



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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ANOTHER NEW PURE MASONIC ISSUE

Bro. Trevor Frey has identified another Pure Masonic Stamp release. This one was issued under the auspices of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, a Portuguese-speaking island nation in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. It is highly unlikely that these stamps ever saw the issuing country; the "List of Lodges" published by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts does not include any Masonic Lodges located within this republic. Further, there do not appear to be any portions of the design which might indicate an association with a Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge. Although it appears to be speculative, it may find its way into several of our collections. One of the speculative issue dealers I have done business with has not yet received this issue so its release date and reason for issue have not yet been identified.



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

NONE – But there have been a few “bites”.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

175. Emiel Crab – now to August – Vierhoevenstraat 90, B 2950 Kapellen, Belgium
- After August – Augustijnslei 134, bus 1, B-2930 Brasschat, Belgium
194. Robert W. Gilbert, 2171 Hampden Blvd, Apt. K-6, Reading, PA 19604

It is interesting to note that the members of The Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) have succeeded in selecting a new Secretary, Peter Nason, and a new Editor for their Newsletter, John Hardisty. These Brethren will take over for Maurice Beazley and Kevin Tomes, respectively, who have guided the Club in their success over many years. Best of luck to the new appointees and may the Club continue for many more years.

FEEDBACK

In the most recent issue of the Newsletter, I requested any feedback which a member would like to offer to help improve the Unit and the Newsletter. Bro. Cliff Cyphers of Bethel, Vermont, graciously responded with a wonderful suggestion but it will require a bit of effort. He would like to see “an overview of just what Masonic stamps are out there. Feature one country at a time; pick an easy one for starters. Just a basic listing oriented by Scott No., issue year, a brief description, monetary denomination, and rated “pure Masonic”, associated with Masonry, abstract, etc. It is something I would like to see, but maybe it’s too much work.” “If you have to build it from scratch it will be a huge undertaking. You could keep a full time researcher busy for a long time.”

This effort has been a goal of mine for a long time. My personal inventory of the stamps owned or desired for my collection – just for stamps which picture or are associated with known Masons - fills a 2” binder. Sorted by geographical area (US and Hawaii, Great Britain and Colonies, Eurasia, Latin America, and Anti-Masons), it is further subdivided by Country or specific groupings (Presidents and Astronauts in the US group, Royalty and homeland in the Br. Commonwealth group). The information listed contains all stamps of the world which have been issued depicting the individual or the design can be associated with his life identifying the Scott No., date of issue, reason for issue and an inventory status. It being in Excel format, it could be resorted by country but it will take a bit of time to ensure all data is present for each row and then establish some criteria for sorting and grouping so it would not overpower the memory/sorting capability. It will also take some time and although I am retired, I am involved in a few time consuming activities – Past Master, Past Secretary, and Historian of my Lodge; D.D.G. Secretary for my District; a volunteer with the Andover, MA, Veterans Services Office creating, editing, and publishing an annual book of Veterans of Andover; Vice-President and Bourse Manager for my local stamp club; a wife, four children and eleven grandchildren – all in the area – as well as the Editor of this Newsletter. I will do it sometime (if I live long enough) and perhaps Bro. Cliff’s suggestion of doing it one country at a time might just be the best approach. Stay tuned!

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been reported in the philatelic media (May 21 and June 18 issues of Linn's Stamp News); all issues were in 2011 except for the Philippines issue which was in 2012.

France – Nov. 7 – 4111 – Gaston Monnerville.

Moldova – Apr. 9 – 712 – 50th Anniversary of First Manned Space Flight S/S, includes Virgil Grissom

Peru – Oct. 22 – 1799 – Franz Liszt

Philippines – Jan. 19 – 3417 – Centenary - Grand Lodge of Masons of the Philippines

Salvador – Nov. 14 – 1711 – Salvadoran Anniversaries which includes Sun Yat-sen

Serbia – June 14 – 555 – Franz Liszt

Sierra Leone – Oct. 3 – 3077 – Dr. Sun Yat-sen

Sierra Leone – Oct. 3 – 3093 (part of set and S/S 3092-92) 50th Anniversary of First Manned Space Flight S/S, includes Gordon Cooper.

Bro. Gene Fricks also reports that a stamp issued by Italy on Nov. 4, 2011 to commemorate the *Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem* includes a Templar cross in the design.

FDCs FOR MASONIC STAMP ISSUE FROM INDIA

Last month I received notification from Bro. K. P. Achar of Secunderabad, India, that he was visiting his daughter in Pleasanton, CA until September 23, 2012. In his letter, he included a few First Day Covers of the recent India Masonic issue for distribution to members of the Unit who might like one for their collection. He also stated that he has another five FDCs available for the same purpose which could be requested from him at his daughter's address: c/o Ms Sharmila Parakulam, 4226 Passeggi Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. You can contact him directly or request a copy of the cover through me.



SPREAD THE WORD

Please spread the word of our topical hobby, our Unit and our Newsletter to as many individuals you can. An increase in membership should induce additional research and discovery of new cases for our collections. Thanks for your anticipated help in this effort.

BROTHER MASONS WERE IN THE ALAMO

The Winter 1988 issue of *The Maine Mason* contains an excellent article on this subject written by Norman A. Smith. The associated research required for the article was extensive and some of its highlights are repeated here. Applicable stamps include the US issues picturing the Alamo and some of the heroes who died there.

March 6, 1976, marked the 140th anniversary of one of the epic battles of history – the Battle of the Alamo. On that day, Masons from all parts of Texas gathered at the Scottish Rite Temple in San Antonio and marched to the Alamo in a cold, drenching rain. They had come to witness the unveiling of a bronze plaque and to participate in its dedication to the memory of those Masons who fought and died there for a cause to which they were totally committed: freedom for a northern province of Mexico called Texas. Unfortunately, the exact number of Masons present may never be known for several reasons. First and foremost is the fact that 27 of the 182 defenders are not yet identified. Next in importance is the absence of documentary evidence because in the 1820s and 1830s many Masonic records were destroyed by fire in several states. Then, in the 1860s the Civil War took its toll among many of the Lodges in the South. As a consequence, only five participants have been listed by name on the plaque. They read as follows:

Honoring These Masons
James Bonham, James Bowie,
David Crockett, Alamaron Dickenson,
William Barret Travis
And Those Unidentified Masons
Who Gave Their Lives In The
Battle Of The Alamo, March 6, 1836

Erected By The Grand Lodge Of Texas, A.F.& A,M,
March 6, 1976

James Butler Bonham was born at Red Bank, SC, on February 20, 1807. He and William Travis grew up in the same area and were friends from childhood. He attended what is now the University of South Carolina but did not graduate. Instead he entered a law office and studied law until 1830 when he was admitted to the bar. He practiced in Pendleton, SC, and Montgomery, AL until Travis persuaded him to migrate to Texas in early 1836. Upon arrival in the Alamo, he found the area seething with excitement since the Texas Regular Army had routed the superior Mexican forces out of San Antonio but word soon arrived that Santa Anna was approaching with 4,000 soldiers. Bonham was set northeast to Gen. Sam Houston's forces with appeals for help. He returned to the Alamo on March 3 after a futile attempt to obtain reinforcements. It is generally accepted by Masonic historians that James Bonham was a Mason because he numbered many Masons among his friends, including William Barret Travis.

James Bowie was born in Tennessee in 1795 but his family moved out of the U.S. and into the French province of Louisiana in 1802. He became a linguist — English from his well-educated mother and Spanish and French from the people he associated with. He still had the skills of a frontier person but was also well-grounded in the social amenities of the city when he decided to move to Texas settling in San Antonio in 1828. He became a legend with his knife but he learned that to be able to make a living in Texas he had to

embrace Catholicism and become a Mexican citizen. That he did and soon married the daughter of the governor of Coahuila y Texas. Two years later he lost his wife and two children to cholera and sided with the Texans being commissioned a colonel in the Texas Volunteers. His first assignment was to inspect the Alamo to determine if it could be held and, if not, to destroy it. He collapsed with a fever and was bedridden when Santa Anna attacked. According to the Bexar County Probate Court Records, dated July 25, 1838, a "well-worn Masonic Apron" was found among his effects when his estate was probated.

Davy Crockett was born August 17, 1786, near the junction of Big Limestone River and the Nolichucky in Greene County, TN. His family found the lure of the frontier irresistible and found their niche in western Tennessee. He went to school briefly and became an expert marksman. As the years passed his reputation gained him a seat in Congress, entering the House of Representatives in 1827 as a Congressman from Western Tennessee. Because of his opposition to President Jackson's Indian Bill, Crockett's bid for a fourth term in 1835 was blocked by Jackson's powerful political machine. He toyed with the idea of starting a new life in Texas for himself and family and set out alone in late 1835 to investigate that possibility. He was joined by others and found himself riding at the head of a column of 20 men arriving at San Antonio in February 1836. Becoming called "The Tennesseans" he moved them into the Alamo to bring the number of defenders to 142. Proof of Davy Crockett's Masonic affiliation rests mainly with the existence of a Masonic apron reputed to have been made for him by a Mrs. A.C. Massie in Washington, D.C. while he was in Congress.

Alamaron Dickenson, a young blacksmith, traveled from Gonzales, Texas, to San Antonio with his wife and baby. He took them into the Alamo just prior to Santa Anna's siege and his wife, Susan, was the only American woman in the Alamo. At one point in the battle, when all seemed lost, he covered his wife with his Masonic apron suggesting to her that it could save her life. After the battle she was found by Mexican Masons who, recognizing the apron, took her and the child to Santa Anna who spared the mother and child.

William Travis was born in South Carolina in 1809 and in the late 1820s was attending what is now the University of South Carolina. Participation in a student uprising against the administration caused him to leave the college before graduating. He moved to Alabama, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1830 and established a successful practice in Claiborne, Alabama. While living in that state he became a member of Alabama Lodge No. 3, receiving his degrees on June 11, July 16, and August 13, all in 1829.

An unfortunate marriage sent him off to Texas in 1832 to get away from circumstances that he could not tolerate. He had become an experienced frontiersman long before he moved to Texas. When he arrived at San Antonio in 1832, Mexican law against immigration denied him citizenship and it was very difficult to practice law. This was one of the reasons why he quickly became involved in the growing unrest among the Texans. Added restrictions against immigrants and imposition of additional taxes made him more aggressive in promoting revolt. He was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the Texas Regular Army sharing command of the Alamo with Jim Bowie and assumed command when Bowie became ill leading his troops to their final defeat.

ALEXANDRE GUY PINGRE

Alexandre Pingre was an honorary member of the Lodge "Les Coeurs Simples de l'Étoile Polar " of the Grand Orient of Paris. He was Junior Warden of the "Chambre des Provinces", and was also a great orator of the "Grand Orient de France" in Paris. During the St. John's Feast of the Order on July 3, 1777 he turned to the Grand Master with a hundred stylized verses "Tributs payés aux plus illustres voyageurs". His bust is pictured on an 11 Rs value stamp issued by Mauritius on September 8, 2011 as part of a set commemorating various events.



Born on September 11, 1711, in Paris, he studied in Senlis with the Génovéfan brethren of the Augustinian and became a Professor of Theology in 1735. He had become interested in astronomy at a young age and this interest eventually culminated in his appointment to the University of Rouen in 1749 as Professor of Astronomy. In 1753 he explored the path which the planet Mercury followed. He was a correspondent and later a member of the Academy of Sciences. He was appointed as librarian of the Abbey of Sainte-Geneviève where he built an observatory and worked there for 40 years. He was hampered by poor vision during his investigations, but he developed the reputation of being an exceptional mathematician. He received the attention of a scientific organization when he discovered an error of 4 minutes in a calculation of Lacaille on a lunar eclipse occurred that occurred in 1749. In 1757 he became interested in comets and published many articles on this topic. He then published a ship almanac based on the works of R. Charles Lemonnier, who described the positions of the moon. In 1761 he went on an observation tour - organized by the Royal Academy – to Rodrigues Island in Malagasy in order to study the orbit of Venus. Because he had little credence in the studies of Giovanni Battista Audiffredi, this led to a scientific dispute. As an astronomer of the Royal Marine he undertook three voyages (in 1767, 1769, and 1771) to experiment with the maritime time observations of the researchers F. Berthoud and Leroy. In 1767 he sailed with Charles Messier to the Baltic Sea to test marine chronometers. In 1769 he undertook a successful expedition to Haiti in order to study the orbit of Venus in that year. In 1771 he took part in a ship research on the frigate "La Flore". He was chancellor of the Paris University and was also associated with the Royal Academy of Medicine in Brest, Rouen and Göttingen (Germany). His bust stands in the library of Sainte-Geneviève. Pingré was publisher of the nautical calendar "Etat du Ciel" (1754-1757) and author of "Cometographie" in which he disclosed the orbits of 27 comets (1783). During the French Revolution, he lost all his research data, but he tried to continue his work right up to his death on May 1, 1796 in Paris. A crater on the moon is named after him, as is the asteroid 12719.

-with sincere thanks to Emiel Crab, Henk Godthelp, and the "De Verlichte Loep"

PANTELIMON HALIPPA

“Pan” Halippa was born on August 1, 1883 in Cubolta, then part of the Russian Empire, now Moldova, of poor farming parents. After primary school, he attended classes at the Yedintsy Spiritual School and the Theological Seminary of Kishinev. After his graduation from the seminary, he enrolled at the Faculty of physics and medicine at the University of Yuryev (now the University of Tartu). One year later the Russian Revolution broke out and he had to leave the university to return to Kishinev. There he met up with young Romanians who wrote for the journal in the Romanian language “Bessarabia”. The regime did not appreciate this magazine as they considered it to be agitating and they tried to arrest the group. “Pan” escaped to Iasi where he studied literature and philosophy at the university from 1908 to 1912. There he published his first book, “Letters from Bessarabia” and his works appeared in various publications as short stories and proverbs. In 1913 he returned to Kishinev where he was a co-founder of a newspaper – “Moldova and the World”; he became the editor in April 1917. In 1918 he was chosen a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy; removed in 1948, he was restored to its ranks posthumously in 1990.

His political awakening began in 1910 and in 1917 he founded the National Party of Moldova. In 1918 he was at the head of the unionist wave and by 1919 he was appointed Vice President and then President of Sfatul Tarii, the assembly which voted for the union of Bessarabia with Romania. In 1918 delegations of three provinces, Bessarabia, Transylvania, and Bukovina, who all wanted to unite with the rest of Romania, held a meeting; he represented Bessarabia. This meeting took place following the collapse of the Austrian/Hungarian Empire resulting from the first World War. From 1918 on he held many important jobs – Minister and Secretary of the state of Bessarabia, Minister of Public Works, Interim Minister for Work, Health, and Social Protection, and Senator and member of Parliament. During this work he tried to develop cultural life in Bessarabia. He founded the Chisinau Popular University, the Moldovan Conservatory, the Society of Bessarabian Writers and Journalists, and the Luceafarul Editorial Society and Bookstore in Chisinau. In 1926 he was a member of the peasant’s party. He was arrested in 1950 and condemned without process and imprisoned in the prison of Sighet. Two years later he was sentenced to 25 years forced labor but was locked up in Romania until 1957. He died in Bucharest in 1979 and is buried in the cemetery of Cernica Monastery

According to Bro. Victor Madan, Grand Master of the “Grand Lodge Chisinau Moldova”, Bro. Halippa was a member of the Lodge in Chisinau. “Pan” is pictured a stamp issued by Romania in 1993 and one by Moldova in 1998.



-with sincere thanks to Emiel Crab, Henk Godthelp, and the “De Verlichte Loep”

ENRICO FERMI

Italy and the United States issued stamps on September 29, 2001 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Enrico Fermi. Italy had also honored him on December 2, 1967 with a stamp released for the first atomic chain reaction. Enrico Fermi received his degrees in 1923 in the Lodge “Andriano Lemni located in Rome, Italy.



Enrico Fermi was born September 29, 1901 in Rome, Italy and as a young boy, enjoyed learning physics and mathematics sharing his interests with his older brother. Upon his brother's early death, he immersed himself into scientific study to distract himself. He enrolled at the prestigious Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa where he received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees. He published his first important scientific work in 1922, his year of graduation. He took a professorship in Rome at the age of 24 winning a competition for the position and became well-known for his simplicity in solving problems. He remained in Rome until 1938 when he won the Nobel Prize in Physics. After receiving that prize he and his family emigrated to New York and started working at Columbia University. Upon the discovery of nuclear fission, he went to the University of Chicago to construct the first nuclear pile. His studies and work on the development of the first nuclear reactor contributed significantly to the Manhattan Project. He moved to Los Alamos to serve as a general consultant and was present as an observer of the Trinity test in 1946. He had become a US citizen in 1944. In his later years he did important work in particle physics and was an inspiring teacher at the University of Chicago. He died November 28, 1954 in Chicago, Illinois, at the age of 53 of stomach cancer.

GASTON MONNERVILLE

Born January 2, 1897 in Cayenne, France, Gaston Monnerville was the grandson of a slave, grew up in French Guiana and went to Toulouse to complete his studies. He became a lawyer in 1918, joined the Radical Party and became the deputy for French Guiana in 1932. He was Secretary of State in Charge of the French Colonies from 1937 to 1938 becoming the first colored man to hold a position in the French government. He served in the French Navy during World War II and was demobilized on July 17, 1940. He protested against the armistice signed by Petain with the German authorities and in

the winter of 1940 joined the Combat resistance organization. He became Senator for Lot in 1948 and was elected President of the French Senate in 1959. From 1977 to 1983 he was a member of the Constitutional Council of France. He died November 7, 1991 in Paris, France.

Gaston Monnerville was initiated in 1918 in the Lodge "La Verite 280" of the Grand Lodge of France. He was honored on a stamp released by France on November 7, 2011



RECENT NETHERLANDS COVERS FROM DE GETANDE RAND

The covers shown here were recently produced by the Netherlands Masonic Study Unit – De Getande Rand. Any information on their acquisition can be obtained from Bro. Emiel Crab at Vierhoevenstraat 90, B 2950 Kapellen, Belgium or at Emiel.a.c@gmail.com



JOSE ESTEBAN ANTONIO ECHEVERRIA

Esteban Echeverria was honored by Argentina with the issuance of a stamp bearing his likeness on September 2, 1957. Bro. Echeverria was initiated in France and in 1830 he founded "Unitaria" Lodge in Buenos Aires.



Born September 2, 1805 in Buenos Aires, Esteban was an Argentine poet, fiction writer, cultural promoter, and political activist who played a significant role in the development of Argentine literature. He spent five decisive years in Paris (1825 to 1830) where he studied at the Sorbonne and absorbed the spirit of the Romantic Movement, then in its heyday in France. He became one of the movement's promoters once he returned to Argentina. He was a member of the group of young Argentine intellectuals who, in 1840, organized the "Association de Mayo", after the May Revolution that initiated Argentina's move towards independence. This institution aspired to develop a national literature responsive to the country's social and physical reality. He also devoted himself to the overthrow of the *caudillo* of Buenos Aires, Juan Manuel de Rosas. He was forced into exile to Uruguay in 1840 where he continued to write and remained there until his death on January 21, 1851 in Montevideo. As he neared his death, he was so poor he had to sell books from his library in order to eat.

LUIS MARIA DRAGO

Argentina commemorated the centennial of the birth of Dr. Drago with a stamp release on July 8, 1960. He was initiated in the Lodge "Estrella del Oriente" on September 11, 1879. He became a founding member of Abraham Lincoln Lodge No. 66 in 1879 and served as Master for two terms. He also founded La Plate Lodge No. 80. He served as Grand Warden in 1901-02 and later served as the Argentine representative near the Grand West of The Netherlands on the 150th anniversary of its foundation,



Bro. Drago was born May 6, 1859, into a distinguished Argentine family in Buenos Aires. He started his career as a newspaper editor and later served as a Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1902. At that time, when the UK, Germany, and Italy were seeking to collect the

public debt of Venezuela by force, he wrote to the Argentine Minister in Washington setting forth his doctrine, commonly known as the Drago Doctrine which opposed the forcible collection of debts through military intervention in any South American republic. He was known as a great jurisconsultant and internationalist and served as the Argentine delegate to the International Conference of 1907 in The Hague. He died June 9, 1921 in Buenos Aires.

JOSE AGUSTIN FERREYRA

Jose Ferreyra was born August 28, 1889. Popularly known as “Negro Ferreyra”, he was an early Argentine film director, screenwriter, and film producer. He was also sometimes credited as a production designer. He began simultaneously directing and screenwriting for film in 1915 and by 1920 had achieved success directing major films. His films tended to focus on lower-class family drama and were filmed on a low budget and with little or no script as a guide. He prevailed through the 1920s and 1930s but was displaced in the late 1930s and 1940s by big budget cinema He directed over 40 films and wrote scripts for the majority of them between 1915 and 1741. He died on January 29, 1943 in Vincente Lopez, Gran Buenos Aires, of throat cancer.

Argentina included Jose Ferreyra in a pair of stamps issued on June 1, 1985 to honor film directors. Bro. Ferreyra was initiated on June 4, 1910 in Union Lodge No. 75 in Buenos Aires.



MASONIC FANCY CANCELS

The use of the Masonic Square and Compasses as a cancelling device was quite popular during the 1800s but the practice was outlawed in 1900. By the late 1920s and early 1930s the practice returned but was soon squashed by the Postal Authorities again.



DMITRI GRIGOREVIC LEVICKIJ (LEVITSKY)

Russia pictured Bro. Levickij on a stamp issued on June 7, 2010 on the occasion of the 275th anniversary of his birth. He joined Freemasonry at the age of 60 receiving his three degrees of St. John Freemasonry at the end of 1797. Immediately thereafter he joined the Scottish Rite and achieved a “Theoretical” Level. The “Theoretical Degree” is a second degree in the Rosicrucian Rite, a Society created at the end of the 18th century in Germany as an esoteric brotherhood in the tradition of the Rosicrucian. It had a strong focus on alchemy and it is possible that the 18th Rosicrucian Degree of the AASR was taken from this early finding. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries German Masonic elements had a large influence on the development of Freemasonry in Russia. Bro. Levickij is also listed on the rolls of the Lodge “Sphinx Mourant”, the second oldest Lodge in St. Petersburg, having been founded in 1800. It was a “theoretical Lodge” that broke away from St. John Freemasonry in 1809 and continued until about 1820.



Born in May 1735 in Kiev, Ukraine, Bro. Levickij learned the art of painting, especially the painting of icons, from his father, an amateur painter, engraver, and priest. He met the noted painter Aleksey P. Antropov in 1752 in Kiev when he came to paint the Andrew Cathedral in St. Petersburg. He went to St. Petersburg with Antropov to work in his studio as an apprentice. A year later he went out on his own and achieved his “breakthrough” in 1770 when six of his portraits were hung in an exhibition of the Academy of Arts. He joined that Academy and for the next 17 years taught painting there. Catherine the Great granted him various tasks such as painting a series of seven portraits titled “the schoolgirls of the Smoiny Institute”, they now hang in a museum in St. Petersburg. He also painted a portrait of Catherine II in 1783, a portrait of Diderot, and many others. He stopped teaching in 1787, devoting himself completely to his own work but was not very successful. He retreated, threw himself into religion and Freemasonry, and returned to the Academy in 1807. He no longer had any appreciable success, became blind, and stopped painting in 1812. He died in St. Petersburg on April 4, 1822.

-with sincere thanks to Emiel Crab, Henk Godthelp, and the “De Verlichte Loep”

Have a great summer (winter for those living south of the Equator). I will be spending most of my time at my cottage on the Maine coast but can be reached by e-mail at radpm67@gmail.com