

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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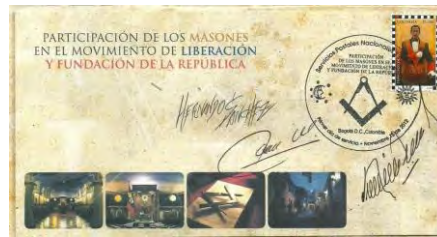
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RECENT PURE MASONIC ISSUES

We have been very fortunate recently in learning of three new releases of Pure Masonic Stamps – they have been issued by El Salvador, Colombia, and Singapore. Copies of the El Salvador, Colombia, and Singapore issues have been received and are illustrated here. Bro. Eddie Levey informed us of the new Singapore issue – the Masonic Square & Compasses are on the right of each stamp, just above the names (Sir Henry Keppel and Judge M. Karthigesu).



The El Salvador release is for the 100th anniversary of the Grand Lodge Cuscatlan. I have not seen anything which identifies the release date so we will have to wait for its appearance in Scott's Monthly listing of new releases to learn that fact. I have seen them offered on eBay and I was able to acquire a limited number from a new issue dealer. I have 9 copies which I can offer to members at a cost of \$7.50 each plus a 6¾ size SASE.

The Colombia stamp was issued on November 15, 2012 and commemorates the participation of the Masons in the Liberation movement which led to the foundation of the Republic. I have been singularly unsuccessful in identifying any reliable postal service source for these issues and I have not seen them offered by new issue dealers. I have acquired a copy of the stamp and a FDC (with a brochure) through eBay but do not have any to offer. (Opening bids for this stamp and FDC are \$2.00 and \$4.00, respectively.)

The Singapore release commemorates the 150th anniversary of Freemasonry in Singapore. Unfortunately, Bro. Levey has not found out any other information on the release of the stamps or any Masonic history for the two brothers depicted.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

244. Joseph Samuel Daniel, Shaked 1250, P.O. Box 392, Yerucham, 80500 Israel
Past Master of Hakochav (Star) No. 13, GL of the State of Israel and Assistant
Grand Master (Hon), Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

211. Dwight Seals – 2933 Gilligan Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45233

RESIGNATION:

149. Peter Huntsman of Montpelier, VT
355. Stephen Kapp of Grove, OK

Unfortunately, Bro. Peter Huntsman has had to move to a facility for care with advancing dementia. It is so sad to see such an infirmity with so dedicated a Mason. We wish him and his family well.

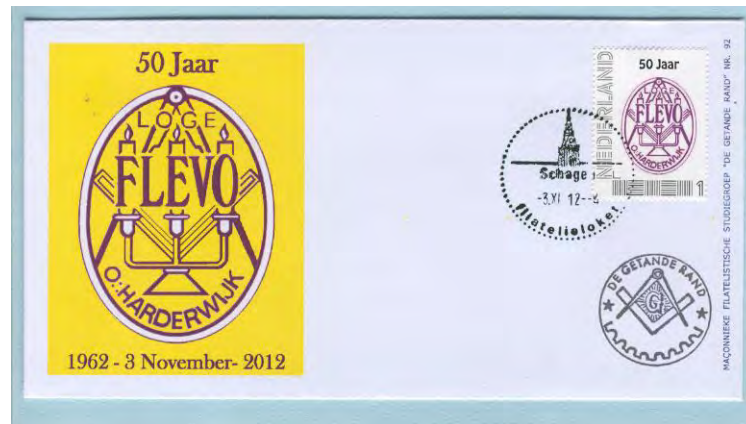
Bro. Ed King has been the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Maine for some time now and since the move of the Grand Lodge building from Portland to Holden he has become the Grand Librarian. Actions are now in process to combine the duties of the Grand Curator with those of the Grand Librarian. He will be a busy individual but, I believe, he loves that type of activity. Good Luck Bro. Ed, and let us know if we can help you.

Our new member, Bro. Daniel, has e-mailed a copy of the full presentation of his lecture given at the meeting of the Grand Lodges held in New Delhi, India in 2002. For every photograph (in Power Point) there is a representative stamp that makes the item even more interesting. At the present time he is now entering a two-month period of Installations culminating in the Installation of the next Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Avi Bar Nes, Professor of Marine Biology. He will be officiating as Installing Grand Director of Ceremonies. As that incoming G.M. is from his Lodge, Solomon Pillars Lodge No. 57, Eilat, he foresees much action in which the brethren of his Lodge will be involved. A mobile Masonic Stamp exhibit is also scheduled for the next Masonic calendar year to be exhibited at the main Lodge premises in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and, of course, Eilat.

Finally, I am very proud to announce that on November 15 I was the proud recipient of the Scottish Rite Medal for Masonic Service. I am not a member of Scottish Rite but I do edit a regular article, *The Stamp Act*, for their quarterly magazine, *The Northern Light*. I attended the presentation meeting in which two friends were being recognized – one for his recent 33rd degree and another for his MSA. My wife attended with me but she and all the others were totally successful in keeping the presentation of my medal a complete surprise. Several members of my family were also in attendance but they were kept in the Secretary's room until the meeting started and were ushered in. I believe it was the first time I was really caught "with my pants down". I had difficulty trying to conjure up comments and totally forgot to introduce my family members that were in attendance. It was a great honor.

DE GETANDE RAND 2012 STAMP & SPECIAL EVENT COVER

The annual personal stamp created by De Getande Rand for their club has been released and is available from Bro. Emiel Crab. He also has copies of the Special Event Cover prepared for the 50th anniversary of the Lodge Flevo. He can be reached at Emiel.e.c@gmail.com or Augustijnslei 134, bus 1, B-2930 Brasschat, Belgium.



A FOLLOW UP TO THE CLAUSEN ALBUM OFFER

Several members vied for the Charles Clausen album (with stamps) that had been donated to the club by a beneficent Mason. Rather than leave all but one out in the cold, I ran off copies of an unpopulated album which I had and offered them to those others at the cost of printing plus postage. Several of those individuals asked if there was a foreign Mason equivalent. There is, and as a result, I have run off a number of copies of that album and will make a similar offer – but this album is about double the size of the US equivalent. Consequently, if you are interested the cost will be \$8.00 for printing and \$5.00 for shipping within the US. Foreign shipping costs will have to be figured on an individual basis. Please let me know if you are interested.

MEMBER COMMENTS REGARDING PREVIOUS ARTICLES

A couple of members have provided additional information on Masons previously cited in recent Newsletters:

Alexander von Humboldt – Bro. Emiel Crab forwarded information that he found in the Belgian book: “Munten Vertellen over Vrijmetselaars” (Coins tell about Freemasonry). “The Supreme Council of Hungary reports that Alexander von Humboldt was a member of a mixed Tugendbund Lodge, founded by Henriette Herz, This Lodge, the venerable Lodge Carp Diem in Heidelberg working under the Grand Orient of Luxembourg confirms this information as does the Lodge “Carl zum Felsen” in Hamburg, and the Lodge “Phoenix zur Wahrheit” in Hamburg. Several Lodges are named for him – four in the United States, one in Budapest, and one in Mexico.”

Gaston Monnerville – Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy states that he was initiated in the Lodge “Le Flambeau” (the Torch) in France in 1918, rather than the Lodge “La Verite” No. 280.

FIRST GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

Back in the January-February 2009 issue of the Newsletter, we showed an Rampur, India Court Fee stamp which pictured the First Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, Major General Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan, G.C.I.E., D. Litt., LL.D, His Highness the Nawab of Rampur. Some recent research has resulted in more information and some insight into his Installation.



The Grand Lodge of India was officially constituted on November 24, 1961 in the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi. There were delegations from the Grand Lodges of Scotland, Ireland, and England in attendance. After the delegations were received and greeted, the Grand Master of Scotland proceeded with the Consecration. Thereafter, the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland officially constituted the new Grand Lodge, After the Consecration and Constitution, the Deputy Grand Master of England assumed the throne and installed Major General Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan, G.C.I.E., D. Litt., LL.D, His Highness the Nawab of Rampur as the First Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India. The Aprons, Collars, Gauntlets, etc. for the new Lodge were provided jointly by the three parent Grand Lodges. In addition to the three parent Grand Lodges, the M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, the M.W. Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta (Canada), and about 1,491 Brethren from all over India were present at this historic event. Syed Raza Ali Khan Bahadur was the Ruler of Rampur from June 30, 1930 to March 6, 1966.

BATTLE OF THE MILVIAN BRIDGE

For members of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendent Bodies, the battle of the Milvian Bridge on October 28 312 is a central event. The bridge, located across the Tiber River where the Via Flamina enters Rome, saw the legions of rival emperors Constantine and Maxentius clash. Constantine was victorious, driving Maxentius and his troops into the river. On October 28, 2012 Vatican City and Italy each issued a miniature sheet depicting the battle as shown in a painting by Raphael and finished by his student Giulio Romano.



The Emperor Diocletian (284-305) had divided the Roman Empire into eastern and western halves to improve administration and communications. In order to prevent future struggles for leadership, he established a succession plan that had imperial understudies ('*augusti*') for each emperor. However, after Diocletian's abdication in 305, his successors continued to struggle for sole leadership. Constans, a Roman general and father of Constantine, was named as one *augustus* and Constantine's brother-in-law, Maxentius, became emperor in the city of Rome. Upon Constans' death, the troops of the Tenth Legion at Eburacum (York) in Britannica, proclaimed Constantine emperor. Between 306 and 312, the legions of the two brothers-in-law contended for sole authority.

The outcome of the Milvian Bridge battle was critical for the future of the Roman Empire and Christianity. According to the account left by the bishop Eusebius, on the evening before the battle, Constantine saw a vision, a cross with the letters *IHVS*, in the sky. The letters were translated to mean '*in hoc signo vinces*' or 'in this sign conquer.' On the day of the battle, the shields of Constantine's troops (or at least his German bodyguard) displayed the Chi Rho standard, the first two letters of the Greek word for *Christos*. Eusebius tells us that Constantine regarded his victory as divinely inspired and had a Chi Rho standard carried at the head of his troops in battle thereafter. Constantine and his *augustus* Licinius issued the Edict of Milan in 313 that granted toleration of religion, including Christianity throughout the Empire. Constantine would build a new capital city, Constantinople, at the center of the empire to displace Rome. He accepted Christian baptism on his deathbed in 337 (a common occurrence at the time as believers considered any sin after baptism unrequitable). As recently as 2011, archeologists recovered standards of Maxentius' legions that had been buried in Rome after the battle.

The ritual for the Red Cross of Constantine miscalls the battle as *Saxa Ruba*, which occurred 104 years before Constantine was born. This apparently was a result of an inadequate Greek translation ability of the ritual writer. (Article contributed by Bro. Gene Frick.)

TANZANIA STAMP OF INTEREST TO MASONIC PHILATELISTS

A stamp issued by Tanzania on February 23, 2005 as part of a set to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary pictures two Freemasons – Khalid Khan and Amu Shah. The stamp pictures Bro. Khan, then president of the Rotary Club of Dares Salaam (on the left) presenting President Nyerere with the Paul Harris Fellowship award. Bro. Shah, a past governor of Rotary International District 9200 is in the center background.



Bro. Khan was a member of Dares Salaam Lodge and Bro. Shah is a Past Master of Guiding Star Lodge No. 5299 E.C. Bro. Shah is also Chairman of the Tanzanian Philatelic Association.

Amu Shah, whose full name is Amritlal Jivraj (Amu) Shah, was born in Mombasa, Kenya, on November 6, 1941 and received his primary and secondary education in Mombasa. In 1959 he joined Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics from which he graduated in 1963 obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Bombay. In 1966 he established a clothing industry in Dar es Salaam which, in due course, became a leading textile and garments industry in Tanzania. Bro. Shah has made significant progress in public and social life and has several achievements to his credit as a leader which has resulted in the inclusion of his biography in various international publications including “Who is Who in the World” He has also been named “Man of the Decade” and “International Man of the Year” by the International Biographical Institute. In 2000 he was named one of the “Outstanding People of the 20th Century in honor of his outstanding contribution in Social Service by the International Biographical Center in Cambridge, England.

-Information gleaned from a Rotary web site.

DAVID LaTOUCHE

David LaTouche can be associated with at least three stamps issued by Ireland – one in 1931 for the Royal Dublin Society, another in 1981 also for that Society and one in 1983 for the Bank of Ireland. Bro. LaTouche held high positions in these organizations. Bro. LaTouche was the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland in 1767.



Born in 1729, David LaTouche's "Country seat" was at Marley Grange at Rathfarnham in County Dublin but when he was in Dublin, he resided at 52 St. Stephens Green, one of the finest of the old city mansions, built in 1771 to his orders. He was the Member of Parliament (in Ireland) for Dundalk in County Louth from 1761 to 1768, then for Longford from 1769 to 1783, and finally for Belturbet from 1783 to 1790. He was made a Privy Councillor and was, from 1801 to 1817, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Dublin Philosophical Society which, in 1820, became the Royal Dublin Society. On the dissolution of the Irish Parliament in 1800, after the Act of Union, there were five members of his family that were elected to represent constituencies in Ireland at the House of Commons in Westminster, London. In 1783 he was made the First Governor of the Bank of Ireland. He died on August 1, 1817.

-compiled with the assistance of Bro. Frank Elliott and Rebecca Hayes,
 Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

CORNELIUS JACON LANGENHOVEN

Cornelius Langenhoven is featured on a set of stamps released by South Africa on August 1, 1973 to celebrate his birth centenary. The stamps depict his portrait and bars of music from the South African National Anthem. Bro. Langenhoven was initiated in Cango Lodge No. 2088, E.C., on April 16, 1912, passed on May 21, and raised on August 13, both of the same year.



Born August 13, 1873 in Hoeko, Cape Colony, Cornelius Langenhoven started his school career in a farm school and read for his B.A. degree at Stellenbosch. After obtaining his law degree he practiced as an Attorney. Although educated in English, he devoted much of his time dealing with Afrikaans. He wrote some 50 books in that language ranging from satire through essay to humor. He was awarded a Doctorate in Literature in recognition of his "Teaching the people to read". He also wrote "Die Steim", South Africa's National Anthem in 1918. He died July 15, 1932 in Ouettsboom.

JOHN MOORE

Born November 13, 1761 in Glasgow, Scotland, John Moore entered the British Army in 1776 serving, among other places, in the Mediterranean, the American Revolution, Ireland, and Holland. He distinguished himself at Alexandria and Cairo and was made a major general. He served as governor of St. Lucia in 1796-97 until he fell ill of yellow fever and was ordered home. He was initiated a Knight of the Bath in 1801. In 1806 he was sent to the Mediterranean and led a division on an unsuccessful attempt to help Sweden. He returned home but was immediately sent out to Portugal and became supreme commander of the British forces against Napoleon. In the Peninsular War, he

took chief command of 23,000 British troops and had to move them to Salamanca in Spain to assist the Spanish allies. He was compelled to retreat in face of the enemy's superior numbers. The port of embarkation was Coruna in the northwest and his retreat to the coast over 250 miles of difficult country in mid-winter has become a classic of military history. In a last heroic stand at the Battle of Corona, he was killed on January 16, 1809 by a cannon ball although his army had driven back the French in mass confusion.



Sir John Moore is pictured on a stamp issued by St. Lucia on August 29, 1974 as part of a set to honor past Governors of St. Lucia. Bro. Moore received his degrees in St. John's Lodge No. 221 in Halifax, Nova Scotia on April 2, June 5, and June 26, 1781. Eight years later he affiliated with Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge No. 11 at Paisley, Scotland on November 30, 1798.

HENRY GRATTAN

Ireland issued a stamp on October 14, 1982 to recognize the bicentennial of the Grattan Parliament. Bro. Grattan was initiated in the First Volunteer Lodge, I.C., in Dublin in 1784.



Henry Grattan was born on July 3, 1746 in Dublin, Ireland and entered Trinity College at the age of 17; his choice of friends caused his father to disinherit him. Four years later he went to the Middle Temple in London but neglected his studies in order to listen to House of Commons debates. He was, however, called to the Irish bar in 1772 and elected to the Irish Parliament in 1775 where he quickly became the leader of the Popular Party. He managed to get the law restricting Irish trade repealed and in 1782 the Rockingham ministry conceded legislative independence. The Irish Parliament, however, was no more representative than the English and was far more corrupt. It was a time of depression and one section demanded protection but were outvoted by the Free Trade Party. He went head to head with William Pitt and the outcome was that the union of Ireland with Great Britain was the only answer – this was the last thing Grattan wanted. In addition, Grattan, although a Protestant, had by this time espoused the cause of Catholic emancipation. In 1805 he became a member of the Westminster parliament where he continued to agitate for Catholic rights. He became very sick and on one trip from Ireland to London, collapsed and died on June 6, 1820. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

DANIEL O'CONNELL

Bro. O'Connell was raised in Lodge No. 189, Dublin, in 1797 and served as Master of that Lodge in 1800. He later became a member of Lodge No. 13, Limerick, and a charter member of a Lodge in Tralee. He once defined Masonry as "Philanthropy unconfined by sect, nation, and religion" and stated that he was pleased to own himself a Mason. In 1800 he was selected by the Grand Lodge to explain to the Grand Master that the appointed Deputy Grand Master was disliked and should be removed. He fulfilled that delicate mission with success. Throughout the Seaton Rebellion (1808-14), he acted as standing counsel for the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Little more is heard of him until 1837 when he wrote a letter to "The Pilot" in Dublin to contradict a rumor that he still belonged to the Craft, stating that his objections to it were (1) that it might counteract the temperance movement, and (2) the wanton and multified taking of oaths. When this was reported to the Grand Lodge he was expelled by resolutions. Ironically, the presiding Deputy Grand Master had himself been made a Mason by Bro. O'Connell. Another source states that in 1838, at the insistence of Roman Catholic Priests, Bro. O'Connell resigned from the Fraternity but never denounced or revealed any of the secrets of Masonry.

Daniel O'Connell, born August 6, 1775 in Carhen, County Kerry, came to be known as "The Liberator". He united Irish Roman Catholics under the leadership of their priests into a league for urging Irish claims. In 1823 he originated the Catholic Association and perfected its constitutional method of agitation for repeal of civil disabilities by mass meetings. He was elected a Member of Parliament in 1828 and led the agitation for the abolition of tithes of the established Church of Ireland. He was made Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1841. In 1843 he was arrested for seditious conspiracy and, after serving one year in prison, found his power broken by dissention, opposition by young revolutionaries, and distress from the potato famine. In 1847 he started on a pilgrimage to Rome but died on the way in Genoa, Italy on May 15, 1847. He was buried in Glasnevin, Dublin.



Ireland issued a trio of stamps on June 22, 1929 to commemorate the centenary of the Catholic Emancipation – they picture Daniel O'Connell. That country also recognized the 150th anniversary of the death of Bro. O'Connell with the release of a stamp on July 1, 1997.

LIONEL HAMPTON

Lionel Hampton is pictured on a stamp issued by Gabon on July 5, 1985 as part of a set for Black Musicians and on one issued by Mali on May 23, 1994 for jazz musicians. He was a thirty third degree Prince Hall Mason and a Shriner; no other information seems to be available.



Lionel Hampton was born April 12, 1913 in Louisville, Kentucky but was brought up in Birmingham, Alabama, and Chicago, Illinois where he played drums and piano in the Chicago Defender Boys' Band. After attending the University of Southern California, he became a professional musician. While with Les Hite's band in 1930 he was encouraged by Louis Armstrong to play the vibraphones, an instrument for which he is best known. In 1936 he was playing in Los Angeles when Benny Goodman's came through on a tour; he sat in with him and soon joined Goodman's Quartet to earn a place in jazz history. He left that group in 1940 to form his own orchestra for which he recorded many classic tunes. He won several awards in polls and received four honorary college degrees. He passed away on August 31, 2002 in New York City.

SIR WALTER SCOTT

The bicentenary of Sir Walter Scott's birth was observed by Great Britain with the issuance of a stamp on July 28, 1971. Bro. Scott was initiated, passed, and raised at an emergency meeting of Lodge St. David No. 36 of Edinburgh on March 2, 1801. His father and elder brother were also members of this Lodge. On June 4, 1816, he laid the foundation stone of a new Lodge room at Selkirk and was elected an honorary member of that Lodge, now known as St. John No. 32. In 1823 he was offered the Grandmastership of the Royal Grand Conclave of Knights Templar of Scotland, but declined because of "age and health not permitting me to undertake the duties which whether convivial or charitable, a person undertaking such an office ought to be in readiness to perform when called upon". He attended Lodge frequently.



Born on August 15, 1771 in College Wynd, in the Old Town of Edinburgh, Walter Scott survived a childhood bout of polio in 1773 that left him lame. To cure his lameness he was sent to live in the Borders region at his grandparents' farm at Sandyknowe where he was taught to read and learned many of the tales and legends which later characterized

much of his work. He returned to Edinburgh in 1775 and two years later received private education to prepare him for the Royal High School of Edinburgh. After finishing this school he was sent to Kelso where he met his future business partners for printing his books. He began studying classics at the University of Edinburgh at the age of 12 and in March 1786 he began an apprenticeship in his father's office to become a writer to the Signet. After completing his studies in law, he became a lawyer in Edinburgh. He began his professional literary career at the age of 25 with his first publication being translated German ballads. He was a volunteer in the 1st Lothian and Border yeomanry, met his future wife, married in 1797 and two years later was appointed Sheriff-Depute of the County of Selkirk. He became a historical novelist, playwright, and poet – popular throughout much of the world during his lifetime. In 1825 and 1826 a banking crisis swept the cities of London and Edinburgh and his printing business crashed. He refused to declare bankruptcy; rather, he placed his house and income in a trust for his creditors. He wrote himself out of debt with solvency being reached just after his death on September 21, 1832 – Melrose, Scotland.

BERNARD CYRIL FREYBERG

Sir Bernard Freyberg is pictured on a stamp issued by New Zealand on May 16, 1990 as part of a set honoring New Zealand heritage. He was born March 21, 1889 in Richmond Hill, Surry, Great Britain but in 1891 emigrated with his family to New Zealand. Educated at Wellington College, he gained renown as an outstanding sportsman, especially at swimming. He trained as a dentist and practiced at Morrisville. While there, he swam down the Waihou River from Te Aroha to Paeroa, about fourteen miles. In 1912 he was gazetted as a second lieutenant in the 6th Nauraki Regiment but resigned only two months later on moving to Levin. In 1914 he went to San Francisco but upon the outbreak of World War I, he went back to England as a volunteer and joined the 7th Battalion of the Royal Naval Brigade. He fought on the Belgian front in September 1914; in April 1915, his Brigade transferred to the Dardanelles where he volunteered to swim in the Gulf of Sarnos in order to create a diversion and trick the Turks. Although he was under heavy fire, he was not hit and earned his first D.S.O.. The Brigade moved back to France and on November 15, 1916, while commanding the Hood Battalion at Beaumont Hamel, he won the Victoria Cross; he was wounded four times in this action. By the end of the war he was a Temporary Brigadier with the 29th Division, won the V.C., the D.S.O. with two bars, the C.M.C., had been wounded nine times and mentioned in dispatches six times. Following the war he attended the Staff College at Camberley, commanded a Battalion from 1929-31, was Assistant Quartermaster General, Southern Command, and finally a General Staff Officer at the War Office until he retired in 1934. In November 1939 the New Zealand government invited him to command the New Zealand Division in the Middle East and he was forced to evacuate Crete and lead the New Zealanders in the African and Italian Campaigns, gaining a third bar to his D.S.O. in 1945. He served as Governor-General from 1946 to 1951 when he was raised to the Peerage. He was appointed Deputy Constable and Lieutenant Governor of Windsor Castle in 1953 and died July 4, 1963 – Windsor, UK

Bro. Freyberg was initiated in the Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614 which met at Prince's, Piccadilly, on February 27, 1922, was passed on April 24, 1923 and raised on April 30, 1923. He resigned from the Lodge on February 23, 1931 and remained unattached for the next 15 years. On April 26, 1946 he became a joining member of the New Zealand Lodge No. 5175, London. He was made an Honorary Member of this Lodge on January 20, 1961. He joined Westminster Lodge No. 308, Wellington on August 16, 1946 and was installed as Master on September 17, 1948.



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have appeared in the Linn's Monthly Stamp News of November and December 2012.

Ascension Is. – 9/17/12 – Scott 1060/1 (2 strips of 3 stamps each) – 90th Anniversary of the Shackleton-Rowett Antarctic Expedition, includes Ernest Schackleton & Frank Wild.

Grenada - 2/8/12 – Scott 3848/9 (block of 4 stamps plus S/S) – 60th anniversary of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II, includes Prince Philip.

Micronesia – 9/27/11 – Scott 9470 – Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

Romania – 1/30/12 – Scott 5334/5 (stamp and S/S) – Ion Luca Caragiale

Romania – 2/10/12 – Scott 5338/44 – Portraits on Romanian Banknotes, includes Ion Luca Caragiale.

“TRUTHS STRANGER THAN FICTION” by BRO. ALPHONSE CERZA

At one time, Golden Lodge #5, Stanstead, Canada occupied a Lodge Room which straddled the boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances on both sides of the border. – *The Secretary must have had stamps from both nations to mail the notices.*

In 1801, Czar Alexander I of Russia banned the Craft. In 1803 he rescinded the order and became a Freemason. In 1822 he again ordered Freemasonry banned in Russia. – *If we do a page on him, do we put it in with the other Masons of Russia or with the Anti-Masons?*

There are two structures in the U.S. that have elevators which move sideways in addition to vertically – the Arch in St. Louis and the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. There is a third such edifice – the Eiffel Tower in Paris. – *Your Editor has been on all three.*