

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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NEW PURE MASONIC FROM BULGARIA

Your Editor recently received an e-mail from a stamp dealer in Bulgaria (possibly also a Freemason) that there was another pure Masonic issued by his postal authorities. It was issued on April 15, 2014 as can be seen on the scan of a First Day Cover. The stamp is very attractive and celebrates a 100th anniversary – probably of Freemasonry in Bulgaria. A few of the single stamps have been ordered but have not yet arrived; the cost will be about \$2.00 each plus a SASE. I have also seen this stamp and cover offered on eBay.

Първи ден
Premier jour
First day



UPCOMING MAJOR STAMP SHOWS

There are two major stamp shows coming up in the next few months – sponsored by our “parent” associations. The National Topical Stamp Show, sponsored by the ATA, is being held at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel in Missouri from June 27 to 29, 2014. There will be many exhibits as well as a multitude of Dealers tables.

The American Philatelic Society is sponsoring STAMPSHOW 2014 being held in the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut on August 21 to 24, 2014. A host of exhibitions and dealers will be there also.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

255. David Sheard, 106/76 Ridgewood Blvd., Ridgewood 6030 Western Australia. David is a member of Plantageuet Lodge No. 1454, E.C. meeting at Albany, Western Australia.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None that I know of.

RESIGNATIONS OR CLOSED ALBUMS:

None

Bro. Joe Harowitz writes that he will be the proud recipient of his 70 Year Pin on the first Thursday in October. Congratulations, Bro. Joe – that is quite an achievement.

At the end of April, Bro. Jim Hogg finished his term as District Deputy Grand Master for District #2 in the Royal and Select Masters in Florida. In March he became a Past Master of Internet Lodge No. 9659 in England. He is also the Charter High Priest of the new, recently-chartered Florida Chapter of Research, R.A.M. They received their Charter in April and Jim was the individual who drafted the legislation that was passed last year at the Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Florida.

There were a few responses to last issue's offer of back issues of the Newsletters. One of the more significant actions which resulted was the donation of the following to the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania:

Masonic Cacheted Covers by Robert A. Domingue

Foreign Masonic Cacheted Covers by Robert A. Domingue

Masonic Stamp Album (photocopies) by Charles Oliver Clausen

The Masonic Stamp Collector journal numbers 1 through 38

Masonic Stamp Unit Newsletter numbers 1 through 61.

ERROR IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

On page 2542 of the previous issue, as part of the article MASONIC LODGES 956 AND 426 ON POSTAL STATIONERY, there was an error in the identification of a website discussing Waitohi Lodge. The citing should be www.mastermason.com/waitohi. The history of that Lodge is interesting. So many Lodges are closing or amalgamating with other Lodges it is good to see that this Lodge is still active and has a membership of around 80. The Waitohi Lodge number is 111. Waitohi is the maori name of Picton, located on the northern tip of the South Island. The maori people were the first settlers of New Zealand coming from Hawaii.

With thanks to Bro. Eddie Levey for catching this mistake.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB of NEW YORK

On January 13, 1934, 40 Masons gathered together in the Grand Lodge Library of the State of New York and it was not for Masonry alone. All had another interest in common: they were stamp collectors. Presiding over this group was one of the “greats” of both Freemasonry and Philately, the Grand Secretary of New York, Charles H. Johnson. It wasn't long before the original 40 were joined by many who could not attend that first meeting and soon there were more. The Masonic Temple was the first home with the Grand Lodge Library being the meeting site. The meetings were primarily for the purpose of swapping stamps, looking at collections, and listening to talks on stamps by the more prominent members of the club. Late in 1938 the club petitioned President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Mason and stamp collector, to issue a commemorative in honor of the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as first president of the United States. On April 30 of the following year that stamp was issued. The club prepared a special envelope as a Masonic souvenir and on the first day of issue 10,000 first day covers were mailed to Masons all over the world. The club outgrew the rooms at the Temple and finally, on April 7, 1944, they had their first meeting in the Collectors Club at 22 E. 35th St., New York City.

About 1943 some members started serious study of Masons on Postage Stamps and thus grew the name Masonic Philately. Such a topical collection drew the 4th prize at the 1947 CIPEX. At FIPEX in 1957 members of the Club displayed at least 10 frames of Masonic Philately and many collectors were attracted to the membership growing it to be almost 500 scattered all over the U.S. and in several foreign countries. The membership roster of that year shows the presence of many notables in Freemasonry and Philately. In March 1944, under the leadership of Harry M. Konwiser, the dean of philatelic writers, a small paper was begun with the able assistance of Bro. Sam Brooks. The June 1944 issue saw the Club paper named “THE MASONIC PHILATELIST” – a title which remains today. The paper went from a monthly issue of 8 pages to a bi-monthly publication in September 1976 and to a Quarterly release in the fall of 1978. Dr. Irwin Yarry served as the Editor for many years and in March 1983, Dr. Allan Boudreau was added as the Publisher. Dr. Yarry passed away in December 1989 and Dr. Boudreau carried the dual role, cited as Publisher to the present time. Up to the September 1995 issue, the officers of the Club were listed inside the cover of the paper; following that date, there were no such listings. Back in the early years of the Club meetings were held semi-monthly until 1956 when the frequency was dropped to monthly.

Dr. Boudreau has done a yeoman's job of continuing the publication of this magazine and keeping the Club alive. Recently, however, he is recovering from a bit of a set back with his personal health. He appears to be fine and will hopefully be back “in the saddle” within a few months. In the meantime Bro. Christopher L. Murphy has stepped in as interim editor of The Masonic Philatelist. He is presently preparing a March 2014 issue and it should be out by mid-May. If any of our members that are also members of the MSC of NY would like to help out in the ongoing efforts, they could contact Bro. Chris at cmurphy1201@shaw.ca or Suite 903, 7171 Beresford St., Burrnaby, British Columbia, Y5E 3XZ8 Canada.

MASONIC CACHETED COVERS FROM BRAZIL

Bro. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, President of the Brazilian Masonic Philatelic Club has provided a copy of two recent Masonic Cacheted Covers prepared and issued by his Club. Information on their acquisition may be obtained from him at clubeselo@terre.com.br or PO Box 3085, 88010-970 Florianopolis – SC – Brazil.



SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS FROM ITALY

During 2013 the Associazione Italiana de Filatela Massonica generated several Masonic cancellations to honor various Masonic events. Information on their acquisition and on the Club itself can be obtained from Bro. Massimo Morgantini, Secretary. He can be contacted at m.morgantini@governo.it or at Via Libero Leonardi 130/G5, Roma 00173 Italy.



SAMUEL DEXTER

Recently I was conducting some “original” research and tried to find out if Samuel Dexter, a Secretary of the Treasury, was ever a Freemason. He is pictured on the 3 cent Documentary stamps issued since 1940. Knowing that he was a Massachusetts native I contacted my Grand Lodge and they put me in touch with Cynthia Alcorn, the Grand Lodge Librarian. She was able to provide the information that I was looking for – but rather than finding out he was a Freemason, I learned that he was a rather virulent Anti-Mason. He published “Letter on Freemasonry”, “progress of Science”, and Speeches and Political Papers”, “A Bibliography, Freemasonry, Anti-Masonry, and Illuminism in the United States, 1734-1850” by Kent Logan Walgren, states that Dexter’s “Letters” was a response to two letters from Josiah Bartlett, Grand Master of Massachusetts and states “The world knows that masons have the most windy titles, such as Most Worshipful, etc., etc. It is known that their vanity prompts them to walk in formal procession, covered with trinkets that a well-informed savage would blush to wear. It is well known that they have many symbolic figures which were highly useful before men could read or write, and therefore probably are yet convenient to many of the brethren. It is known that with all these trinkets and symbols they follow the remains of a brother, looking as wise as the bird of wisdom, which no doubt greatly comforts the ghost of the departed. It is known that on certain days they meet together and eat plentifully, and, if fame does not slander them too much, drink so too.” This all took place in the middle of the Morgan Affair period.



Samuel Dexter was born May 14, 1761 in Boston, Massachusetts and graduated from Harvard in 1781 and studied law at Worcester under Levi Lincoln, Jr. After he passed the Bar in 1784 he began practicing in Lunenburg, Massachusetts. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives serving from 1788 to 1790. He was elected to the 3rd Congress by way of the U.S. House of Representatives and then elected as a Federalist to the U.S. Senate. In December 1799 he wrote the memorial eulogy to George Washington upon his death. He served for less than a year as he was appointed Secretary of War by President John Adams in 1800. Upon Secretary of the Treasury Oliver Wolcott, Jr.'s resignation in December 1800, Adams appointed Dexter as interim Secretary. He then briefly conducted the affairs of the War Office. He returned to Boston in 1805 and resumed the practice of law. He left the Federalist Party to espouse Republican views on the War of 1812 and was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in 1814, 1815, and 1816. He was an ardent supporter of the temperance movement and presided over its first formal organization in Massachusetts. He died May 4, 1816 in Mendon, Massachusetts.

JOSEPH MERCER

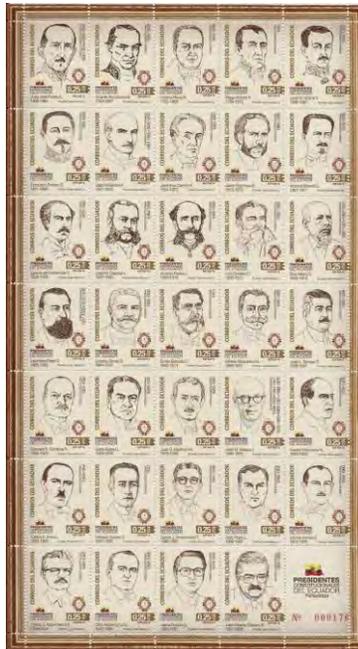
Joseph Mercer (1914-1990) had a 50-year career as a football player and manager. He played for England, Everton and captained Arsenal to two FA Cup finals and two league championships. He then went on to manage Sheffield United, Aston Villa, and Manchester City. At Manchester City he led the team in victory in the FA Cup, European Cup, Winners' Cup, and the Football League Cup. He was pictured on a stamp issued by Great Britain on March 25, 2014. Bro. Mercer was initiated in Rivacre Lodge Np. 5805 in his home town of Ellesmere Port; he resigned in 1955.



Thanks to Bro. Trevor Fray who gleaned the information from Gibbons Stamp Monthly and "Freemasonry Today".

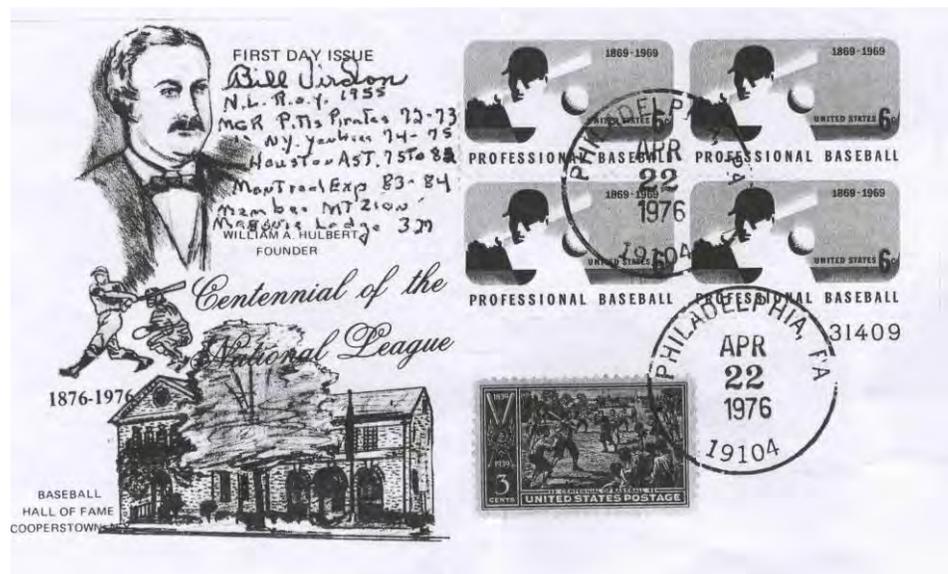
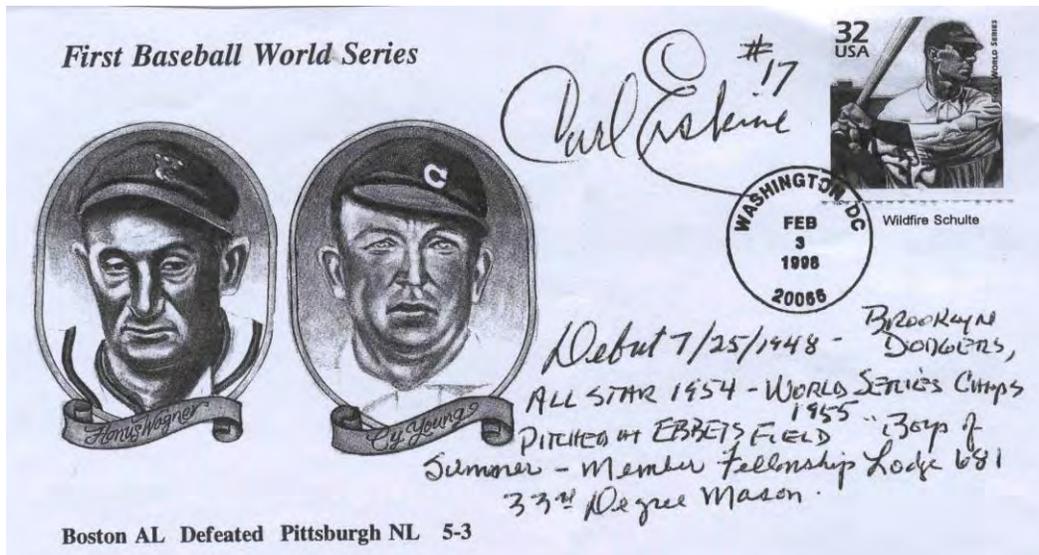
STAMPS OF PRESIDENTS OF ECUADOR

Bro. Gene Fricks, President of our Unit, sent in a souvenir sheet which depicts many, if not all, of the Presidents of Ecuador. He wonders how many of them were Freemasons. Can anyone help?



A COUPLE OF BRO. WESTBERE'S AUTOGRAPHED COVERS

Bro. Peter Westbere of Canada has sent in copies of a couple of his covers autographed by baseball players that were Freemasons. They feature Bro. Carl Erskine and Bro. Bill Virdon. Thank you for sharing them, Bro. Peter.



MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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CHARLES ARCHIBALD BROOKS HOADLEY

Australia recently issued a stamp on February 18, 2014 as one of the Australian Antarctic Expedition 1914 Homeward Bound series. Bro. Hoadley is standing and is the 5th from the left next to Sir Douglas Mawson (shown not to have been a Mason). Bro, Frank Wild is seated at the end on the right – he is known to have been a Mason but no details are available.



Bro. Hoadley was made a Freemason in the Lodge Orion No. 53 in Melbourne being initiated on May 1, passed on October 2, and raised on November 26 in 1915. He was a founding member of Wyndham Lodge No. 239 on November 25, 1916. He was elected Worshipful Master of that Lodge from 1922-23. He was also a foundation member and made foundation Deputy Worshipful Master of the Baden Powell Lodge No. 488, Mt. Waverly, Victoria on September 29, 1930 and remained a member of that Lodge until his death in 1947.

Charles Hoadley was an Australian Geologist, Explorer, Educationist, Scout Leader, and Freemason. He graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1911 with a degree in Mining Engineering and Science and two years of employment followed with the Propriety Company at Fort Pirie in South Australia. In 1912 he joined the Australasian Antarctic Exploration Expedition led by Sir Douglas Mawson, spending a year as geologist to the Western Base Party which covered more than 800 miles in Queen Mary Land. He was also one of the group which undertook the 300 mile trip into Kaiser Wilhelm II Land. He offered his service to the Ross Sea Landing Party, as part of the "Aurora" Relief Expedition to rescue Bro. Sir Ernest Shackleton's men. From 1914 to 1916 he lectured in Engineering at Ballarat School of Mines before becoming Principal at the Footscray Technical College – a post he held until his death. He was appointed the King's Polar Medal in 1915 and made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1936. In 1909 he founded the Footscray Scouts Group and from 1927 to 1937 became Chief Commissioner of the Scouts Association's branch in Victoria. In 1929 he visited England as Commissioner in Charge of the Australian Jamboree contingent and attended the Education Department World Conference on Adult Education at Cambridge.

With thanks to Eddie Levey

The Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

The Lodge St. George in Bermuda has rented an old state house since 1816 from the Governor for the sum of "one peppercorn per year". There is an annual celebration built around that event.

MASONIC CACHETED COVERS

Bro. Fricks also sent in a copy of a Special Event cover that he and a friend were trying to decide if it was a Masonic cover or not. The small Square & Compasses emblem was most likely added to make it applicable to a Masonic collection. In the rigid interpretation, this would not be classified as a Masonic Cacheted cover because the cachet is not Masonic oriented. Over the years many producers and dealers have created “add-ons” to increase sales. These “add-ons” were stamped next to the original cachet to indicate that one of the individuals pictured was a Freemason. They do add to a Masonic collection but are not of primary interest. Any thoughts on this issue?



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Shown here are a couple of recent acquisitions that I was able to secure on eBay. It is interesting to note that there are two distinct groups of sellers of Masonic Philatelic material on eBay. Many of those who offer Masonic cancel covers and individual stamps make the offering a “Buy It Now” and have a very high price. It is my opinion that those sellers really do not know what they have and are trying to make a killing. On the other hand, there are reputable dealers such as Frank Kaplan, aka Mr. Fancy Cancel, and William Weiss who start the auction off at a reasonable price and let it grow through the actions of reasonable bidders – there are not usually any “give-aways” but the closing bids are reasonable. The covers shown came from those two dealers.



From Winteport, Maine



From Cleveland, Ohio

MASONIC PHILATELY IN BRAZIL

Your Editor has long been aware of the Clube Filatelico Maconico do Brasil which is located in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina of which Bro. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm is President. For many years they have kept us abreast of new stamp and cover issues such as shown earlier in this Newsletter. He has also forwarded a copy of a personal stamp commemorating 12 years of the Masonic Lodge Samuel Fonseca No. 4, York Rite, Orient of Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil. Those interested in acquiring a copy should contact the Worshipful Master of that Lodge: Bro. Jose Alcides Fernandes Andujar–Rua Dom Jaime Camara, 234–Apt. 301–Centro–CEP 88015-120 Florianopolis–SC–Brazil.



Recently, I saw another personal Masonic stamp on eBay that was different from any provided by Bro. Schramm. I did some research on the web and found that there is another Masonic Philatelic group in Brazil, but in a different state - Minas Gerais. This group has its own web site at www.filateliamaconica.org and is called the Brazilian Association of Masonic Philately (Associação Brasileira de Filatelia Maconica). Several personal Masonic stamps and covers are illustrated on the site including the one I had purchased on eBay and the elusive (costly) pair of Masonic stamps from Gabon. A few of their issues are shown here. Unfortunately, I did not find any contact address on the site.



BENJAMIN ABRAMS

This interesting “Masonic Did U Know” from Bro. Dwight Seals merits a page in our collection – perhaps using the U.S. Progress in Electronics set, Scott 1500/2, issued on July 10, 1973 for illustration. Bro. Abrams was a member of Farragut Lodge No. 976, New York City. He was born August 18, 1893 in Dorohoi, Romania and emigrated with his parents to the U.S. when he was 12 years old. He left school at the age of 13 to help support his fatherless family and by the age of 29 had acquired the name, assets, and presidency of the Emerson Records in 1922. He was the founder and President of Emerson Radio & Phonograph Corporation after his purchase of Emerson Records. Along with his brother, he developed the first radio-phonograph combination introduced in 1924 and went on to launch a number of additional “firsts” including a clock radio, self-powered portable radio and a midget transistor radio. By 1965 the corporation owned 20 subsidiaries and manufactured more than 100 products.

MASONIC SYMBOLS ON STAMPS

It has been some time since we featured any Masonic Symbols on stamps, so, to answer a few requests, here are a few. I believe that every symbol or allegorical reference within our ritual can be found on a stamp.



Hoodwink All-Seeing Eye Trestleboard Bee



Holy Bible Compasses Anchor Lily Mason and Trowel



Operative Mason Hourglass Scales of Justice Spade

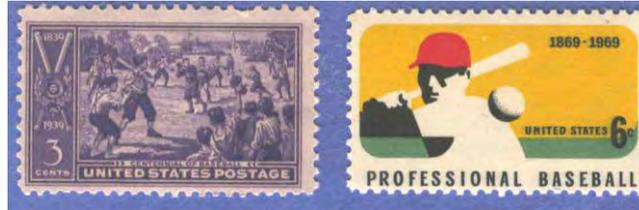
NEW ISSUES

New issues applicable to a Masonic stamp collection are a recent rarity. In the March and April issues of the Scott New Issues Update there was only one nation which issued candidates for our selection and that country – Maldivé Islands – seems to be going the way of many nations, that of issuing stamps for collectors, not for usage.

December 2, 2013 – 3105 a sheet of four stamps which honor Charles A. Lindbergh. This sheet is part of a set of ten sheets and 10 souvenir sheets. The single sheet catalogs mint or used at \$11.00 while the complete set of mini-sheets and souvenir sheets catalogs at \$195.00 – try to tell me that we aren't being used.

WESLEY BRANCH RICKEY

There are two baseball stamps issued by the U.S. which could be used for a page dedicated to Branch Rickey – Scott 855 issued on June 12, 1939 and Scott 1381 issued on September 24, 1969.



Branch Rickey was born December 20, 1881 in Stockdale, Ohio. He was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in 1904 and 1906 and started his major league career in baseball in 1904 as a catcher with the Cincinnati Reds. He was with the St. Louis Browns two years; with the Yankees in 1907, and with the St. Louis Browns as secretary and manager, 1913-15; and vice-president and business manager in 1916. He became president of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1917 and served as manager from 1919 to 1942. From 1942 to 1950 he was president and general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. From 1950 to 1955 he was vice president and general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates and was chairman of the board and director from 1955. While with the Cardinals he won pennants as manager in 1926-28-30-31-34-42, and four world championship pennants. With Brooklyn he won two pennants. He served with the U.S. Army overseas in World War I.

Branch Rickey was one of the most innovative men in Major League Baseball. He was elected to the baseball Hall of Fame in 1967 as an executive. He was perhaps best known for breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier by signing African American player Jackie Robinson, for drafting the first Afro-Hispanic superstar, Roberto Clemente, for creating the framework for the modern minor league farm system, for encouraging the Major Leagues to add new teams through his involvement in the proposed Continental League, and for introducing the batting helmet.

A public speaker in his later years, on November 13, 1965 he collapsed in the middle of a speech in Columbia, Missouri, as he was being elected to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. He had told a story of physical courage and was about to relate an illustration from the Holy Bible. "Now I'm going to tell you a story from the Bible about spiritual courage," he said. He murmured that he could not continue, collapsed, and never spoke again. He faltered, fell back into his seat and slipped onto the floor. He never regained consciousness. His brain was damaged when his breathing stopped momentarily, though his heart picked up the rhythm again. Through the next 26 days, hospitalized in a coma, there was little change and on December 9, 1965 he died of heart failure at Boone County Memorial Hospital in Columbia, Missouri – just 11 days short of his 84th birthday.

Bro. Branch Rickey was initiated in Tuscan Lodge No. 360, St. Louis, Missouri and demitted to Montauk Lodge No. 286, Brooklyn, New York on October 2, 1946.

With thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals