



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON



Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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FURTHER INSIGHT INTO RECENT PURE MASONIC ISSUES

The quarterly magazine published by The Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain has provided further information on the "Pure" Masonic issues of Bulgaria that were released on May 14, 2012 (previously documented in our July-August 2014 Newsletter): In the multitude of topics selected over time, Romanian philately puts in its well-deserved place the promotion of great national cultural and historic personalities, along with projects and events of national and international interest. To mark the occasion of the World Conference held in Bucharest on May 14-17, 2014, it was decided to issue stamps commemorating Sever Frentiu. The lei 3.30 value stamps illustrates the basic symbols of Freemasonry – the Square and Compasses – as well as a globe and sprig of Acacia. The lei 9.10 value stamp displays a reproduction of a self-portrait of Grand Master Sever Frentiu, painted in oil on canvas in 1957. He was an exceptional artist who made the most important union in Romanian Masonic history by creating what is now known as the National Grand Lodge of Romania. The two stamps were released on souvenir sheets of four each. They were also joined on a first day cover and a special philatelic album with a limited edition of 325 each.

Sever Frentiu was born in 1931 in Sacuieni, Bihor county. He attended the Art Institute of Cluj. In 1955 he joined The Artists Union (UAP) and held the office of President of the Arad Branch from 1961 to 1970. He had numerous exhibitions of drawings and paintings in his country and abroad. He was initiated into Freemasonry in 1992. In 1993 he participated in the ceremony lights at the National Grand Lodge of Romania. The following year he became Worshipful Master of the Lodge "Nomine" and in 1995 was elected Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Romania.

-many thanks to the editors of the MPC magazine

MAY YOU ALL HAVE

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HAPPY, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

NONE

ADDRESS CHANGES:

175. Effective December 18, 2014, Bro. Emiel Crab's new address is Bredabaan 253A, 2930 Brasschaat, Belgium (Belgie)

Dr. and Bro. Allan Boudreau recently had some medical issues and is currently residing at a VA hospital facility. His present address is VA Hospital – Ward A5, 179-00 Linden Boulevard. St. Albans, Queens, NY 11425. I am sure he would appreciate a card – he has been a long term member and leader of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and for many years has been editing and publishing *The Masonic Philatelist* – the quarterly magazine of that organization. It is uncertain when he might be returning to his Washington Square, New York City address. Brothers Christopher Murphy and Michael Bronner are filling in for him and keeping the MSC of NY a viable organization.

In the latter part of October, your Editor was invited by Most Excellent S. Brent Morris, B.F. to become a member of the Society of Blue Friars. As stated in the Society's website (<http://www.societyofbluefriars.org/>) this organization was formed in 1932, explicitly "to recognize Masonic Authors." It is probably the smallest, and certainly one of the oddest, concordant bodies in Masonry. It has no fixed ritual or ceremonies, no dues or fees, and very few records. The name was chosen, presumably, because "Friar" is related to the French word for "Brother," and is therefore appropriate for a Masonic Group; but it would also call to mind the monks of the Middle Ages, the ones who wrote most of the books in those days. The regulations state that "One new Friar shall be appointed each year," but that "additional Friars may be appointed to fill vacancies caused by demise or resignation when the total membership is not over twenty."

Since 1944 the Society has met once a year (except for 1945), in a session that is open to all Masonic Brethren. The "Consistory" this year takes place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Reston, Virginia, on January 30, 2015 during the York Rite Masonic Week. I have responded that I would be very proud to become a member in the international listing of members of the Society of Blue Friars. I hope to be able to attend this year's session and present a paper – it obviously will be on Masonic Philately. The current list of members of the Society contains two of our present members – Dr. and Bro. Allan Boudreau and Bro. Christopher Murphy and one former member, Bro. Pierre G. Normand.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC STAMP CLUB FEBRUARY 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club is scheduled for February 22, 2015 in the North Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia. The usual cover and stamp exchange will be starting at 1:30 P.M. in the anti-room and will be followed by the Annual Meeting at 2:00 P.M. The meeting will include the Degree of Philately for all members of the Club who have not yet received it. If you are not presently a member, there is an excellent chance that if you show up that afternoon you will be voted in and be a part of this unique non-Masonic degree which is restricted to Masons. As has been stated many a time, the GWMSC may be the greatest bargain in Masonry being only \$20 for a life-time membership. Those interested should visit the Club's website – www.gwmisc.tripod.com. There will be a number of door prizes including some very unique covers. The meeting usually adjourns around 4:00 P.M. to reconvene for dinner.

Following the meeting the Club friends, guests, and family will join the members at Joe Theismann's Restaurant, 1800 Diagonal Rd., Alexandria, VA – just at the bottom of Shooter's Hill where the GWMNM is located. Every effort will be made to reserve a table in the "upper deck." Dinner orders will be from the menu, Dutch treat. While the kitchen prepares the meals, the Club hopes to have Mark Wright as a guest speaker. Bro. Wright, 32nd deg. KCCH is a noted Past Master of Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia and an active member in many of the Masonic bodies. He is pictured to the right last year when he was the Installing Organist for Joppa Lodge No. 35's 2014 Installation. (He is pictured along with W.M. Fitzgerald Williams and the 2014 Grand Master of the District of Columbia.) Wor. Bro. Mark is a noted musician and will be speaking about *American Indian Freemasons* – a topic close to his heart as he is an

American Indian. As a member of one of the Iroquois Nation tribes, his knowledge of the topic is of both academic and personal viewpoints and should provide a thought provoking dinner discussion.



ITALIAN MASONIC CACHETED COVERS

The covers issued during the 3rd trimester 2014 by the Associazione Italiana di Filatelica Massonica of the Grande Oriente d'Italia shown below have been sent in by Bro. Massimo Morgantini. His contact information is Via San Pancrazio 8, 00152 Roma, Italia. The Club's e-mail is filatelia.massonica@grandeoriente.it and www.grandeoriente.it will lead you to their website.



JOSEPH JEROME LEFRANCOIS de LALANDE

In the previous Newsletter, a “Trivia” comment was included regarding the fact that Bro. Lalande was a Freemason. Since that time, Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy has provided us with the details of his Masonic membership. Unfortunately, there has not been any stamp released by any nation which shows the Brother directly so we have to use an associated stamp which illustrates some aspect of astronomy – the science about which he is noted. I have selected an issue from Paraguay but I know there have to be some which could be more appropriate.



Jerome Lalande played a significant role in French Freemasonry at the end of the 18th century. He was initiated in the Lodge “Saint-Jean des Elus” in Bourg-en-Bresse. He later founded the Lodge “Les Sciences” in Paris where he served as “Venerable Maitre” (Master). He played a very important role in the development of the constitution of the Grand Orient of France in the 1772-73 time frame and later worked on the creation of the rituals of the “Rite Francais des Modernes” for which the first official versions were finished in August 1785 for the “3 Bleu degrees” and in 1786 for the “Odres de Sagesse” (Wisdom Orders – 4 Higher degrees). In 1776 he founded the famous Lodge “Les Neuf Soeurs” where he served as the first Worshipful Master. He received Voltaire on April 4, 1778 and on June 21, 1779, he conferred that role to Wor. Bro. Benjamin Franklin. He was also the “Grand Orateur” of the G.O.D.F. under the Empire.

Lalande was born on July 11, 1732 at Bourg-en-Bresse which is now in the department of Ain. His parents sent him to Paris to study law but as a result of lodging in the Hotel Cluny, where Delisle had his observatory, he was drawn to astronomy and became the favorite pupil of both Delisle and Pierre Charles Le Monnier. After completion of his legal studies, he was about to return to Bourg to practice as an advocate when Le Monnier obtained permission to send him to Berlin to make observations on the lunar parallax in concert with those of Lacaille at the Cape of Good Hope. The successful execution of this task netted him, before he was 21, admission to the Academy of Berlin as well as his election as an adjunct astronomer to the French Academy of Sciences. He then devoted himself to the improvement of the planetary theory, publishing studies in 1759. In 1762 he assumed the chair of astronomy in the College de France, a position he held for 46 years. He was elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1765 and in 1781 a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A crater on the moon is named for him. His studies of Neptune’s position in 1795 led to a better calculation of Neptune’s orbit in 1847. He died April 4, 1807 in Paris, France.

intended for collectors. Those interested in the business will we trust favor us with this patronage and support which we shall endeavor to observe, in a humble way. We shall be happy to receive original articles on the subject of Postage Stamps and we shall also be glad to offer any assistance in our power to Collectors, through the medium of the column devoted to correspondents. We shall devote our attention more particularly to the notice of matters of more direct interest to Collectors on this side of the Atlantic than in Europe, but shall duly notify our readers of any new issues which may be chronicled in

the European Publications. In conclusion we trust our patrons will favor us with that support, which will enable us to publish the only medium at present available to Canadian Stamp Collectors, and trusting that our hopes in that direction may not be in vain, we boldly take our stand in the ranks of the Journals of Canada, and we would respectfully state for the particular benefit of the Ministry, the Opposition and the G.T.R. that our influence may not be purchased either through fear, favor, affection, or hope of reward.

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This effectively began what evolved into serious stamp collecting and application of the term "philately" which means the study and collection of postage stamps.

Like most everything related to the passage of time, such undergo what is termed the "bell curve." In other words, a progression to a high point, and then a decline, often resulting in extinction, or discontinuance.

The first threat to postage stamps was metered postage, which eliminated the need for an actual postage stamp. However, such was limited in application (just businesses) and actually increased revenue to postal services because stamps were more expensive to produce than simple stickers.

The major blow (and likely final blow) was the introduction of electronic mail, which has eliminated postage stamps and postal service revenue. Nevertheless, there will likely be a continuing need for physical mail service (however financed) so stamps will, survive, although greatly diminished in number.

At this point you might say to yourself that nothing further can threaten the hobby. Well, you could be wrong. One no longer needs a physical stamp to research it. Images are available on the Internet that greatly surpass an actual stamp and a magnifying glass. Digital images have now exceeded the clarity of what you can see with a magnifier. What's more, one can "copy" and save an image in his/her computer and use it in a write-up. Furthermore, printed images of stamps are now of such high resolution that they can be scanned with little or no loss of clarity.

The up-side of all this is that I, and many others, are able to provide great images in magazines and on Internet websites. The down-side is that the call for actual postage stamps is decreasing and will likely continue to decrease.

It would not surprise me if many young people are creating their own "virtual stamp albums." In other words, they are creating stamp albums on their computers using virtual stamps. I am doing this with the album you see on our Club website [www.mscnewyork.net]. In

many ways it is just as much “fun” as creating a physical stamp album. Young people are conditioned to the “virtual world” so rather than going out and buying stamps, they will amuse themselves with “virtual stamps.” My collection of virtual stamps is growing by leaps and bounds (all neatly formatted with a black background). Trading with virtual stamps is likely already taking place – it is much easier than with actual stamps. Stamp images are offered for sale by photo libraries, so some revenue will transfer to them.

I believe that eventually stamp dealers will become fewer and fewer making it more difficult to get actual stamps (especially for the die-hards who want to see the actual stamp before they buy it).

Of course, there will always be the “pride of ownership” in having an actual stamp, and the thrill of attending stamp

shows and buying little treasures. However, if your granddaughter or great granddaughter offers to show you her stamp collection, don’t be surprised if she puts a tablet on the table and proceeds to scroll through digital images of stamps. Keep in mind that she did collect them, but quite differently from the way you collected. Will she be interested in seeing the actual stamps you have locked away? Probably, but will likely say, “They’re great grandpa, but I can hardly see ‘em.” (Reference USA Scott #2198)



ADD-ON FROM YOUR EDITOR

Bro. Murphy’s outlook presented above is very interesting and thought provoking. For those of us who have been collectors since our teens, the path defined will be quite disheartening but probably inevitable. Perhaps I should scan my duplicates and offer them rather than the real stamps but that approach should most likely require unused stamps for the best clarity. On the other hand, however, the rampant production of postage stamps by many smaller nations with the primary interest being sales to collectors makes it more interesting and assuring to be able to acquire an officially used copy to convince oneself that the stamps did actually originate in the country of origin.

Regardless, those of us in the field of Masonic Philately will still have the pleasure and intrigue of researching and appreciating the other attraction point of our hobby – the Masonic knowledge we gain by researching and/or reading of the background of our Brothers who have been honored in the design of so many postage stamps. Further, I am still intrigued by the postal history of Masonic Philately such as the 19th century usage of Masonic designs in the cancelling devices used by Postmasters. Others enjoy collecting other philatelic facets such as Masonic corner cards, postal cards, and correspondence. It will be interesting to see how the hobby progresses (or declines) in future years.

NIKOLAI NIKOLAYEVICH YUDENICH

General Yudenich was born July 30, 1862 in Moscow and graduated from the Alexandrovsky Military College in 1881 and the General Staff Academy in 1887. He first served with the Life Guards Regiment in Lithuania in 1889 and 1890 before being transferred in January 1892 to the Turkestan Military District and was promoted to lieutenant colonel in April 1892. He was a member of the Pamir Expedition in 1894 and served on the staff of the 1st Turkestan Rifle Brigade in 1900. Appointed commander of the 18th Infantry Regiment he led that unit during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 during which he was wounded twice – once in the arm and once in the neck. At the end of the war he was promoted to the rank of major general. At the beginning of World War I, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Russia Caucasus Army as a lieutenant general. In 1915 he was promoted to General of Infantry and commander of the Caucasus Campaign. Following several successful campaigns, one of which earned him the Order of St. George, the final time this decoration was awarded in the Russian Empire, he was appointed commander of the Caucasus Front but in May of 1917 the Russian Provisional Government removed him from command for insubordination. He retired from the army and relocated to Petrograd where he supported the Kornilov Revolt. Following the October 1917 Revolution, he managed to escape to exile in Finland where he joined “The Russian Committee” formed to oppose the Bolsheviks and was proclaimed leader with absolute powers. In 1919 he served as commander-in-chief of all Russian armed forces operating against the Bolsheviks in the Baltic Sea and northwest Russia and created the counterrevolutionary “Northwestern Government” which included Monarchists, Socialist-Revolutionaries, and Mensheviks, serving as Minister of War. The “White Army” fought valiantly throughout the year but in late October was repulsed back into Estonia and he was arrested trying to escape to Western Europe. Diplomatic pressure led to his release from prison and he departed for exile in France where he died at Saint-Laurent-du Var, near Nice on the French Riviera, on October 5, 1933.

In 1919, General Yudenich caused the issuance of a set of postage stamps for use of the Army of the North. The initials OKCA on the yellow stamp of the series denote “The Special Corps, Army of the North”. Each stamp in the set bears the question, in Russian, “Are you a Mason?” Although no information regarding his membership in the Fraternity has been found, it is quite obvious that this verbiage identifies him as having been a Freemason or at least very sympathetic to the members and purpose of the Craft.



Any clarification or information regarding this tie to Masonry would be greatly appreciated.
-with thanks to The Masonic Philatelic Club and Wikipedia.

ANOTHER INTERESTING ISSUE

I am not sure where I acquired this illustration of a souvenir sheet issued by the Comores Islands but it would be an excellent addition to a Masonic Philatelic collection. The Masonic meeting depicted in the upper left is very interesting. Further information on this sheet would be appreciated.



PRINCE HALL

The Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and largest group of Masons of African origin in the world. Today there are forty Grand Lodges of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, and Liberia. These Grand Lodges preside over more than 5,000 lodges. All of them claim descent from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which is traced back to the African Lodge No. 459.



Prince Hall, a native of Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies, was freeborn on September 12, 1748, the son of Thomas Prince Hall, an Englishman, and his mother, a free colored woman of French heritage. In 1765, at the age of 17, Hall worked for his passage on a ship to Boston where he became a leatherworker. Eight years later he had acquired property and was eligible to vote. On March 6, 1775, he, by then a minister with a Methodist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, joined fourteen other free blacks of Boston who all became Masons at British Army Lodge, No. 58, then attached to one of General Thomas Gage's regiments stationed in Boston. Hall and the other newly initiated Masons were granted the authority to meet as a separate Lodge, to march in parades, and to bury their dead. They were not granted permission to confer degrees or perform any other Masonic work. Nine years later on March 2, 1784, Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, asking for a warrant for a Charter that they had been denied by the white Masons of Massachusetts. The warrant was approved and Hall established the first Lodge of African American Masons in North America known as African Lodge No. 459.

Although the status of the African American Masons improved, they were not considered a “full” Masonic lodge until 1787 when Prince Hall received a charter from the Grand Lodge of England, the mother of all Freemasonry. In 1787, African Lodge No. 459 became African Lodge No. 1 with Prince Hall as its leader. Also these Masons were now independent of the United Grand Lodge of England. They created separate jurisdictions comprised of mostly African American members. In 1791, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge was founded to govern the three then existing black Masonic Lodges with Prince Hall as its first Grand Master, a position he held until his death in December 1807. Black Freemasonry evolved from the establishment of this Grand Lodge. Due to prevalent racism and segregation in North America, it was impossible for African Americans to join most mainstream Masonic lodges until the late 20th century. Yet, because Prince Hall Mason lodges were African American, North American Grand Lodges denounced Prince Hall Lodges and Prince Hall Masons, deeming them illegitimate and refusing to recognize their authority. Until 1865 most Prince Hall lodges were in the North but after the Civil War, black Masonry quickly spread across the South, often led by Northern-born Masons who became active in Reconstruction politics. During the years of Reconstruction and continuing to 1900, Prince Hall Masonry remained a highly prestigious but small fraternity. By the early 20th century the membership rapidly expanded, lessening its exclusivity. Although all Masonic Lodges today are theoretically racially integrated, white Grand Lodges in Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and West Virginia still do not recognize Prince Hall Grand Lodge members as legitimate Masons. Nonetheless the Prince Hall Masons include tens of thousands of black and some non-black members throughout the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, and Liberia.

-with many thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals and his “Masonic Did U Know”

JOSEPH WARREN

Joseph Warren was an American doctor who played a leading role in American Patriot organizations in Boston in the early days of the American Revolution, eventually serving as president of the revolutionary Massachusetts Provincial Congress. Born June 11, 1741 in Roxbury, Massachusetts. After attending the Roxbury Latin School, he enrolled in Harvard College, graduating in 1759, and then taught for about a year at Roxbury Latin. He studied medicine and practiced medicine and surgery in Boston and became involved in politics, associating with John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and other radical leaders of the broad movement labeled Sons of Liberty. He enlisted Paul Revere and William Dawes on April 18, 1775 to leave Boston and spread the alarm that the British garrison in Boston was setting out to raid the town of Concord. He participated in the next day’s Battles of Lexington and Concord. He had been commissioned a Major General in the colony’s militia shortly before the June 17, 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill. Rather than exercising his rank, he served in the battle as a private soldier and was killed in combat when British troops stormed the redoubt atop Breed’s Hill. His death, immortalized in John Trumbull’s

painting, *The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, June 17, 1775* which is pictured on an airmail stamp released by Burundi on July 16, 1776.



Two years after graduating from Harvard, Joseph Warren joined Boston's Lodge of Saint Andrew in 1761, having been sponsored by William Palfrey, Secretary of the Sons of Liberty. He was dropped for non-attendance in 1762 or 1763. Later in 1765 he was re-admitted and became an active member of the Lodge, serving as Senior Warden in 1766 and Master from November 1768 to November 1769. A notation in the Lodge minutes about other business discussed the same night that he was elected Master reads "Voted, that there shall be no smoking while the Lodge is open, only when called to refreshment." In 1769 the Grand Lodge of Scotland appointed Warren as Grand Master of its "Ancient" Grand Lodge in Boston, which oversaw the Lodge of Saint Andrew. Masons considered the other Grand Lodge in Boston, which was established in 1733, to be "Modern." This distinction stemmed from a schism in English Masonry in the early 1750s relating to how ritual was presented and the overarching aims of Freemasonry. In Boston, some men linked the schism to their dissatisfaction with being refused membership in established Lodges. Throughout the 1770s and 1780s, both Boston Grand Lodges chartered new Lodges and oversaw rituals and customs but did not recognize each other's members or meet together. As conflict with the British Empire grew, so did American frustration with both the English and Scottish Grand Lodges. Partly inspired by the Declaration of Independence, the Massachusetts Provincial Grand Lodge independently elected its Grand Master in 1777, due to the vacancy left by Warren's death in 1775, effectively breaking free from Scotland and poetically continuing Warren's work, although this was not noted at the time.

During Joseph Warren's term as Grand Master of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, he attended 34 of the 37 meetings that were held, the last being held on March 3, 1775. He chartered three Lodges as Grand Master: Tyrian Lodge in Gloucester, The Massachusetts Lodge in Boston, and St. Peter's Lodge in Newburyport.

-Masonic information taken from an article by Aimee E. Newell which appeared in "The Northern Light" issue of November 2014

There were very few new issues of Masonic note reported over the past two months. They will be cited in the next Newsletter.