanian Principalities and members of aristocracy. After the Great Union from 1918, the Transylvanian Lodges have become members of the National Grand Lodge of Romania. Then followed two decades of development and consolidation of the Romanian Freemasonry that came to an end in 1937, at the request of King Carol II, when Freemasonry went into dormancy. From 1944 to 1948, with the agreement of the Allied Control Committee, Freemasonry resumed its activity, but Romania’s total submission to the Soviet Union would lead to its forbiddance starting from 1948. Harsh years of political oppression and imprisonment came for most members of the Romanian Freemasonry.](#)

“After the political changes of 1989 in the Eastern Europe, they rekindled the lights in the former communist countries. The reactivation of the Regular Freemasonry of Romania occurred with the authorization of the United Grand Lodge of England by the Grand Orient of Italy. This Regular Grand Lodge founded three Regular Lodges in Bucharest: “Concordia” Lodge, “Delta Dunarii” Lodge and “Nicolae Balcescu” Lodge. On 24th of January 1993, the 3 lodges reconstituted the Grand National Lodge of Romania, which is the only Grand Lodge of Romania acknowledged by the Universal Regular Freemasonry.”

Your Editor has been able to order a few sets of these Romanian stamps and they will be available at a cost of \$4.00 for the pair. First Day Covers for this issue have been sold out at the Postal Authority and dealers stocks are getting depleted very quickly.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

- 155. Geoffrey Garver, 4650 Huston Road, Hamilton, OH 45013
- 164. Michael Bronner, 3 Washington Square Village #16L, New York, NY 10012
- 166. Erhard Wischnewski, Krautgartenstr. 32, Stuttgart 70329, Germany

Address Changes:

None that we are aware of.

Bro. Norman Lincoln noted that the previous Newsletter was Issue Number 200. He asked if I knew how many of the original founding members were still on the active roll. The first issue was released for August-September 1977; Bro. Walter Kirby of Little Rock, Arkansas was the Editor. In April 1984, Walter suffered his third heart attack and it took his life. He had published 40 issues consisting of 400 pages, ten pages per issue. I volunteered for the job of Editor in April 1984 and issued my first Newsletter for May-June 1984. There was no issue covering the month of April 1984. I started with page 401 and you will note that this issue ends with page 2324.

The last page of Issue No. 4 included a listing of the 57 members at that time. Included on that list were Trevor Fray of England, Alan Golding of Canada and five United States residents – Ed King, Joe Harowitz, Bob Domingue, Ben Emery and Albert El. Those seven individuals are still active members today – after 33 years.

NIKOLAY IVANOVICH NOVIKOV

Nikolay Novikov is pictured on a stamp issued by Russia on June 7, 1972 – Scott 3979, Michel 4014 – as part of a set honoring the history of Russian paintings.



The Wikipedia web site article on him states:

[Nikolay Ivanovich Novikov \(Russian: Никола́й Ива́нович Новико́в\) \(8 May \[O.S. 27 April\] 1744 - 12 August \[O.S. 31 July\] 1818\) was a Russian writer and philanthropist most representative of his country's Enlightenment. Frequently considered to be the first Russian journalist, he aimed at advancing the cultural and educational level of the Russian public. Together with Johann Georg Schwartz, Ivan Vladimirovich Lopukhin, and Semion Ivanovich Gamaleya he brought martinism and rosicrucianism to Russia.](#)

[Novikov belonged to the first generation of Russians that benefited from the creation of the Moscow University in 1755. He took an active part in the Legislative Assembly of 1767, which sought to produce a new code of laws. Inspired by this kind of freethinking activity, he took over editing the Moscow Gazette and launched satirical journals, patterned after The Tatler and The Spectator. His attacks on the existing social customs prompted jocund retorts from Catherine the Great, who even set her own journal called Vsyakaya vsyachina to comment on Novikov's articles.](#)

[By the 1780s, Novikov rose to the highest positions in Russian Freemasonry, which liberally funded his ambitious book-publishing ventures. Novikov's press produced a third part of contemporary Russian books and several newspapers. Novikov used his influence for various noble purposes, such as a large-scale project of promoting Shakespeare to Russian public.](#)

[When the French Revolution started, Catherine changed her attitude towards the likes of Novikov. His printing-house was confiscated. Three years later, without a formal trial, he was incarcerated in the Shlisselburg Fortress for 15 years. Much of his printed material was pulped, including 1,000 copies of Edward Young's The Last Day \(1713\). Emperor Paul set Novikov free, but the latter was too scared and broken-hearted to resume his journalistic activities.](#)

-article contributed by Bro. Norman Lincoln, Grand Historian, Grand Lodge of Ohio

SIRS STANLEY MATTHEWS & WILLIAM RALPH “DIXIE” DEAN

Montserrat issued a souvenir sheet in 2006 which honored England Soccer Legends. The \$1.50 stamp pictures Sir Stanley Matthews and the \$2.00 stamp depicts Sir William Ralph “Dixie” Dean.



Stanley Matthews (1915-2000) played football for Stoke City and Blackpool. He also played fifty-four matches for England between 1934 and 1957 when he was 42 years old. He remained playing for Stoke until 1965. He was initiated in Clifton Lodge No. 703 in Blackpool on February 5, 1948 and passed in April 1948.

William Ralph “Dixie” Dean (1907-1980) was a legendary forward for Everton from 1925 to 1937 being the highest-ever goal scorer. He scored 383 goals in 433 appearances, including a remarkable 37 hat-tricks, and set an unbroken record of 60 league goals in a single season. He was also capped for England 16 times between 1927 and 1932 and found the net 18 times. He was initiated while still playing for both Everton and England on February 18, 1931 in Randel Holme Lodge No. 3261, Berkenhead, Cheshire.

-with many thanks to Bro. Trevor Fray

Brethren and sisters – It is encouraging to note that some of our newer members are providing inputs resulting from some original research. We know that there are more cases out there that could be tied to philatelic items and it is encouraging to see some ground being broken. Keep it up – it makes my job as Editor a lot easier.

Just recently Dalene Thomas announced that she was stepping down after seven years as Study Unit Director for the American Topical Association. She has been replaced by Bruce L. Johnson, 115 Raintree Drive, Zionsville, IN 46077-2012.

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THE WHITE RAJA OF SARAWAK

There once was a country named “Sarawak” who monarchs or Raja were British Knights. The first of the line of three Raja’s was Sir James Brooke. Sarawak was an independent kingdom from 1841 until 1946; located on the northwest side of the Island of Borneo it is now the largest state in the Federation of Malaysia.

Rajah of Sarawak, Sir James Brooke (1803-1868) was born in Secore, a suburb of Benares, India. At the age of 12 he was sent to England to be educated at Norwich Grammar School but he later ran away and in 1819 he joined the Bengal Army of the British East India Company and returned to India as an ensign. He was seriously wounded in 1825 during the battle of Assam in the first Anglo-Burmese War. After a failed attempt to make it as a trader in the Far East, his luck changed in 1833, when he inherited £30,000, which he used purchase his own ship. In August of 1838 he and his crew arrived in Borneo in the middle of an uprising against the Sultan of Brunei. The Sultan requested his assistance but Brooke refused to become embroiled in the conflict. In 1841 Brooke returned to Sarawak and provided his assistance to the Sultan and helped quell the uprising. As a result of his actions the Sultan made him Governor and granting him the title of Raja thus beginning the three generations of the White Raja’s of Sarawak who rule for 100 years. Brooke wasted no time in reforming the local administration by codifying laws, fighting piracy, banning headhunting and slavery.

Prior to his brief return to England in 1847, the British government appointed him governor and commander-in-chief of Labuan, and British consul-general in Borneo. During his return Queen Victoria created him a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. Following three strokes over ten years Brooke died on June 11th, 1868 and was buried at St. Leonard’s Church in the village of Sheepstor near, Plymouth England.

Sir James Brooke had no legitimate heir so he named his nephew Charles Anthony Johnson his successor. Johnson assumed the surname Brooke and ruled as Raja from 1868 -1917 ceding the throne to his son Charles Vyner deWindt Brooke. Sir Charles Vyner Brooke ruled as Raja until 1 July 1946 when he ceded Sarawak to the British government and Sarawak became a Crown Colony.

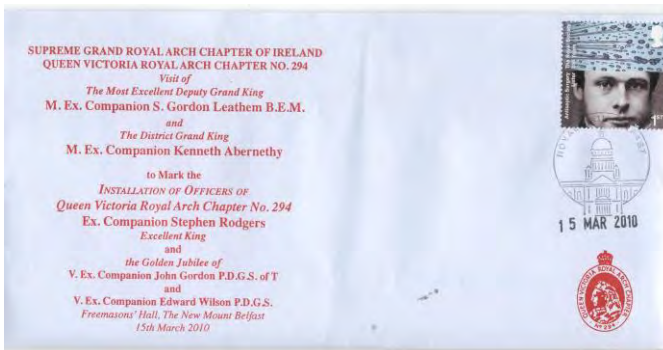
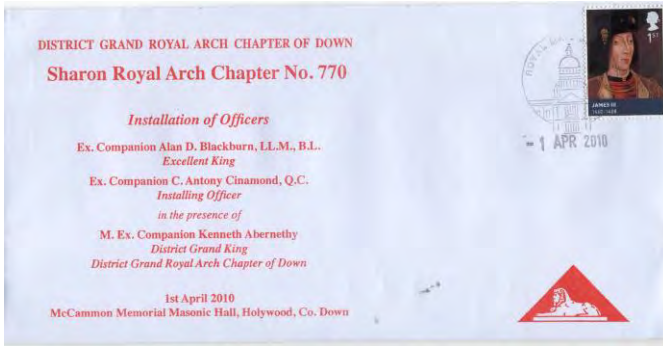
Sir James Brooks Mother Lodge is not known, but he affiliated with Lodge Zetland in the East 508 E.C, Singapore in 1849. Two stamps bear the likeness of Sir James Brooke; No. 1 issued in 1869 and a four series stamp No.’s 155-158 (Scott) depicting all three White Raja’s issued in 1946.



-article contributed and © by Bro. Larry Burden

MASONIC COVERS FROM IRELAND

The annual Christmas card fro Bro. Frank Elliott contained several different Masonic Cacheted Covers which he created for his local Masonic bodies. This past October he was elected to serve again as Excellent King (First Principal) of Sidon Chapter – his previous term was 31 years ago.



DINO MASON – BRO. JOSEPH BURR TYRRELL

In 1883 a 26-year-old geologist was leading a field party searching for coal deposits in the Red Deer River valley in the Canadian Province of Alberta. Later in the expedition they did find the largest seam of bituminous coal in Canada, but this geologist, cartographer, and mining consultant is best remembered for finding a dinosaur skull and a large deposit of fossilized bones.

The fossils were later identified as a newly discovered genus of dinosaur the *Albertosaurus sarcophagus* "Alberta lizard", a smaller cousin of *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. This species was a bipedal predator with tiny, two-fingered hands and a massive head with dozens of large, sharp teeth. It was restricted in range to the modern-day Canadian province of Alberta and was believed to have been at the top of the food chain in its local ecosystem.

Bro Joseph Burr Tyrrell was born 1 November 1858 in Weston, Ontario Canada. As a child he had scarlet fever, which left him partially deaf and impaired his vision. After graduating from the University of Toronto with a Law degree in 1880 his doctor suggested he try outdoor work because of his poor health. He took a job as a survey assistant with the Geological Survey of Canada mapping the Canadian Pacific Railway's route west through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

His surveying career continued in the 1880s and he surveyed much of northern Alberta, between the Bow and North Saskatchewan Rivers and leading a series of expeditions to explore the Barren Lands, the area west of Hudson Bay formerly held by the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1898 he worked the Klondike during the gold rush, and after a dispute about his low pay he resigned from the Survey in 1899, and opened his own mining consulting business in Dawson City. In 1907 he returned to Toronto to ply his trade in gold, silver, and cobalt-mining boom in Ontario. In 1924 fortune found him when the owners of the Kirkland Lake gold mine ran out of funds in their search for gold, Bro. Tyrell loaned them money to continue digging. They dug deeper and struck gold and by 1960, the mine had yielded \$40 million worth of gold, making Tyrell a very rich man.

Bro Tyrrell was an active Freemason thorough his life. He was a member of The Builders Lodge No. 177, GRC, in Ottawa, Canada and affiliated with University Lodge No. 496, after he moved to Toronto. Shortly after his 80th birthday he participated as Chaplain in the first ever initiation north of the Arctic Circle. The Emergent meeting was held 30 August 30th 1938 at Coppermine (now named Kugluktuk), on Coronation Gulf.

Tyrell lived to the ripe old age of 99 and died on August 26th 1957, leaving behind a very impressive pedigree including a number of firsts and honors such as:

- 1896 – Awarded the Back Award from the Royal Geographic Society of England
- 1897 – Presented a universally-accepted theory on glaciation, suggesting the ice age was not a single iceberg mass
- 1916 – Awarded the Murchison Medal in recognition of his work on glaciations
- 1930 – Received honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from University of Toronto
- 1933 – Awarded the Flavelle Gold Medal from the Royal Society of Canada
- 1947 – Awarded the Royal Geographic Society of England lifetime achievement Wallaston Medal

In addition Science renamed prehistoric Hudson Bay “The Tyrrell Sea” as it existed during the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet. The Royal Society of Canada created the “J.B. Tyrrell Historical Medal” for outstanding work in the history of Canada.

Though our Brother has never been honored on a stamp, Canada Post issued a 43-cent stamp in 1993 (Scott #1497) depicting the Albertosaurus. In addition the Royal Canadian Mint released a commemorative 50-cent coin in 2010 honoring Tyrrell’s famous Canadian Dinosaur.



- article contributed and © by Bro. Larry Burden

NETHERLANDS MASONIC COVER

Bro. Emiel Crab has sent in an Installation cover recently created by “De Getande Rand” in October of 2010. An information card enclosed states that the inaugural meeting of the Lodge Pythagoras No. 300 in Zoetermeer was held on April 28, 2009. A circle was founded on June 2 of that year and the letter requesting the Constitution was signed by eleven brethren. The Grand East agreed to the request on June 19, 2010. The Installation was celebrated on October 23, 2010; the Grand Master installed the officers and the session was followed by a reception and a brotherhood meal. 125 covers were issued.



Freemasonry lost another noted member on December 15, 2010 – Bro. Bob Feller, a noted American Major League baseball pitcher. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He was initiated in Fortitude Lodge No. 256, Van Meter, Iowa, but no data regarding his passing or raising seems to be available and his Lodge is now defunct. He did refer to himself as a “Brother Bob Feller” so perhaps further research may yield the added information.

GABRIELA MISTRAL

A few comments were received regarding the inclusion of Gabriela Mistral in the New Issues article in the previous Newsletter; they questioned the validity of claiming this Chilean poetess with being a Freemason. The earliest article on Gabriela Mistral appeared on page 1167 of the January-February 1995 issue of the Newsletter. The article was written by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, a noted Masonic researcher of Barcelona, Spain who cited Bro. Hernan Kanelos of Talca, Chile as stating she was reported to have been initiated in the Lodge "Destellos" in La Serena.

Review of the Wikipedia web site on Gabriela Mistral (her pseudonym as she was born Lucila de Maria del Perpetuo Socorro Godoy Alcayaga in Vicuna, Chile) indicates that she was brought up in La Serena and that by the age of fifteen she was supporting herself and her mother by working as a teacher's aid in that seaside town. Between 1906 and 1912 she had taught, successively, in three schools near La Serena, the in Barrancas, Traiguen and Antofagasta. Her pursuit of a position in the national school system without any Normal School training ran afoul of the complex politics of Chile and her conflicts resulted in her frequent movements from one area to another. She accepted an invitation to work in Mexico in 1922 and after two years there she traveled from Laredo, Texas to Washington, DC and Madrid. She returned to Chile in 1925 but relocated to France in 1926 and was effectively in exile for the rest of her life living in France, Italy and the United States. She was awarded a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945.

Her personal tenets imply that she might be a suitable candidate for Masonry in the Latin American country of Chile and she traveled to countries in which females had their own Grand Lodge. Unfortunately there are no definitive facts proving that she was a Freemason. Consequently, it is up to the individual researcher or collector to make his/her own determination as to whether or not to include her in the Fraternity.

FIRST ARGENTINE JUNTA

As mentioned in the New Issues item, Argentina issued a souvenir sheet on July 24, 2010 to mark the first meeting of the "Juramento de la Junta Gubernativa mayo 1810" government 200 years ago. The image on the stamp is a painting done about 1910 by Guillermo da Re, an Italian who spent some time in Buenos Aires. At the bottom of the sheet are the signatures of the patriots depicted in the painting: Mariano Moreno, Cornelio Saavedra, Juan Jose Paso, Dr. Manuel Alberti, Miguel de Azarenaga Ignacio, Juan Jose Castelli, Juan Larrea, Manuel Belgrano, and Domingo Matheu.

The May Revolution occurred because of Spanish domination, against which Argentina rebelled. Because of the French Revolution and the American Independence War, the Spanish Crown decided that English, French, Portuguese and other colonial powers were not allowed to trade with Argentina. Argentina revolted but it took until 1816 before they became officially independent. This 1810 Revolution may have been small but the First Junta was a stab against Spanish Domination.

Following the revolution, on May 22, 1810, more than 200 dignitaries from all levels of society met in Buenos Aires and under pressure from the military formed the National Government on May 25. The Junta was only composed of representatives of the Buenos Aires area; all of them were Freemasons. Their first meeting was on December 18, 1810 at which they immediately dissolved themselves and were succeeded by the Grande Junta which included representatives from other cities and towns.

Brief details of each of the nine members of the Primera Junta are as follows:

Cornelio Saavedra (1759-1829) – Viceroy of the Rio de la Plata, President of the Junta. Member of the Lodge Lealted No. 6.

Dr. Mariano Moreno (1778-1811) – Junta Secretary, Minister of War, Diplomat to London. Member of the Lodge Independentia, Buenos Aires.

Juan Jose Paso (1758-1833) – Junta Secretary and Minister to France. Member of the Lodge Independentia, Buenos Aires.

Domingo Matheu (1766-1831) – Member of the Junta. Member of the Lodge Independentia, Buenos Aires.

Juan Larrea (1782-1847) - Member of the Junta. Member of the Lodge Independentia, Buenos Aires.

Juan Jose Castelli (1764-1812) - Member of the Junta. Member of the Lodge Independentia, Buenos Aires.

Manuel Belgrano (1770-1820) – Member of the Junta. Inaugurated in the late 18th century in the Lodge Independentia, Master of the Lodge Argentina in Tucuman, member of the Lodge Unidad Argentina.

Miguel De Azcuenaga Ignacio (1751-1833) - Member of the Junta. Member of the Lodge Independentia, Buenos Aires.

Manuel Alberti (1763-1811) – Catholic priest, Member of the Junta. Member of the Lodge San Juan de Jerusalem, Buenos Aires.



-with many thanks to Bro. Emiel Crab, “De Verlichte Loep” and De Getande Rand

STEVAN SREMAC

Bro. Stevan Sremac has been honored on a stamp issued by Serbia and Montenegro on November 23, 2005 – Scott 322, Michel 3303, SG 0087.



Born November 11, 1855 in Senta (Yugoslavia-Serbia), he was a realist comedy writer and one of the most popular writers of his time. He was brought up in his homeland and after the death of his parents, his uncle enabled him to study in Belgrade. Upon graduating he became a teacher at a school in the southern Siberia towns of Nis and Soko Banja, retaining this position until his death. At the age of 33, he started writing using subjects from romanticized events of his time and Serbia's history. Most of his work was short stories and novellas and were published under the title "Iz knjiga starostavnih" (from old books). He painted the patriarchal petty-bourgeois atmosphere of his time in Serbia in a humorous and satirical manner, but rarely mocking. He did make an exception when he ridiculed his political opponents in less successful work. His stories showed his love for the "old way" of life which was gradually disappearing. Politically, he was active in the Liberal Party which was quite conservative with severe nationalistic dimensions; moreover, they supported the ruling of the Obrenovic dynasty. He died August 12, 1906 in Soko Banja.

Stevan Sremac was a member of the Lodge "Pobratim", in Belgrade. This Lodge was founded on February 14, 1891 and one of the founders was Bro. George Weifert. Six members of this Lodge, including Stevan Sremac, founded the Lodge "Nemanju" in Nis on March 9, 1892.

MICHAEL IDVORSKY PUPIN

Born October 4, 1858 in Idvor in Banat, Pupin's parents were illiterate farmers but were very intelligent and encouraged Michael to seek a good education. He attended primary school in Idvor and then went to Pancevo in 1869 where he received a good education, especially in physics. He went to Prague in 1872 for further study but when his father died very suddenly he decided to emigrate to America, arriving there in March 1874. Because he had not finished his studies, had no qualifications, and could not speak English, he had a number of difficult years. He learned English while working several jobs such as in a biscuit factory in Manhattan, and conducted research in different libraries. In 1879 he was admitted to Columbia College where he became an extraordinary athlete and a studious student. He graduated in 1883, received a scholarship for further study in theoretical physics and became an American citizen.

Michael Pupin then studied for 6 years at the universities of Cambridge and Berlin where he wrote his doctoral dissertation "Osmotic Pressure and its Relationship to Free Energy". In 1889. He returned to Columbia University in New York and was appointed a teacher in mathematical physics. In 1896 he discovered and developed a flourescent screen that is used for xrays allowing reduction of recording time from one hour to a few seconds. In 1899 he obtained his so-called Pupin-patent on the Pupin coils by which long distance phone calls became possible by installing self-induction coils at regular intervals in the telephone lines. AT&T bought this patent and he became a rich man with the sale of his patent. Between 1894 and 1934 he received 34 patents on his inventions. He was appointed professor at Columbia University for the period 1901-1931 and in 1911 Consul of the Kingdom Serbia New York. During the Paris peace talks after World War I he became a diplomat and got involved in the determination of the future borders of the kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.

He received a Pulitzer Prize for his 1923 autobiographical work, "From Immigrant to Inventor". He wrote many scientific articles as well as less scholarly works. Active in the associations of Serbian immigrants in the USA he was the founder and first president of the "Serbian National Defense Council of America. He was awarded many medals, awards, memberships and honorary degrees and died in New York on March 12, 1935.

Michael Pupin was a Mason according to the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia and it is known that he was initiated in the A.A.S.R. but details do not appear to be available. He is pictured on stamps issued by Bosnia-Herzegovina (Serb.) in 1997 and 1955 and Serbia Montenegro in 2004.

- again, my indebtedness to the members of the Netherlands Study Group for both of these articles.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues applicable to a Masonic Philatelist have been announced in the Linn's Stamp News of November and December 2010. It can be seen that they are few and far between.

Argentina – 7/24/10 – 2583 – Souvenir Sheet honoring the Bicentennial of the First Government Junta, Several Masonic Patriots are included in the design.

Bahamas – 6/18/10 – 1298-1303 – Battle of Britain, 70th Anniversary, various photos of Winston Churchill and words from his speeches.

Bulgaria – 7/23/10 – 4550 – Souvenir Sheet of 2 stamps and a label for the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Alphonse Mucha.

Brazil – 10/7/10 – 3100 – Souvenir Sheet of 2 stamps celebrating the French Year in Brazil, one stamp pictures Le Corbusier.

Dominican Republic – 8/30/10 – 1485 – Honoring Juan Pablo Duarte (1813-76), Independence Leader and his Birthplace in Santo Domingo.

Italy – 5/5/10 – 2994 – Expedition of the Thousand, 150th Anniversary, Giuseppe Garibaldi.

Italy – 6/6/10 – 3005 – 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Camilo Benso, Count of Cavour.