

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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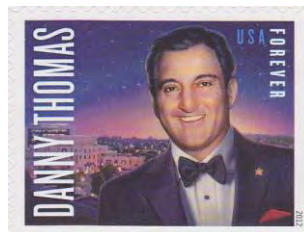
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## USPS TRIBUTE TO DANNY THOMAS

On February 16, 2012, the USPS issued a tribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Danny Thomas and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hospital he founded, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Bro. Thomas received all three degrees of Freemasonry on March 15, 1984, in Gothic Lodge No. 270 located in Hamilton Square, NJ. This one day session was done as a courtesy to Palisades Lodge No. 637, Santa Monica, CA – his Mother Lodge. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in a special class held on April 12, 1985 at the Temple in Los Angeles and was raised to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree, AASR-SJ. He became a Shriner in El Malaikah Temple held on the same day in a special Cold Sands Ceremonial at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles – he was the only candidate. Soon thereafter he was presented the Congressional Gold Medal by President Reagan; he was the 116<sup>th</sup> recipient of this award.



Danny was born to Lebanese immigrant parents January 6, 1912 in Deerfield, Michigan and was named Alphonsus Muzyad Yakhoob Kairouz Jacobs; this was later changed to Amos Jacobs. He was raised in Toledo, Ohio, graduated from Woodward High School there. He decided on a career in show business and in 1934 he was singing on radio. Two years later he began a stand up comic show in Chicago night clubs and during World War II he was a USO performer with Marlene Dietrich. In 1946 he changed his name to Danny Thomas and made his first movie – “Unfinished Dance”. After making several feature films, he starred in *Make Room for Daddy*, a popular television comedy that aired from 1953 to 1964. He later produced such successful television shows as the *Andy Griffith Show*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, and *The Mod Squad*. He became an icon in American comedy but behind his jokes and anecdotes he told to sold-out crowds nationwide, there was a serious humanitarian. In 1962, at the suggestion of his friend, Cardinal Stritch of Chicago, he opened St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He passed away February 6, 1991 at the age of 79 and is buried along with his wife in the memorial grounds at St. Jude.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS:

148. Michael T. Harrington, 56 Glenwood Ave., Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex  
SS9 5EB United Kingdom

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

248. Hugh Gershon, 5901 Evergreen St., Midland, MI 48642-3138

### RESIGNATIONS:

483. Leroy H. Curtis of Wooster, Ohio

I hate to see a resignation but Bro. Curtis had a stroke last year, is in his mid-80s and is considering parting with his collection. Unfortunately, it makes me think of when I will have to face up to that same decision process. The best of luck and fairness to you, Bro. Curtis.

Bro. Harrington is a Past Master and presently Secretary of Perfect Ashlar Lodge No. 1178. He was recommended to us by Bro. Maurice Beazley.

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## INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE DEATH OF MERIWETHER LEWIS

The EMESSAY NOTES of February 2012 contained an interesting outlook on the demise of Meriwether Lewis. Bro. Lewis received his Master Mason Degree in Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44 in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1797. He was best known for his leadership of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-06. In October 1809, as governor of the Louisiana Territory, he set out for Washington, DC, from St. Louis. While traveling through Tennessee, he and his small entourage stopped at a local inn for the night; hours later he was dead from gunshot wounds.

Apparently there were no witnesses to the incident and the circumstances of the death remain a heated debate. Many scholars insist that Lewis committed suicide but historian Ellen Baumier indicates that there is ample evidence to suggest murder. A story passed down through the Lewis family says that Lewis had his Masonic apron with him on the journey, possibly even in his pocket when he died. His silk and linen apron was decorated with hand-painted Masonic symbols, including the two pillars, an hourglass, and the all-seeing eye. But the apron's most notable feature might be the bloodstains on the front. In the 1970s, lab tests identified the stains as deer blood and human blood which has not been linked to Lewis.

When the State of Tennessee initiated plans for a graveside memorial, Lewis' body was partially exhumed so it could be identified and examined by the memorial committee. At that time the committee determined the cause of death to be assassination. Later, in 1928, an accidental exhumation of Lewis' remains revealed what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back of his skull. A request was made in 1996 to exhume and examine Lewis' remains but the National Park Service denied it. The facts about his death may never be known.

## STAMPSHOW 2012

The annual American Philatelic Society Stamp Show will be held this year on August 16-19, 2012 in the Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, California. Our Newsletter will be entered in the Literature Exhibition for consideration and our Unit will be mentioned in the show program as well as on the show website. We are Affiliate Member #94 of the APS.

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### **SHAQUILLE O'NEAL**

Bro. Norman Lincoln has forwarded information that Shaquille O'Neal, the professional basketball player who ended his career with the Boston Celtics was made a Mason at Sight in Widow's Son Lodge No. 28, Prince Hall affiliation, of Boston, MA. This claim was made by Hiram T. Dewey Lodge No. 226, Egg Harbor City, NJ. Shaquille has been pictured on a stamp issued by one of the "sand dune" stamp issuing countries. Can any member confirm the ceremony or identify the stamp that was issued?

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### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Bro. Dwight Seals, in one of his "Masonic Did U Know" e-mails, notes that "In May 2000, over 32 years after his death and in an act which seems totally unprecedented in Masonic history – a Past Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, M.W. Bro. Benjamin Barksdale, made King a "Mason at Sight". Such action runs counter to all of the 'landmarks' and accepted usages of Freemasonry since making a Mason of the fraternity posthumously violates the premise of the first question normally proposed to a candidate, to wit: "Do you make this request of your own freewill and accord?".

It must be noted that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia has not been accepted, as of March 2007, as 'regular' by any 'mainstream' Masonic Grand Lodge and this bizarre act may well cause problems for such acceptance in the future. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s father, Martin Luther King, Sr., was indeed a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Prince Hall affiliation.

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### THE MAYA CALENDAR

For those who place any credence in the Mayan Calendar predictions, the Belgian postal authorities released a stamp on January 16, 2012 picturing the detail of a Maya panel – sales of this stamp will end on December 21, 2012. The complete panel of the Maya panel is housed in the Royal Museums for Art and History in Brussels.

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### CORRECTION – **CARROL O'CONNOR**

Several readers have written to inform us that Carroll O'Connor was not a Mason. His wearing of a Masonic ring was an intentional action – but only because he wore it as a prop because he thought so many southern sheriffs were Masons. So much for that possibility.

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

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## NEW ZEALAND VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS

The recent (January 2012) issue of The Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine features an article identifying those recipients of the Victoria Cross shown on a recent New Zealand souvenir sheet who were Freemasons. A total of 21 New Zealanders are pictured, as well as the medal, and are identified by row (1 to 5 going down) and location (A to E going from left to right). [Ed. Note – I prefer to call these veterans recipients; the use of the word winners implies a lottery – they certainly did not participate in a lottery for that award.]

**A1 Charles Heaphy – 1864; Mangapiko River, New Zealand. Initiated May 1849 in Ara Lodge No. 348, NZ.**

On 11 February 1864 on the banks of the Mangapiko River, Major Heaphy went to the assistance of a soldier who had fallen into a hollow where there were a great many Moris concealed. While doing this, the major became a target for a volley from only a few feet away. Five musket balls pierced his clothes and cap and he was hit in three places, but in spite of this he stayed with the wounded man all day. For this action he was awarded the Victoria Cross; the first and, for a long time the only, colonial soldier to receive it.

**A3 Harry John Laurent – 1918; Gouzeaucourt Wood, France. Member of Taranaki Lodge No. 240**

On 12 September 1918 east of Gouzeaucourt Wood, France, during an attack, Sergeant Laurent was detailed to exploit an initial success and keep in touch with the enemy. With a party of 12 he located the very strong enemy support line and at once charged the position followed by his men completely disorganizing the enemy by the suddenness of his attack.

**B1 William James Hardham – 1901, Naauwpoort, South Africa. Masonic details not known.**

On 28 January 1901 near Naauwpoort, South Africa, Farrier-Major Hardham was with a section which was hotly engaged with a party of about 20 Boers. Just before the force started to retire, a trooper was wounded and his horse killed. The Farrier-Major at once went, under heavy fire, to his assistance, dismounted and put him on his own horse, and then ran alongside until he had guided the wounded man to a place of safety.

**B4 John Daniel Hinton – 1941; Kalamai, Greece. Member of Mawhera Lodge No. 136.**

While a prisoner of war Hinton twice escaped, and made several other attempts. He was told he had been awarded the VC as he lay in hospital recovering from a beating given after one of those attempts. Jack Hinton received his Victoria Cross from King George VI on May 11, 1945 at Buckingham Palace.

**C1 Cyril Royston Guyton Bassett – 1915; Gallipoli, Turkey. Initiated on 10 November in Ara Lodge No. 1, Auckland**

On 7 August 1915 at Chunuk Bair Ridge, Gallipoli, Turkey after the New Zealand Brigade had attacked and established itself on the ridge, Corporal Bassett, in full daylight and under continuous fire, succeeded in laying a telephone line from the old position to the new one on Chunuk Bair. He also did further gallant work in connection with the repair of telephone lines by day and night under heavy fire. He is quoted "I was so short that the bullets just passed over me".

**C3 John Gildroy Grant – 1918; Bancourt, France. Member of Hawera Lodge No. 34.**

On 1 September 1918 near Bancourt, France the leading waves of the battalion on reaching a crest of high ground, found that a line of enemy machine-gun posts offered a serious obstacle to further advance. The company, however, advanced against these posts under point-blank fire, and when about 20 yards away, Sergeant Grant, closely followed by a comrade, rushed ahead of his platoon, entering the center post and

demoralizing the garrison so that the platoon was able to mop up the positions. In the same manner he rushed the post on the left and the remaining posts were quickly occupied and cleared by his company.

C4 Keith Elliott – 1942; Ruweisat, Egypt. Member of Lodge of Reknown No. 218.

On 15 July 1942 at Ruweisat, Western Desert, Egypt, Sergeant Elliott, while leading his platoon in an attack under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire, was wounded in the chest. Nevertheless, he carried on and led his men in a bayonet charge which resulted in the capture of four enemy machine-gun posts and an anti-tank gun. Seven of the enemy were killed and 50 taken prisoner. In spite of his wounds, Sergeant Elliott refused to leave his platoon until he had reformed them and handed over the prisoners, the number of which had by then increased to 130.

E1 Samuel Frickleton – 1917; Messines, Belgium. Member of Kawatiri-Westport Lodge No. 152.

On 7 June 1917 at Messines, Belgium, Lance Corporal Frickleton, although slightly wounded, dashed forward at the head of his section, pushed into a barrage and personally destroyed with bombs an enemy machine-gun and crew which was causing heavy casualties. He then attacked a second gun killing all the crew of 12. By the destruction of these two guns he undoubtedly saved his own and other units from very severe casualties. During the consolidation of this position he received a second severe wound. In WWI he was promoted to sergeant, then second lieutenant and when he joined the Territorial Force in 1934 he was made captain.

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## NEW ISSUES

Several stamps applicable to a Masonic collection have been noted in the philatelic press – the January and February issues of Linn's Stamp News.

- Antigua – Sept. 9, 1011 – 3157/60 – First Man in Space – 50<sup>th</sup> – 3158d pictures Gus Grissom
- Bulgaria – Oct. 21, 2011 – 4579 – Franz Liszt (stamp & label)
- China (Taiwan) – Oct. 10, 2011 – 4011/2 – Century of Republic - 4012 pictures Sun Yat Sen
- China (Peoples Republic) – Oct. 10, 2011 – 3959/61 – Century of Revolution – 3961 shows Sun Yat Sen
- Gambia – Feb. 8, 2011 – 3345/9 – US Civil War Battles – 3345 shows Gen. Daniel Ruggles, 3347 pictures Col. John Marmaduke, 3348 shows Col. Stonewall Jackson and Gen. Robert Patterson
  - Mar. 29, 2011 – 3353/6 – First Man in Space 50<sup>th</sup> – 3353c shows John Glenn
- Grenada – Apr. 15, 2011 – 3808/11 – First Man in Space 50<sup>th</sup> – 3808d pictures Gordon Cooper, 3809b shows Walter Schirra
- Hungary – Aug. 19, 2011 - 4216 – Franz Liszt
- India – May 7, 2011 – 2523/4 – Rabindranath Tagore Birth 150<sup>th</sup>
- Italy – June 2, 2011 – 3162/9 – 150<sup>th</sup> Unification – 3064 pictures Camillo Benso Conte de Cavour, 3064 shows Giuseppe Garibaldi, 3067 shows Giuseppe Mazzini
- Marshall Islands – Dec. 7, 2011 – 1014 – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of US entry into WWII – 1014b pictures FDR, 1014c shows FDR and W, Churchill
- Romania – Nov. 4, 2010 – 5214/5 – National Grand Lodge – 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Vatican City – Nov. 11, 2011 – 1483/4 – Composers – 1483 pictures F. Liszt

Bro. Norman Lincoln also identifies that Sterling Price, Benjamin Butler, and John Floyd are pictured on a Liberia Civil War set issued on March 28, 2011.

## GEOFFREY FRANCIS FISHER

Most Rev., and Rt. Hon. Baron Fisher crowned Queen Elizabeth II during her Coronation. The crowning is pictured on a stamp issued by Montserrat on February as part of their set to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of that Coronation. Dr. Herbert was initiated in the Old Reptonian Lodge No. 3725 at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London on January 11, 1916, passed in October and raised on January 9, 1917. He became Master of this Lodge in 1928. He became a joining member of Tyrian Lodge No. 253, Derby in January 1926 and on March 23, 1928 was exalted into Chapter of Justice No. 253 which is attached to Tyrian Lodge. Later, when he became Bishop of Chester, he joined St. Anselm Lodge No. 5166, in that city on January 22, 1935. The following year he served as Master of that Lodge. In 1937 and again in 1939 he served as Grand Chaplain of the United Grand Lodge of England.



Geoffrey Francis Fisher was born May 5, 1887 in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. He was educated at Marlborough, then Exeter College, Cambridge. He returned to Marlborough as assistant master in 1911, was ordained as a Deacon in 1912 and as a priest in 1913 at Wells Theological College in Salisbury. In June 1914, at the extremely young age of 27, he became Headmaster of Repton serving in this position for 18 years. He was consecrated as Bishop of Chester in 1932 and seven years later was transferred, upon the offer of the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, to the Bishopric of London – this appointment also made him a member of the Privy Council. In 1945 he was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury, in which capacity he officiated at the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. Six years later he crowned the new Queen Elizabeth II. In the long and distinguished list of those who served as Archbishop of Canterbury, he is the only one who has been a Freemason. As Archbishop he had to cope with significant problems brought about by the rebuilding and peace process that followed World War II. He became a great traveler. He is remembered for his visit to Pope John XXIII in 1960 – the first meeting between an Archbishop of Canterbury and a Pope since the English Reformation. He was particularly active in the World Council of Churches and the revision of the Canon Law. He retired in 1961 and was made a life peer with the title Baron Fisher of Lambeth; he was the first to be created a life peer following the Life Peerages Act, 1958. He died peacefully on September 15, 1972 in the small village of Trent in Dorset having achieved his desired position as an assistant parish priest.

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## STAMPS FOR JOSEPH WILLIAM **“SMOKIN’ JOE” FRAZIER**

In the previous Newsletter we had an article on “Smokin’” Joe Frazier but did not identify any stamps picturing him. Bro. Norman Lincoln notifies us that he is pictured on a 1971 stamp released by Ajman, a 1972 stamp issued by Equatorial Guinea and a 1971 stamp from Manama – none are listed in Scotts so we have no discrete identification.

## GIUSEPPE MAZZINI

Italy issued a set of stamps on September 20, 1922 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Mazzini. It is interesting to note that the 25c stamp pictures an Ionic Column, a Sword of Justice, and a Flame. The panel in front of the Tomb on the 80c stamp resembles an Apron. There is no indication that the designer, Villorio Grassi, was a Mason. The 40c stamp clearly identifies Giuseppe Mazzini, an individual whose possible Masonic membership is the subject of considerable controversy. In his memoirs he states that when he was prisoner in the fortress of Savona he was made a Mason "sulla Spada" (at sight) and received high degrees. At his funeral members of the Grand Orient carried a Masonic banner. In June 1949 the Italian government invited the Masons to the dedication of a statue of Mazzini and to participate in the parade. Despite all this, there is no positive evidence that he was ever made a Mason. Masons honored him because of his great service and some Lodges went so far as to confer "honorary" Masonic titles on him.



Giuseppe Mazzini was born on June 22, 1805 in Genoa. As a child, he gave promise of high intellectual ability, fully confirmed when he entered the University of Genoa at 14. Two years later, strongly influenced by seeing a patriot fleeing from Italy after an unsuccessful insurrection, he began to think that Italians could and therefore ought to struggle for the liberty of their country. On graduating in law in 1827, he practiced as a poor man's lawyer, wrote articles for progressive reviews, and hoped to become a dramatist or historical novelist. But his life was already shaping itself differently. His love of freedom led him to join the *Carbonari*, a secret society pledged to overthrow absolute rule in Italy. In 1830 he was betrayed to the police, arrested, and interned at Savona for three months. When released early in 1831, he was ordered either to leave Piedmont or to live in some small town. He chose exile and went to Marseille, where other Italian exiles accepted him as their leader.

At Marseille, Mazzini spent two of his most rewarding years. He founded his patriotic movement for young men and called it *Giovine Italia* (*Young Italy*). It was designed as a national association for liberating the separate Italian states from foreign rule and fusing them into a free and independent unitary republic. To propagate his ideas, he published the journal *Giovine Italia* from 1832 to 1834. The new movement captured the imagination of Italian youth. Branches were secretly formed in Genoa and other cities; According to Mazzini, the movement grew from 40 members at its 1831 beginning to more than 50,000 by 1833.

*Young Italy's* attempted insurrections were failures. A projected rising in Piedmont in 1833 was discovered before it had begun; 12 conspirators were executed, one committed suicide, and Mazzini was tried *in absentia* and condemned to death. A few months later, when he had moved to Switzerland to escape from the French police, he tried to rally 1,000 volunteers to invade Savoy (then part of the kingdom of Piedmont). Only 200 could be mustered, and the force was disbanded. The lack of popular support for insurrection as the road to independence discredited the society. These failures destroyed *Young Italy* as an organization, though its spirit lived on. In 1834 he founded Young Europe to encourage the rise of national organizations throughout

Europe as well and helped to establish *Young Germany*, *Young Switzerland*, and *Young Poland*, but his three years in Switzerland were unhappy and frustrated. In 1837 he went with a few Italian friends to live in London. He lived in modest London lodgings, studied at the British Museum and wrote for English periodicals. He also started a school for Italian boys in London and a newspaper, *Apostolato popolare (Apostleship of the People)*. In 1840 he revived *Young Italy*, primarily as a means of building up a national consciousness among Italians everywhere. In 1844 he was in touch with the Bandiera brothers, who made an ill-fated attempt to start a revolt in Calabria. After their execution, he told two friends who were members of Parliament of his fears that the British government was opening his letters and had passed on information about the Bandieras' plans to the Neapolitan authorities. The matter was raised in Parliament, and the government was compelled to admit that it opened private letters. There was much public indignation and widespread sympathy with Mazzini. The affair made him better known in England. In 1847 he wrote an open letter to the new pope, Pius IX (Pio Nono), who had introduced liberal reforms in the Papal States. He urged the pope to unify Italy, but Pius made no comment. Mazzini returned to Italy for the first time in the revolutionary year of 1848, when the Milanese drove out their Austrian masters and Piedmont began a war to expel the Austrians from Italy. Milan welcomed him, but he was soon unpopular because he wanted Lombardy to become a republic and he thought that union with the kingdom of Piedmont, as proposed by the Milanese provisional government, was the wrong kind of pattern for the future Italy. When the Piedmontese armies withdrew and the Austrians reentered Milan, he served briefly with an irregular force under Giuseppe Garibaldi before returning to England.

Mazzini was again in Italy in 1849, first in Tuscany and then in Rome, where a revolution had driven out the pope and a republic had been proclaimed. He had long believed that the imperial and papal Romes would be followed by a third Rome--a Rome of the people; now his dream had come true. He was acclaimed as a great patriot, was elected a triumvir of the republic, and became the effective head of the government, showing great administrative talent in ecclesiastical and social reforms. His rule was short-lived when a French army landed in Italy; the republic was crushed, and Mazzini left Rome.

Back in London, he founded another society -- the Friends of Italy -- in 1851 and was soon involved in new revolutionary activities. In 1853 he backed the Milanese workers in their unsuccessful rising against the Austrians. In 1853-54 he tried to raise a revolt in Carrara. In 1856 he went secretly to Genoa to plan a number of simultaneous insurrections; only one was seriously attempted and it was a disaster.

In 1858 Mazzini founded another journal in London: this was *Pensiero ed azione (Thought and Action)*, a title reflecting his view that thought is only of value when it results in action. He did not participate in the Franco-Piedmontese war against Austria in 1859, nor did he belong to the party of action, which sponsored Giuseppe Garibaldi's expedition to Sicily in 1860. Mazzini went to Naples during Garibaldi's brief dictatorship of southern Italy but was back in London when the new United Kingdom of Italy (excluding Venice and Rome) was proclaimed in 1861. Mazzini would have much preferred the establishment of a democratic republic but he accepted, if with reservations, that a monarchical Italy was better than no Italy at all. However, the conservative monarchists deprecated and sometimes denied Mazzini's contributions to national unification, and thereafter monopolized government in Turin. This was the decade of the Socialist First International; he had early contact with its members but soon withdrew. In 1870 he misguidedly agreed to lead a republican rising in Sicily. He was arrested on his way there and interned at Gaeta but was released and pardoned after the occupation of Rome by Italian troops. In his last years he founded another paper, *Roma del popolo (Rome of the People)*, which he edited from Lugano, and made plans for an Italian workingmen's congress. He died from pleurisy at Pisa on March 10, 1872.

-This article has been excerpted from a longer, more detailed article provided by our Unit President, Bro. Gene Fricks. Anyone desiring an e-mail attachment, please contact him or your Editor -- our e-mail addresses are cited earlier in this newsletter.



## ANGELO SOLIMAN

Angelo Soliman is pictured on a personal stamp generated in Austria. He is historically recognized as the “First Moorish Freemason”. Born about 1721 in present-day northeastern Nigeria/northern Cameroon, his original name was Mmadi Make. He was kidnapped at the age of seven and sold into slavery. He was eventually transferred to the household of a marchioness in Messina who oversaw his education. He was given as a gift in 1734 to Prince Georg Christian, Furst von Lobkowitz, the imperial governor of Sicily. He became the Prince’s valet and traveling companion, accompanying him on military campaigns throughout Europe and reportedly saving his life on one occasion – a pivotal event responsible for his social ascension. After the death of Prince Lobkowitz, Soliman was taken into the Vienna household of Joseph Wenzel I, Prince of Liechtenstein, eventually rising to chief servant. Later he became royal tutor of the heir to the Prince, Aloys I.



A cultured man, Soliman was highly respected in the intellectual circles of Vienna and counted as a valued friend by Austrian Emperor Joseph II and Count Franz Moritz von Lacy. In 1783 he joined the Masonic Lodge “True Harmony” whose membership included many of Vienna’s influential artists and scholars of the time, among them the musicians Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Josef Haydn as well as the Hungarian poet Ferenc Kazinczy. Lodge records indicate that Soliman and Mozart met on several occasions. It is likely that the character Bassa Selim in Mozart’s opera *The Abduction from the Seraglio* was based on Soliman. Eventually becoming the Grand Master of that Lodge, Soliman helped change its ritual to include scholarly elements. This new Masonic direction rapidly influenced Freemasonic practice throughout Europe.

During his lifetime Soliman was regarded as a model of the assimilation and perfectibility of Africans but after his death he literally became a specimen of the “African race”. Scholars distinguish four aspects of Soliman – the “royal Moor” and the “noble Moor”, referring to the years prior to his death and the “physiognomic Moor” and the “mummified Moor” of later years.

When he died on November 21, 1796, instead of receiving a Christian burial, at the request of the director of the Imperial Natural History Collection, his body was skinned, stuffed and made into an exhibit within the cabinet of curiosities. Decked out in ostrich feathers and glass beads, the body was on display until 1806 alongside stuffed animals. His daughter, Josefine, sought to have his remains returned to the family but her petitions were in vain. During the Austrian Revolution of 1848, a grenade pitched into the Palace library sent the remains of Angelo Soliman up in a merciful burst of flames. A plaster cast of his head made shortly after his death of a stroke is still on display in the Rollett Museum in Baden.

## ELEK BENEDEK

Hungary issued a miniature sheet of stamps on April 2, 2009 to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Elek Benedek. Elek Benedek's Masonic involvement is to be found in a list of Hungarian Freemasons. Marcel, his son, a writer and translator is listed first and he is followed by Elek (identified as Electric) and then Marcel's son, Istvan. Marcel served as Grandmaster.



Elek Benedik was born September 30, 1859 in Kisbacon, Transylvania. He studied in Szekelyudvarhely and later in Budapest. As a student, along with Job Sebesi, he collected folkloric elements and knowledge. They were able to gather a wonderful collection of Transylvanian tales that was so well received by critics, that Elek broke off his studies in order to continue writing. He started his journalistic career with "Budapest Hirlap "(Budapest Newspaper) and later also joined with other newspapers. In 1885 he published his first book of fairy tales in color – he had collected them in Székely Tünderország Transylvanian (Hungarian "Neverland").

From 1887-1892 he served as a member of the Parliament (first for the Liberal Party and later the National Party) and in his speeches he mainly focused on his main interest: literature, vernacular and general development and public schools. In 1887, together with Lajos Posa he started the first edition of Hungarian literature published for youth "AZ and Ujságom" (My magazine). He later served as editor of "Jo Pajtás" (Good people) with Zsigmond Sebök. He also edited a series of children's books such as "Kis könyvtár" (Little Library); later published under the title: "Benedek Elek kis könyvtára ". He published additional works from 1891 to 1896 and in 1900 he joined the Kisfoludy group consisting of famous Hungarian writers and poets. He also wrote poems, dramas, short stories and historical novels and translated many, such as Grimm's tales and the "1001 Arabian Nights" into Hungarian. After the peace treaty of Trianon (4 June 1920), whereby the sovereignty of Transylvania (Kisbacon) returned to Romania, Elek returned to his native village of Kisbacon. There he edited a youth magazine "Cimbora" (Friend) until his death on August 17, 1929.

-With many thanks to Bro. Emil Crab, Bro. Henk Godthelp and De Getande Rand for this and the following article on Ivo Andric

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### **EDITOR'S APOLOGIES**

It is with sincere apologies that I misquoted Abdul Aziz in the previous issue of the Newsletter. I stated that he could not become a Mason because he was not of the proper caste. This is absolutely in error. His true words are "I am a very simple and poor person and it is not possible for me to acquire membership". Please accept my apologies, Sir.

## IVO ANDRIC

Yugoslavia issued a pair of stamps on May 5, 1983 for their EUROPA contribution which honor Ivo Andric and his receiving the 1961 Nobel Prize. Bro. Andric's Masonic record can be found in the lists of famous Serbian Freemasons, published on the Internet in 2010 by the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia. According to this website he was member of Lodge, No. 8: "Disitej Obradovic" (Founded 1922) in Belgrade. Nedat Petrovic, an historian of the Institute for Strategic Research also found confirmation that Ivo Andric was Mason in the military Nedić archives of the Second World War. A written statement in the handwriting of Andric, states that during an interrogation by the Gestapo on March 27, 1942, Ivo confirmed that in the first months of 1925 he had joined the Lodge "Preporodaj" (Renaissance) separated from the Regular Yugoslavian Grant Lodge. He also stated that he was a member for approximately one and a half years and had become Master and that he then had left the Lodge because of emigration. Ivo also said that he was no longer a member of the Lodge, paid no membership contribution and consequently was automatically cancelled as a member, and that he had no contact anymore, nor with any other Lodge. Within the book "Masonry in Yugoslavia, 1764-1980", published in 2003, Andric is mentioned on several occasions as having been a Mason and a member of the Lodge "Dositej Obradovic", no 8, Belgrade. This lodge apparently still exists.



Ivo (born Ivan) Andric was born on October 9, 1892 in Dolac, near Travnik, Bosnia, while his mother was visiting with family. His father died from tuberculosis when Ivo was at the age of two, many other family members suffered from the disease, and his mother was too poor to educate him so she brought him to her brother and sister-in-law in Matckovskik-Andric, Eastern Bosnia (Visegrad) on the Drina. Following primary school he went back to his mother in Sarajevo, where he attended secondary school. While he was at school he started writing poems; his first poem was published in 1911. He studied history, philosophy and literature at the gymnasium of Sarajevo and later at the University of Zagreb. He went to Vienna but did not really like the weather there as he often suffered from pneumonia. He then studied philosophy in Krakow and studied the Polish language. At the outbreak of the first World War he left rapidly Krakow and went to Croatia because he was very active politically in the student movement. He was arrested by the Austrian Government and interred, first in Maribor (Slovenia), and later in the Doboј detention camp in Bosnië-Herzegovina with Serbian citizens and pro-Serb Slavs. When he was released, he suffered from pneumonia and he was treated in Zagreb. During this time he wrote several poems that were published in 1918. With the help of a former professor, he was appointed civil servant in the kingdom of Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia: the future kingdom Yugoslavia. At first he worked at the Ministry of Religions and in his spare time he spent much time with other writers in Belgrade. He received an appointment at the embassy of the Vatican. In 1921 he was accepted by the

Consulate of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in Bucharest. In 1922 he was transferred to the Consulate in Trieste. In 1923 he was appointed vice consul in Graz (where he graduated in 1924) and was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Belgrade, where, in 1926 he joined the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts. In October of 1926 Ivo was appointed Vice Consul in Marseilles and in 1927 worked at the consulate in Paris. In his spare time he studied in the library historical data of the history of Bosnia. He was again transferred, this time to Madrid and then to Brussels. Then to Geneva and in 1933 he was appointed adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belgrade, and his diplomatic star rose with the appointment in 1937 as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He received high decorations from Poland and France. The highlight of his career was reached in 1939 when he was sent as Plenipotentiary Minister to Berlin. In April, he offered his credentials to Hitler. When Poland was overrun by the Germans, Ivo was able to protect a large number of writers and students from prison and/or concentration camps. In 1941 he wanted to resign, but Belgrade did not accept this and sent him as an official delegate from Yugoslavia to Vienna to sign the three country pact. However, when Belgrade was bombed by the Germans, he decided to return to Belgrade and to retire. He was totally opposed to the movement of Stjepan Radic, President of Croatian Workers' Party. He called the supporters of this party "idiots who follow in the footsteps a blind dog". During World War II Ivo lived in isolation in Belgrade. Here he wrote his three most famous novels that were only issued after 1945. He got his inspiration for writing primarily in history, folklore and culture of his native Bosnia. First he wrote in Croatian as many of his contemporaries after the establishment of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, but later he switched to the Ekavische dialect (this is considered as Serbian). After the war he held a few ceremonial positions as Chairman of the Association of Yugoslav writer, Vice President of the Association for Cultural Cooperation with the Soviet Union in the new Communist government of Yugoslavia. Furthermore, Ivo was a member of the Rotary in Serbia after the Second World War. In 1961 he was awarded the Nobel Prize, with the motivation: "For the epic power with which he followed the themes and reflected the fate of humanity, extracted from the history of his country". He gave the money he hereby received, to the library fund in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1963 he received an honorary doctorate the University of Krakow. In 1968 his wife of 10 years died and subsequently he got a bit troubled, spent less time on public activities, was sick, and withdrew more and more. Eventually he died after many hospital admissions on March 13 1975 in Belgrade.

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## MASONIC PHILATELY WOODEN COIN

Bro. Golden B. Adkins recently sent me this wooden coin which was an advertisement for Bro. Ed Walsh's Masonic Philately business. I dealt with Ed in the 1960s and 1970s but never had a chance to meet him – he passed away a couple of months too early. These little mementos remind me of what Masonic Philately was like back in those decades. Thank you very much.

