

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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CAMILLO PAOLO FILIPPO GIULIO BENSO CONTE DI CAVOUR, CONTE DI ISOLABELLA e LERI

Italy recognized the bicentennial celebration of the death of Camillo Benso with the release of a stamp on June 6, 2010. He was born August 10, 1810 in Turin, Italy. It is claimed by noted researchers that Camillo Benso Di Cavour was a Freemason; he may have belonged to the Lodge "Ausonia" in Turin in 1859. His close association with Brothers Garibaldi, Bixio and Mazzini lends credence to this claim of membership.



Camillo Benso Di Cavour was sent to the Turin Military Academy when he was ten years old. He frequently ran afoul of the authorities there as he was too headstrong to deal with the rigid military discipline. He was enlisted in the Engineer Corps of the Piedmontese-Sardinian army in 1827 and resigned his commission in 1831 because of boredom with military life. He spent time in Switzerland, Paris and England followed by a quick tour of the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland returning to Turin. Between 1838 and 1842 he began several initiatives in agricultural techniques on his estate and sponsored the building of many railroads and canals. He became a political journalist in 1847 and entered the political arena under the new movement of Italian liberalism. He was finally brought in to the Chamber of Deputies and gained a reputation as a non-revolutionary progressive. He became the Minister of Marine, Commerce and Agriculture in 1850 and Minister of Finance in 1851 beginning his vast railway expansion program. By November 1852 he had earned the title of Prime Minister of Piedmont and although he was criticized for a number of controversial methods he used, his term was considered one of the most successful of all time. He became a leading figure in the movement toward Italian unification and was the founder of the original Italian Liberation Party. He ruled the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia throughout the Second Italian War of Independence and Garibaldi's campaigns to unite Italy. He died on June 7, 1861 in Turin, only three months after the declaration of a united Kingdom of Italy and thus did not live to see Venetia or Rome included in the kingdom.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

161. K. P. Achar, Flat no. G!, Samskruthi Heaven, 12-5-55/1, Vijaypuri, Tarnaka, Secunderabad – 500017, India.

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172. Donald L. Saint, CMR 458, Box R-354, APO AE 09143-03454

RESIGNED:

239. Robert A. DeLena

CLOSED ALBUMS:

493. W. "Willie" Lightbody, late of Strathclyde, Scotland.

Bro. Frank Elliott, of Belfast, No. Ireland, writes that in October 2010, after 31 years, he was elected to serve again as Excellent King (First Principal) of Sidon Chapter.

Bro. Larry Burden, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, has been successful in organizing the Valley of Ottawa Masonic Stamp Club and has initiated a newsletter for the Club, "The Watermark". It is a very colorful publication bringing various items of our Topical hobby to the interested parties. The members have decided that the best way to chat about Masonic philately and Masonry in general was to do it over dinner. The first "meeting" of 2011 was held at Robbies Restaurant (the one on St. Laurent Blvd. in Ottawa) on January 26 and it was deemed a great success. The next meeting was held on February 23. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Bro. Burden at 1432 Larkhaven Crescent, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1C 5A1 or larryburden8@gmail.com We wish them the best in their venture and are pleased to see a new organization dedicated to Masonic Philately.

Two years ago, your Editor chose not to run for re-election as Secretary of St. Matthew's Lodge – 19 years in the saddle was enough. Some individuals were not pleased with the "extra time" I was having and I was selected to be the District Deputy Grand Secretary of the 12th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. It is the first position I have held in Masonry outside my Mother Lodge but it is a great experience and I am having fun visiting the nine Lodges in our District. The job seems easy and pleasant now but it may be a different story in the fall when I have to achieve reconciliation of the Grand Lodge returns with each Lodge Secretary. I recall the event well when I was on the other side of the table.

Although the USPS has increased the mailing cost for 2 oz. letters within the US, I do not see any need to increase the dues to accommodate the same.

The By-Laws of our Unit state that officers should be elected every two years. This has not been done for several years and I would like to know if anyone is interested in running for the position of President or Treasurer. Bro. Gene Fricks has done an admirable job as President and I handle the finances as a normal part of the role of Editor/Secretary. Any comments?

The Unwitting Masonic Legacy of Nicolas Poussin

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

I certainly don't think the famous artist Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665) was a Freemason, he was far too early for organized Freemasonry. However, that he might have been acquainted with Craft Masonry during his time, and some of the teachings of the "Craft" is possible. Some scholars date Masonic teachings back to 800. Biblical references, of course, go back to the building of King Solomon's temple.

That being said, Poussin's remarkable painting *The Shepherds of Arcadia* (1648) can be taken to be highly Masonic in nature, and that Masons in the 1700s and beyond saw this is very likely.



The painting, as seen here on the left, shows three men inspecting the inscription on a tomb. The inscription reads: *Et in Arcadia ego*, which means, "I too here lived in Arcadia."

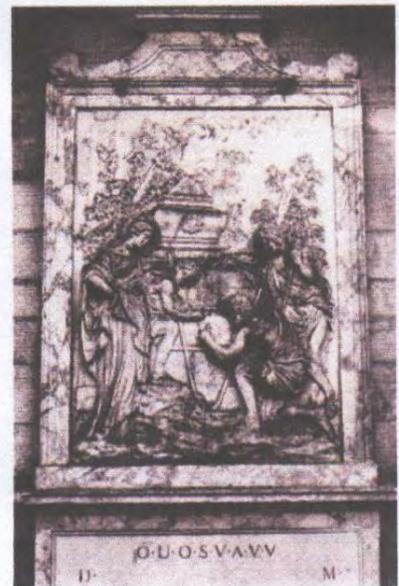
The youngest of the three men seems to be questioning a rather "symbolic" woman as to what the inscription actually means.

I think that most Masons will immediately see that the three men can be taken as a Master Mason, a Fellow-Craft and an Entered Apprentice. Also

that the woman can be taken as Hope, one of the principle rounds on Jacob's ladder (i.e., Faith, Hope, and Charity). Hope could be telling the Entered Apprentice that death is inevitable and assuring him that if he leads a good life, he can look forward to a rewarding afterlife in heaven—where all good Freemasons hope to arrive

It is therefore little wonder to me that a *mirror image* of this painting was used for the 18th century assumed Masonic-related monument (shown right) on the grounds of Shugborough Hall, Staffordshire, England, called *The Shepherds' Monument*. I say "assumed" because I am going by the inference in the book, *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (Baigent, Leigh & Lincoln, 1996). I don't think much in this book is fact, however, from the information I have provided, I think they were right on this point.

If you look closely you will see that there is an inscription on the monument showing the following letters: O.U.O.S.V.A.V.V. Then below this inscription, to the left there is a "D" and to the right, an "M."



Since 1996 (publishing of book by Baigent and all) this inscription has brought about mountains of speculation, all naturally related to “Masonic secrets.” We see on *Wikipedia* that the inscription has never been satisfactorily explained, and has been called one of the world's top uncracked ciphertexts.



Monument inscription as it is seen.

Some months ago I saw a post on the subject by Shannon Dorey who offered the following explanation, which when coupled with what I have already stated, makes sense to me.

If the inscription is turned upside down, the first two letters can be said to form an “M”. The third and fourth letters, when combined, form the square and compass, which can be taken as an “A”. The next letters “S” and “O” remain as is, and the next letter is now an “N”. Taken together all of these letters result in the word “MASON.”



Monument inscription turned upside down.

Now we come to the last letter, “O”. Shannon had no explanation for this letter. However, I believe it could have the significance stated by Mackey in his *Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry*. He states:

“O”: The fifteenth letter in the English and most of the Western alphabets. The corresponding letter in the Hebrew and Phoenician alphabets was called *Ayn*, that is, eye. The primitive form of the Phoenician letter being the rough picture of an eye or a circle with a dot in the center.

The meaning of a circle with a dot in the center is, of course, well-known to all Freemasons, and given the inscription shows the word “MASON” with an “O” (circle) at the end, then the entire meaning would be: “Mason, keep your passions within due bounds.” There is also an inference to the All-seeing eye. When this “statement” is taken into context with the sculpture, we have a complete message based on the entire Masonic philosophy.



The upside down inscription letters with the proposed translation below.

As to the “D” and “M”, these letters were common on old Roman tombstones. and the practice of using them carried over into the Christian era. The letters stand for *Diis Manibus*, or “To the Spirits of the Dead.” The words are also said to mean, “Dedicated to the Shades” (or deities). Even though the word “deities” is plural, I think the intent in later times was, “Dedicated to God” (it’s the thought that counts). These letters have nothing to do with the main inscription.

Certainly, from my studies Masonic symbolism is not complex. Beyond the “veiling” of meanings, Masons don’t complicate things. Equally certain is that none of this sort of thing has anything to do with “Masonic secrets.”

If the question is, could the inscription really be so “unsophisticated? The answer is, definitely. One has only to look at the symbol for Tubal Cain to prove this.

In my opinion, the time, effort, and speculation on the Shepherds’ Monument inscription (most I believe by non-Masons) has gone far beyond common sense. I believe the person who sculptured the monument, or the person who commissioned him, simply wanted to say what I

have stated, and thought of a way to show it so as not to be immediately evident. I am sure Masons at the time were told of the little “secret,” if you will (probably in Lodge), and they kept it to themselves. They would not have written it down or published it.

Bro. Chris Murphy is a Past Master, RAM, AASR Mason 32°, Shriner, and a member of the Society of Blue Friars. He has written three books on Masonic Philately.

Ed. – Thank you Bro. Chris for this interesting article.

FINNISH MASONIC PERSONAL STAMPS

Bro. Eero Tahtinen, of Espoo, Finland, has sent in a sample of his recently created Masonic Personal stamp. It was published at the end of November 2010 to celebrate the symposium of the Finnish Orders of Masonic Knighthoods scheduled for 22-23 January 2011 in Kuopio, a town in Northern Finland. The verbiage on the stamp is as follows: “Suomi” is Finland in Finnish and “I luokka klass” is First Class in Finnish and Swedish. This stamp is valid world-wide for letters up to 50 grams within Finland and 20 grams to all other countries. It is amazing what can be done now with the capability of generating stamps of one’s own design.



2010 SHEET FROM DE GETANDE RAND

This copy of the Annual De Getande Rand sheet for 2010 was obtained from Bro. Emiel Crab.



BENJAMIN D'URBAN

Sir Benjamin d'Urban has not yet been pictured on a stamp but a South Africa release of May 2, 1949 shows the good ship "Wanderer" entering Durban Bay with the Byrne Settlers of 1849; the port of Durban was named after this British general and colonial administrator. Benjamin d'Urban was initiated June 3, 1794 in Lodge No. 16, which met at the White Swan, Upper Market Street, St. Peters, Norwich. Although he gave his age as 21, he was obviously much younger. This Lodge was later known as Union No. 52 under the Premier Grand Lodge and was erased February 10, 1809. In 1834 he became a joining member of Hope Lodge No. 473, English Constitution, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa; in 1837 he was named an Honorary Master of that Lodge. This Lodge was erased in 1878.



Sir Benjamin d'Urban was born in 1777 in Halesworth, England and joined the British Army in 1793, enlisting as a cornet in the Queen's Bays. He made rapid progress in the Army and distinguished himself in the Peninsular War. Assigned to the Portuguese Army, he served as quartermaster general and chief-of-staff to William Carr Beresford. He served in all the principal sieges and battles, never asking to go on leave and was laden with many honors. He also received the Army Gold Cross and five clasps for his several battles. In 1819 he was made governor of Antigua and in 1824 he became the lieutenant governor of Demerara-Essequibo where he formed British Guiana in 1831 and served as its first governor. In January 1834 he took office as governor and commander-in-chief of the Cape Colony and served a very complicated administration involving exodus of Dutch farmers and the outbreak of the Cape Frontier Wars. He was in office when Britain abolished slavery, established municipal and legislative councils, occupied Natal and named it as a new colony for the British Empire. The name of the principal port was changed from Port Natal to Durban to commemorate his service. His treatment of the Africans resulted in his dismissal in 1838 but he continued in his military capacity in South Africa until 1846. Declining a high military appointment in India in 1842 he accepted appointment as commander of Her Majesty's forces in British North America in 1847 and set up his headquarters in Montreal. He remained in that city for the remainder of his life. He died May 25, 1849 in Montreal, Canada and is buried there.

ERNEST BORGNINE

Bro. Ernest Borgnine recently received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild. A long time Freemason whose Mother Lodge is Abingdon Lodge #48, Abingdon, VA, he is also a Scottish Rite Mason, Southern Jurisdiction has been honored with the Grand Cross Award, the York Rite Medal of Honor from the York Rite Sovereign College of North America and the Benjamin Franklin Medal from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

JACK LALANNE

American fitness guru Jack LaLanne died Sunday afternoon, January 23, 2011 at his home in Morro Bay, California; he was 96 years old. The cause was respiratory failure due to pneumonia; he had been ill for the previous week. LaLanne spent decades talking about the healthful benefits of exercise and fitness. He opened his own health spa in California in 1936, years before the fitness craze swept the United States. LaLanne even designed the world's first leg-extension machine, along with several other pieces of fitness equipment now standard in the fitness industry. He can be included in a Masonic Stamp Collection using the United States stamp issued on May 14, 1983 to call attention to Physical Fitness.



Jack LaLanne was born in San Francisco, California on September 26, 1914. A self-confessed sugar and junk food addict as a child, he went on to study bodybuilding and weight-lifting by the time he was in his late teens. From the 1950s through the 1980s, LaLanne performed multiple feats of strength and endurance. His first such stunt was an underwater swim the length of the Golden Gate Bridge, loaded with 140 pounds of equipment, in 1954. He went on to stage many attention-getting events, including completing over a thousand pushups in a little over 20 minutes, and towing 65 boats filled with thousands of pounds of wood pulp in Japan. LaLanne had his own workout program, "The Jack LaLanne Show", first broadcast nationally in 1959; the show went on to run for three decades. In his later years, he was easily recognized because of late-night infomercials on the benefits of juicing. He also made many appearances on CNN's "Larry King Live" and was a friend of the talk show host. "There was no one like Jack LaLanne," King said Sunday night. "He would go on forever ... a true guru. I guess Charles Atlas from the old comic books would be the predecessor for Jack LaLanne." But it wasn't simply LaLanne's physical prowess that impressed King. "Elderly people were encouraged by him because he just kept on going," King said, adding that modern fitness celebrities owe a debt of gratitude to the original impresario of exercise. LaLanne's wife of 51 years released a statement on her husband's passing: "I have not only lost my husband and a great American icon, but the best friend and most loving partner anyone could ever hope for," Elaine said. He was inducted into the California Hall of Fame at the age of 94.

Brother Jack LaLanne was raised as a Master Mason on March 17, 1949 in Chateau Thierry Lodge No. 569, California. It later merged with Crow Canyon Lodge #551 in Castro Valley, California where LaLanne was still a member at his death.

- Many thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals for this article

MOTILAL NEHRU

Pandit Motilal Nehru (“Pandit” is an honorary title, similar to “Honorable”) was born May 6, 1861 in Delhi, India. He became one of the first generation of young Indians to receive a Western-style college education. He attended Muir Central College at Allahabad but failed to appear for the final year B.A. examinations. He later qualified for the “Bar at law” from Cambridge and enlisted as a lawyer in the English courts. He became a barrister and settled in the city of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, established a lucrative law practice there and was admitted to the Allahabad High Court in 1896. In 1907 he presided over a provincial conference of the Indian National Congress, a political organization striving for dominion status for India. He reached the pinnacle of his legal career by gaining the approval to appear in the Privy Council of Great Britain. His frequent visits to Europe angered the Kashmiri Brahmin community as he refused to perform the traditional “prayashchit” or reformation ceremony after crossing the ocean. He was the first Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Leader, and a highly influential paper published from Allahabad. On February 5, 1919 he launched a new daily paper, the Independent, as a counterblast to the well-established local daily paper, the Leader, which was much too moderate for his taste. He was a man of many elitist habits and had a westernized life style. He was one of moderate, wealthy leaders of the Indian National Congress. Under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi in 1918, he became one of the first to transform his life to exclude western clothes and material goods, adopting a more native Indian lifestyle. In 1921 both he and his son, Jawaharal (later India’s first Prime Minister) were arrested by the British and jailed for six months. Two years later he helped found the Swaraj Party, the policy of which was to win election to the Central Legislative Assembly and obstruct its proceedings from within. In 1928 he wrote a future constitution for an independent India based on the granting of Dominion status. After the British rejected these proposals, he participated in the civil disobedience movement of 1930 and was again imprisoned. He died on February 6, 1931 soon after his release.

Bro. Motilal Nehru was a member of Unity Lodge No. 29 in Allahabad, India, and served a term as Worshipful Master there. He was also a member of Harmony Lodge under the Grand Lodge of India. India marked the centenary of his birth with the issue of a stamp on May 6, 1961.



-with thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals for much of the information herein

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AMEDEO NAZZARI

Amedeo Nazzari was a member of the noted Italian Lodge P2 operating under the Grand Lodge of Italy; he held Card No. 1819 in that organization. On October 18, 2007, Italy issued a souvenir sheet of three stamps honoring entertainers; he was included along with Beniamino Gigli and Maria Callas.



Amedeo Nazzari was born December 10, 1907 in Cagliari, Italy. He was, without doubt, the first real heart-throb of Italian cinema after the advent of sound film. He was of manly build with a resemblance to Errol Flynn. In the 1930s Nazzari became the first choice when it came to reckless, adventure-seeking characters, earning himself lasting fame that allowed him to enjoy a comeback in the post war period in the melodramas of Raffaello Matarazzo. His first starring role was as the young officer in “Cavalleria” (1936) but true fame and popularity came thanks to “Luciano Serra Pilota” (1938), a film that, although made under the Fascist regime, is terse and not at all bogged down by rhetoric. In successive years, he worked alongside almost all of the leading actresses in Italian cinema – in part portraying bold, virile characters and a vision of life that was dignified and noble.

After the war he was only marginally interested in the neorealist film movement. He consolidated his status as the most popular Italian movie actor in several films. In the Fifties several of his roles demonstrated his capabilities in acting and displayed his ability to show an admirable sense of irony. Ever faithful to his embodiments of fearless heroes and incorruptible gentleman, he was an icon of a naïve, provincial Italy that was self-sufficient at all costs, even in its dreams; but he displayed an ability to shift from comedy to mature roles with impeccable professionalism, the ultimate defining trait of his outstanding career. During his career, he received three major, prestigious awards: the David di Donatello Special David award for a life dedicated to cinema with passionate professionalism and extraordinary success; the Venice Film Festival Best Actor in the Year 1941; and Nastro d’Argento Best Actor award in 1947. He died in Rome on November 7, 1979.

In the previous Newsletter there was some discussion regarding the longevity of “The Philatelic Freemason”. In reality, this series of Newsletters is the fourth in the sequence of publications on Masonic Philately that was not associated with a “local” Masonic Stamp Club. The first, “Masonry on Postage Stamps”, was edited by Bro. John A. Mirt from September 1951 to October 1956. Next came Bro. Clarence W. Beltmann as editor of the first ATA “Masonic Stamp Unit Newsletter” from August 1960 to August 1965, followed by Bro. Nicholas G. Koutroulis from September 1967 to February 1975 under the masthead of “The Masonic Stamp Collector”. Bro. Walter Kirby launched “The Philatelic Freemason” in August 1977 and passed away in April 1984 at which time I became the Editor.

GIUSEPPE BENTONELLI JOSEPH HORACE BENTON

Giuseppe Bentonelli was a world-famous operatic tenor in the first half of the 1900s. He sang at the Metropolitan Opera Center, at La Scala, at the Lisbon Opera, the Cairo Opera and the Chicago Opera, among many others. He was hailed as one of the finest tenors of all time. And, he had a secret – he was really Bro. Joseph Horace Benton. When he started his singing career in the 1920s it was universally agreed that while America produced fine sopranos and even baritones, only Italy could produce a really good tenor. At the suggestion of his singing coach at the University of Oklahoma, he translated his first name into Italian and added “elli” to his last name. He became the first American male singer to be universally accepted in Europe and was voted one of the four best tenors in Italy in 1934.

Joseph Benton was born September 10, 1898 in Kansas City , MO and his family moved to Sayre, Oklahoma in 1901. He graduated from high school there in 1916 and the family then moved to Norman where he studied medicine at the University of Oklahoma. In mid-academic career he switched to music, studied voice and received three degrees – a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and French in 1920, a Bachelor of Music in Voice in 1921 and a Master of Arts in Modern Languages in 1941. While he was in school he befriended future playwright Lynn Riggs and helped him with musical notation for his first play. After a brief attendance at the Chicago Musical College and study in France, he made his operatic debut in 1925. Study in Italy followed and he Italianized his name. His Italian debut came in 1928 after which he performed in hundreds of operas all across Europe. Returning to the United States he made his American debut in Puccini’s *Tosca* with the Chicago Grand Opera Company. In 1936, while in New York to perform on a radio show, he was asked by the Metropolitan Opera Company to substitute for the tenor scheduled for Massenet’s *Manon*, and was then offered a contract. He continued singing in New York and Chicago and also toured with the Metropolitan Opera Quartet. He decided to retire in 1941 and returned to Oklahoma completing a Master’s degree in Modern Languages in 1941. In 1944 he became a professor of voice at the University of Oklahoma. Retiring in 1969, he published his memoirs in 1973. He was a Fellow in several organizations and was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1951. He died April 6, 1975 in Norman, Oklahoma.

Bro. Benton was a member of Norman Lodge #38, Norman, Oklahoma being raised on November 22, 1920. He received his 32nd degree on October 24, 1940 at the Guthrie, Oklahoma Temple. Although he has not been pictured on a stamp, he can be added to a Masonic collection coupled with the US stamp issued on September 14, 1983 for the Metropolitan Opera.



-Thanks to *EMESSAY NOTES* for much of this article

CHITTARANJAN DAS

Bro. Chittaran Das was a member of the Lodge “Courage with Humanity” No. 392, English Constitution. It is now No. 3 under the Grand Lodge of India. He is pictured on a stamp issued by India on May 11, 1965.



Bro. Das was born November 5, 1870 in Calcutta to a progressive Brahma family.. His father was a lawyer, journalist and editor of the English church weekly Brahma Public Opinion. After graduating from the “Presidency College” of Calcutta, he went to England in 1890 to participate in the examinations for admission to Indian Civil Service. He did not succeed but became a member of the Inner Temple and in 1892 was admitted to the Bar. The following year he returned to India and enrolled in the Bar of the High Court of Calcutta. During his early years as a lawyer he was closely associated with Bro. Rabindranath Tagore, at that time still an unknown poet.

From his early childhood, Das was a nationalist and founder and active member of the student association. One of his points was to obtain use of the Bengali language at the university. He helped distribute the “Bande Mataram”, an English weekly advocating the spread of “Swaraj” – the motion to obtain self-government. He was very politically active in the 1917 to 1925 time frame. He became Chairman of the administration of the province of Bengal and in that capacity, he submitted a plan for improving life in the villages through self-government, a cooperative credit opportunity and improvement of the cotton industry. That same year he started attending regular meetings of the Indian National Congress and was assigned to almost all of the important committees. He introduced “Dyarchy”, the first introduction of democratic principles in the administration of India and the precursor of full autonomy. In 1920 he joined the non-cooperation movement of Mahatma Gandhi and traveled extensively to promote the idea of and belief in the movement. In 1921 he, his wife and son were arrested and sentenced to six months imprisonment. That same year he was elected chairman of the Congress of Ahmedabad. After the initial failure of Gandhi’s movement he conceived a new strategy as President of the Congress of Gaya, of advocating a policy of obstruction within the governing legislative councils. This plan was rejected by the Congress so he formed the “Swarajya” party with Bro. Motilal Nehru. The party was a huge success in Bengal and the central provinces and spread to Calcutta; he was the first elected mayor of Calcutta. In 1924 he formulated his joint Hindu-Muslim pact for promoting lifelong peace between the two major communities in India and also attempted an assimilation of Eastern Spirituality and Western technique. Throughout his political activities he published several literary journals and books. He died June 16, 1925 in Darjeeling.

-with many thanks to Bro. Emiel Crab, Bro. Henk Godthelp and De Getande Rand

CHECKLISTS FOR MASONS ON STAMPS

Recently the new ATA Director of Study Units asked if we had any checklists available through our Unit. I took the opportunity to explain to him that, with the exception of some individual person checklists that appeared in the Newsletter during Bro. Walter Kirby's editorship, I had never seen a comprehensive checklist for out topical. I explained the several stumbling blocks along the way such as the large number of applicable persons but the lack of positive proof of membership for many of them. I also explained what I use for my personal collection – for research, album construction, and inventory purposes. He believes that such a documentation system might be worthwhile to use to develop a checklist or a series of checklists.

Consequently, I have done some thinking and some initial checklist construction. I am thinking of preparing a CD on which I would copy my "Monster Matrix" which contains information on over 3400 Masons applicable to Masonic Philately (names, dates, country, notability and reference source identification), my Album Inventories (stamp identification by country, by person) and checklists (by stamp issuing country and identifying Mason applicability). The inventories and checklists would be sub-divided into the following areas: US (Presidents, Astronauts, and others), Eurasia, British Commonwealth (Royalty, Homeland, and Empire), Latin America, and Anti-Masons. I have completed the Eurasia, Anti-Masons, US Presidents, and US Others so far. My big question is – "Would there be any interest from the members in such a product?" I would appreciate hearing your opinions.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic significance have been cited in the February 21 issue of Linn's Stamp News. (For some reason, I have not yet received the January issue.)

Peoples Republic of China – 7/25/10 – 3838-3841 – Set issued to honor Composers, includes Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig von Beethoven.

Czech Republic – 5/26/10 – 3454/5 – 2 stamps showing Alphonse Mucha illustrations

France – 9/7/10 – 3887 – Stamp issued for the 150th anniversary of the Universal Israelite Alliance pictures a trestleboard (blackboard).

Ireland – 10/28/10 – 1902/3 – Stamps noting Irishmen Involved with Chilean Independence, including John Mackenna and Bernardo O'Higgins.

Mongolia – 1/25/08 – 2646 – Pair of stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

Mozambique – catch-up of various stamps released in the 2000 decade:

1892 – set of 6 stamps picturing Napoleon I

1893 – set of 6 stamps picturing Joseph Haydn

1897 – set of 6 stamps picturing Alexander von Humboldt

1900 – set of 6 stamps honoring First man on the moon, E.E. Aldrin is included