



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
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59 Greenwood Road
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IN MEMORIAM

Our Distinguished Brother, Dr. Allan Boudreau, BF, was called from labor to the Grand Lodge above at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2015 at the VA hospital in St. Albans, Queens, New York; he was 84. He retired from New York University following a long career in faculty and administrative positions. During his tenure, he authored the study titled *The Growth and Development of the Washington Square Campus of New York University* and also authored books and articles on George Washington including *George Washington in New York* and *George Washington and New York City*.



Allan had a lifelong interest in both Freemasonry and Philately. He served as a Worshipful Master and District Deputy Grand Master as well as the Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of New York. He was elected President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York in 1981, took over the position of publisher of their magazine, *The Masonic Philatelist*, in 1983 and assumed the duties of Editor as well in 1990. He wrote numerous articles on Masonic Philately on his own and in conjunction with Bro. Christopher Murphy, BF. He was a member of the Masonic Study Unit of the American Topical Association, the Collectors Club of New York City, and the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club.

Within the Fraternity he was a Past Master and Fellow of the American Lodge of Research, Past Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, New York City, Past High Priest of Jerusalem Amity Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, and a member of most of the concordant Masonic organizations. In 1992 Allan was proclaimed a member of The Society of Blue Friars.

Allan donated his body to New York University. His remains will be then be cremated and sent to Montreal, Canada, where they will be buried alongside his parents.

Allan's children, Andrew Boudreau and Kirstin Boudreau Hoffine, request that donations on Allan's behalf be made to the Masonic Home in Utica, New York, or organizations supporting veterans.

Farewell faithful Brother, until we meet again...

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

None

ADDRESS CHANGES:

475. Jean-Claude Vilespy, 5, rue des Musardises, 24100 Bergerac, France

CLOSED ALBUMS:

132. Dr. Allan Boudreau, late of New York City

Bro. Chris Murphy, BF is doing a yeoman's job in editing and publishing The Masonic Philatelist, the quarterly magazine of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. His efforts result in a very professional document of which the late Bro. Dr. Allan Boudreau, BF would be proud. He has also created a very professional web site for the organization at <http://www.mscnewyork.net> He informs us that he has created an e-book on the government Masonic issues – updated from that which was published by the MSC of NY a few years ago. He can add new updates to this document as they are discovered so he does not plan to have it printed – he will have a living document. To access this document go to the MSCNY site and scroll down to the bottom or go directly to <http://mscnewyork.net/index.html> Thank you for your efforts Bro. Chris.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, your editor attended the annual AMD Masonic Week held in Reston, Virginia to be present for the annual meeting of the Society of Blue Friars. Mother Nature tried very hard to kill my trip and attendance with the snow storms in the New England area but my wife and I persevered and made it there in time. The entire second floor of the Hyatt Regency Reston was taken over for various meetings and sales tables for the York Rite organizations participating in the January 28 to February 1 festivities. The Society of Blue Friars Annual meeting was held Friday morning, January 30 in a spacious ballroom with a member's podium and ample seats for "visitors". I was very impressed with the event and after an introduction by Dr. S. Brent Morris, Grand Abbott of the Society, I delivered a dissertation on Masonic Philately which took just over 20 minutes - following which Bro. Morris asked if there were any questions. After answering about a half dozen or so, he then presented me with my certificate as Member #104 in the Society of Blue Friars and a membership card. I was quite pleased to see a good listening audience and even more so to see some of our Unit members there – Bro. Walter Benesch, President of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club, and Bro. Jim Hogg of Fort Myers, Florida. Bro. Pierre (Pete) Normand of Texas, a former member of our Unit and also a Blue Friar, was sitting next to me on the podium. Bro. Richard Fletcher of the Masonic Service Association was also an attending Blue Friar and re-introduced himself, I having met him in Lexington, MA a few years go. I was also able to meet with others with whom I have corresponded over the years. Following a great lunch with several of the Blue Friars, my wife and I left for a two week jaunt around Florida arriving home just in time for another major snow storm. I have refrained from trying to include my eight page illustrated paper within this newsletter but it is available to those who would like to request it – electronically or by mail. All told, I am very proud of having been selected for this honor.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

President

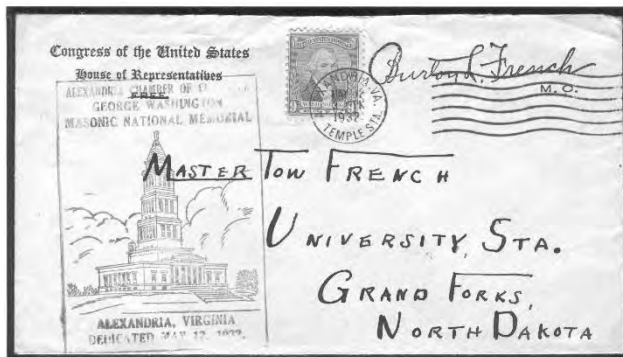
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AN INTERESTING MASONIC CACHETED COVER

Just recently your editor was able to secure this cover on eBay at a very favorable price (less than \$10). At first glance it may not appear to be very interesting but to a Masonic Philatelist, it has several “goodies”. First, it bears the rubber handstamp cachet that was applied to every piece of mail that went through the Alexandria Post Office on May 12, 1932 – the day that the George Washington Masonic National Memorial was dedicated. Although a Member of Congress “free mailing” signature was applied, the sender franked the envelope with the 9 cent value of the 1932 George Washington set – the only one that was based on a painting of him wearing his Masonic regalia – done in 1794 by W. Williams. Finally, the “free mailing” signature was that of Burton Lee French – a Mason from the state of Idaho.



Bro. French received his degrees in Kendrick Lodge No. 26, Kendrick, Idaho on May 11, October 12, and November 9, 1899. He withdrew from that Lodge on May 13, 1909 and affiliated with Paradise Lodge No. 17, Moscow, Idaho on July 17, 1909.

Burton Lee French was born August 1, 1875 in Carroll County, Indiana and moved with his parents and siblings to Kearney, Nebraska in 1880 and then to Princeton, Idaho via San Francisco two years later. They later moved to Palouse, Washington where he attended public schools graduating in 1891. He entered the University of Idaho in 1893 but interrupted his studies to teach school. He finished his degree in 1901 and became a fellow at the University of Chicago in political science for two years and studied law. He was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Moscow, Idaho. He was a member of the state legislature from 1898 to 1902, first elected while an undergraduate student. He was then elected to the U.S. Congress in 1902 serving as a Republican in the House from 1903 to 1909, 1911 to 1915, and 1917 to 1933. With a combined 26 years in office, he remains the longest-serving U.S. House member in Idaho history. He was a professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio from 1935 to 1947 and died on September 12, 1954 in Hamilton, Ohio.

Pictures from the Annual Meeting of the Society of Blue Friars



Bro. Morris Chairing the Meeting



Question and Answer Session

ST. LAWRENCE THE MARTYR

In the pantheon of the Allied Masonic degrees we have St. Lawrence the Martyr, really a vignette that teaches the lessons of fortitude and humility. According to church tradition, St. Lawrence, a deacon in Rome to Pope Xyxtus II, and his companions, were martyred during the persecutions of the Emperor Valerian in 258. St. Lawrence was the most popular post-Apostolic martyr and his life was the subject of comment by St. Augustine and St. Jerome.

The church fathers have it that Lawrence was summoned before the Prefect of Rome where a demand was made of him to turn over the riches of the church. He replied that he would require three days to assemble an inventory. Lawrence then assembled all the halt, the maimed, and blind of both sexes, and led them in procession to the great square of Rome. The Prefect was infuriated when Lawrence pointed to the people and observed that these were the treasures of the Christian church, and he ordered that Lawrence would be burned alive stretched out on a gridiron. The story goes on that after a time, Lawrence told the Prefect that he had been broiled enough and should be turned over. The symbol of St. Lawrence is, therefore, the gridiron.

The Basilica of St. Lawrence was initially constructed at the order of the Emperor Constantine near the location where the saint was believed to have been martyred. Pope Pelagius II (579-590) constructed a larger church over the site. In the 13th century another church was built in front of the 6th century edifice by Pope Honorius III (1216-1227). Frescoes commemorate both St. Lawrence and St. Stephen, the first of the Apostles to be martyred. The remains of St. Lawrence were interred under the high altar of this church. Some sources suggest that the relics of St. Stephen were also interred here, although other commentators argue for a Jerusalem burial. The basilica includes a portico built in 1220 that incorporates six columns of the Ionic order, considered by architectural historians as one of the most perfect porticos in Rome. During World War II, the basilica suffered collateral bomb damage due to its proximity to the Roman railway yards.

Masonically, there is some evidence to suggest that the degree is a piece of old Operative ritual, intended to distinguish a genuine Craftsman from the Speculatives when they began to join Craft Lodges. Records show that the degree has been worked in Great Britain since at least the 1800s. The gridiron, from the regularity of the parallel bars impresses us with the advantages of rectitude and morality and reminds us of the virtue of charity.

Philatelically, Vatican City Scott nos. 256-257 depict St. Lawrence and Pope Xyxtus II. There are four other stamps in the series to commemorate the other martyrs. The images of both are taken from the frescoes. The Basilica di San Lorenzo is commemorated on Scott 128 in the Basilica series of 1949.



Set including nos. 256-7



Scott no. 128

-Article contributed by Bro. Gene Fricks

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO MASONIC POST CARDS

Bro. Sergio Ferrando has come up with a unique approach to producing Masonic post cards as shown below. For illustration purposes, they are pictured in a reduced scale here – his originals are about 4” x 6”. Should anyone like full size copies in color, please contact me via e-mail or regular mail or you could contact Bro. Sergio directly at C. so Mazzini 77-4; 16032 CAMOGLI, Italy.



DEMISE OF BRO. KARL HEINZ BOHM

A recent issue of De Verlichte Loep has identified that Bro Karl Heinz Bohm of Germany passed away on May 29, 2014. Bro. Bohm was featured in an article on page 2008 of our Newsletter. That page was in the September-October 2006 issue, Volume 31, No. 3, Whole No. 1875.

NEVILLE HOWSE

Sir Neville Howse was Australia's first Victoria Cross winner and the only medical member of the Australian Forces to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He was initiated on August 29, 1901 in Lodge Ophir No. 17, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. He was passed on January 16, 1902 and raised on April 9, 1903.



Born October 26, 1863 in Stogursey, Somerset, England, Neville Howse was educated at Freeland School, Taunton and then studied medicine at London Hospital before migrating to New South Wales – largely for health reasons – where he established his first practice. Following postgraduate work in England, he returned to Australia in 1899 and settled in Orange. He served in the Second Boer War with the Second Contingent of the New South Wales Army Medical Corps arriving at Eastern Cape in February 1900. During action at Vrededorp on July 24, 1900 he was able to rescue a trumpeter under very heavy cross-fire, dressed his wound, and carried him to safety. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for that action. He was later invalided to Britain on November 28 and subsequently returned to Australia at the end of February 1901. He returned to South Africa with the Australian Army Medical Corps in March 1902 and saw service in Natal, Orange River Colony, and Western Transvaal but at the end of the war he became seriously ill and was again invalided to Britain in July 1902, eventually returning to Australia in November 1902. He married in 1905 and was elected twice to serve as Mayor of the City of Orange.

When the First World War began, Howse was appointed to the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force as Principal Medical Officer with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He sailed for Townsville, Queensland on the Berrima on August 19, 1914. He left New Guinea to return to Australia on October 4 and travelled to Melbourne where he met with Col. Williams, the DMS AIF, who arranged for Howse to join the AIF as an un-allotted medical officer. Howse sailed on the Orvieto along with members of the 1st Division Headquarters staff on October 21, 1914. He was appointed ADMS of the 1st Division with the rank of full Colonel on December 28 of that year. He landed at Hell Spit with the rest of the 1st Division Headquarters early on April 25, 1915 and the results of the complete bungling of medical and administrative arrangements were already becoming evident. Triage broke down and seriously wounded men were put on board transports with no more than skeleton medical facilities while lightly wounded men were given beds on board hospital ships. The beach was jammed with wounded men and eventually Howse succeeded in evacuating 1,200 men in two days. Many senior officers of the AIF, including Howse, took needless risks such as ignoring shelling and sniper fire. When he returned to Anzac on May 23, 1915, he was slowly becoming aware of the dangers of poor sanitation there so he detached part of the 3rd Field Ambulance for sanitation work in the division area. By July 3, 1915, he himself became ill with dysentery and was evacuated to Egypt. He returned to Anzac on July 22 of that year.

Following his resignation from the Army, he won the federal seat of Calare for the Nationalist Party in 1922. He held several ministerial portfolios including Defense, Health, and Home and Territories but was defeated in the 1929 election. He travelled to England for medical treatment for cancer in February 1930 but died on December 19 that year. He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

-with thanks to the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain and Wikipedia

EVARISTE, DESIRE DE FORGES, CHEVALIER then VICOMTE DE PARNY

Evariste de Parny was born in Saint-Paul on the French Bourbon Island which was renamed Reunion; he came from an aristocratic family from the region of Berry which had settled on the island in 1698. At the age of ten, he went to France with his two brothers where he studied in the Saint Thomas middle school and then with the Oratoriens at their college in Rennes. He decided to enter their religious order and studied theology for six months at the Saint-Frimin in Paris but decided instead to enter a military career as he was not religious enough to become a monk. Eventually, his brother introduced him at the French Court in Versailles where he met two other soldiers, Antoine Bertin and Nicolas Germain Leonard who were from the French colonies – they later made their names in poetry. In 1773 he was called back to Bourbon Island and it was there that he discovered his talent for poetry. During that visit, he fell in love with Esther Leievre, a thirteen year old girl, but her father forbade them to marry. Two years later he left the island to return to France stating that he could not live in a country where slavery was practiced. His unhappy romance inspired his first published poems, *Les poesies erotiques*, which appeared in 1778; this collection of poems brought him great success and celebrity.

On November 6, 1779, he was appointed captain in the Queen’s Regiment of Dragoons. He returned to the Isle of Bourbon to settle the estate of his father and also visited Isle de France. In 1785 he left the Isle of Bourbon for Pondicherry in India where he became an “Aide de Camp” to the Viscount of Souillac, a Governor General of the French possessions in India. He was not very happy there but he gathered some of the material for his first prose poems written in the French language, *Chansons Madecassas*. He soon moved back to France where he left the Army and moved to a house he owned in the valley of Feuillancourt. The house was named La Caserne (the barracks) and with Bertin and Leonard, they formed a literary club called “La Societe de la Caserne” which met regularly at the house.

When the French Revolution broke out, he, who did not receive any pension from the King, was not interested in politics and played no part. He did, however, have to settle debts left by his brother, Jean-Baptiste. He was forced to take a position in the offices of the Ministry of the Interior for thirteen months and then worked in the Administration of the Theater and the Arts. In 1804 the Count of Nantes found him another government position. He married in 1802 and the following year was received into the Academie Francaise where he occupied the 36th armchair. In 1813, Emperor Napoleon I granted him a pension of 3,000 francs a year but this was stopped under the restoration of the monarchy in 1814. He died on December 5, 1814 in Paris.

The poems of De Parny were extremely popular in France and as far away as Russia in the beginning of the 19th century. “I learned by heart the elegies of the Chevalier de Parny, and I still know them”, wrote Chateaubriand in 1813. The Russian poet Alexander Pushkin wrote, “Parny, he’s my master”. The 20th-century Russian poet, Anna Akmatova recorded Pushkin’s admiration for Parny in a poem: “There lay your three-cornered hat, and a dog-eared tome of Parny”. Bro. Evariste de Parny was a member of the French Lodge “Neuf

Seurs” located in Paris. He is pictured on a stamp released by the French Post in 2014.



-with thanks to Bro. J-C Vilespsy

ITEMS FROM “THE SQUARE”

Your Editor was recently loaned a copy of the December 2014 issue of “The Square”, the Independent Magazine for Freemasons of Great Britain. I noted two articles pertinent to Masonic Philately. The first was an excellent two page article on The Masonic Philatelic Club authored by Ken Elston; it contains a very nice top-level coverage of our hobby – hopefully it will attract some new members.

The second article, written by Bro. Kenneth Jack, provides an in-depth study of the American writer, John Steinbeck. It provides much more information that we had in our article on Bro. Steinbeck published in the July-August 2006 Newsletter on page 1993. I will try to bring that article up to date here with the pertinent Masonic career information added. Thanks to Bro. Jack and “The Square”.

JOHN STEINBECK

John Ernest Steinbeck, Jr. was born February 27, 1902 in Salinas, California where his father was the City Treasurer. He attended Stanford University but did not earn a degree. His first novel, “Cup of Gold”, in 1929 did not earn its \$250 advance. After “Pastures of Heaven” 1932 and “To a God Unknown” 1933 Steinbeck had his first success – “Tortilla Flat” 1935. Following “In Dubious Battle” 1936 and “The Red Pony” 1937 he earned critical acclaim with “Of Mice and Men” 1937. “The Long Valley” 1938 was a collection of short stories. His masterpiece, “The Grapes of Wrath” won the 1939 Pulitzer Prize. “The Moon is Down” 1942 was about the Norwegian Resistance. Steinbeck served as a war correspondent and received an Academy Award nomination for writing “Lifeboat” 1944. Next came “Cannery Row” 1945 and “The Pearl” 1947. He wrote the script for “Viva Zapata!” 1952 and followed it with “East of Eden” 1952. His final works were “Sweet Thursday” 1954 and “Winter of Our Discontent” 1961. He earned the Nobel Prize laureate for Literature in 1962. He was married three times and died December 20, 1968.



Bro. Steinbeck’s father and paternal grandfather were both active Freemasons. It is no wonder that in his youth, John E. Steinbeck was a member of the Order of DeMolay. He was initiated into Freemasonry on March 1, 1929, passed on April 12, 1929, and raised on May 24, 1929 in Salinas Lodge No. 204, Salinas, California. Despite his Episcopalian parental background and being well-versed in the Bible, he eschewed organized religion and reportedly stated that he joined the Masons to please his father. He found it rather pompous, staid and conventional and dismissed it as nonsense and “flumdummy”; he withdrew from the Lodge on May 24, 1933. There is, however good reason to believe that he firmly believed in the principles upon which Freemasonry is built. His work over a large number of years is suffused with many references to Freemasonry. A certificate found within his New York apartment following his death read: *PRESENTED BY Salinas Lodge No. 204 Free and Accepted Masons To Brother John Ernest Steinbeck At the date of raising to the Sublime Degree of MASTER MASON As a souvenir of Brotherly regard from the members of the Lodge and a talisman of Fidelity to his trusts in all the years that may come to him.* He kept this certificate for nigh onto 40 years – not the act of someone for whom Freemasonry was completely irrelevant.

CARLOS ANTONIO DE MENOZA

Dr. Carlos Antonio de Mendoza was born on October 31, 1856 and died on February 13, 1916. In 1903 he was one of the founders of the Republic of Panama. He authored the Declaration of Independence and became Vice President in 1910. Following the death of President Jose Domingo de Obaldia he served temporarily in the position of President. The Republic of Panama honored him in 1956 with the issuance of a stamp recognizing the 100th anniversary of his birth.



Bro. Mendoza was initiated in the Lodge Estrella del Pacifico No. 33, Panama. On October 7, 1882 he was passed to companion and on November 1, 1882 was raised to the degree of Master Mason. In 1883 he was Orator of the Lodge Luz de Oriente No.39 in Panama and the following year was Secretary of that Lodge. In 1907 he joined the Lodge Rosa de America No. 65 founded that year. He later joined the Lodge La Acacia No. 50 and in 1911 was founder and Master of the Lodge Cosmopolita No. 55. He was a Prince of the Rose Cross and Knight Kadosh under the jurisdiction of Colombia. In 1910 he was granted the 33rd Degree in Cartagena, Colombia. At the founding of the "Consejo Supremo Nacional de Panama on November 28, 1915, he became the first Sovereign Grand Commander. He died just three months later.

-with thanks to Bro. Emiel Crab for his translation of the older issues of De Verlichte Loep

WILHELM I of GERMANY

Wilhelm I was born March 3, 1797 in Berlin and died March 9, 1888, also in Berlin. He served as Governor General of the Rhineland. In 1858 he served as Regent for his brother Friedrich Wilhelm IV. He was the King of Prussia from 1861 to 1871 and Emperor of Germany from 1871 to 1888. In 1900 German issued a stamp which pictures the unveiling of a King Wilhelm I Memorial in Berlin.



Wilhelm received the three degrees on May 22, 1840 by the Landes-Groszmeister of Groszen Landes Lodge in the presence of the Grand Masters of the two other Grand Lodges existing in Prussia. He took over the Protectorate of the three Grand Lodges without becoming a member of any one of them. He played a very diligent part in the Masonic work until his accession to the throne. He was also a member of the Higher Degrees.

-again thanks to Bro. Emiel Crab

WILHELM SAMUEL VON KETTELER



Wilhelm Samuel Von Ketteler (1811-1877) was a Catholic bishop from Mainz, Germany. He was a fanatical prelate during his time which was coincident with the Enlightenment. As leader of the German Catholic population, he was opposed to everything that had to do with Freemasonry. He described all this hatred in a pamphlet titled “Freiheit, Autoritat un Kirche. This anti-Masonic pamphlet brought about numerous counter publications such as “Katholizismkus und Freimaurerei” written by Bro. Rudolf Seydel in 1863. Von Ketteler responded in a new pamphlet titled “Kann ein Glaubiger Christ Freimaurer sein?” The anti-Masonic writings of Von Ketteler were published in many different languages.

The following articles were provided by the members of De Getande Rand who prepared their Newsletter – De Verlichte Loep Issue 105 including Bros. H.J. Godthelp, J. Van Nooijen, and Z. Kucukalic as well as Bro. Emiel Crab who has graciously provided translations into English for our use, education, and enjoyment.

DENIS SASSOU-NGUESSO

Bro. Denis Sassou-Nguesso was a member of a Lodge under the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise and served as Grand Master of the Grand Loge du Congo Brazzaville. He is pictured on a stamp issued by the Popular Government of the Congo on October 20, 1982.



Denis Sassou-Nguesso trained to become a teacher but went into service in the French colonial Army. He was stationed in Algeria and Saint Maixent but his career began in 1960 in the Congolese army. When the independence of Congo became a fact, he supported the new President Fulbert Youlou. In 1968 President Massamba-Debat was dismissed by a coup (in which Denis participated) and Major Ngouabi became his successor. Denis was appointed in 1969 as a member of the Central Committee of the new socialist party Parti Congolais du Travail. The following year he was appointed minister and Director General of the State Security. In 1977 when President Ngouabi was assassinated and succeeded by Yhomby-Opango, Denis joined the Military Committee of the Congolese Labor Party and two years later succeeded the president. President Denis Sassou-Nguesso’s foreign politics, besides France, were especially aimed at Russia. In 1988 he signed a 20-year lasting treaty with the USSR. From 1986 to 1987 he was president of the Organization for African Unity. In 1990 he abandoned Marxism and tried to introduce democracy in

his country. At the next free elections his party lost and he resigned as president. In 1994 he went to Paris but in 1997 he was again candidate for the Presidential elections in Congo. President Lissouba tried to put him in prison but Denis escaped in time. Angola helped Denis to dismiss Lissouba and Denis was re-appointed as President of Congo. In 2002 he was re-elected president by a large majority.

IGNACIO MANUEL ALTAMIRANO

Born November 13, 1834, in Tixtla, Mexico, Ignacio Altamirano was a full-blooded Nahuatl Indian from the state of Guerrero in Mexico. His father became mayor of Tixtla thereby allowing him to study in Toluca. He was against the dictator Antonio Lopez Santa Anna and took the side of the Liberals. In 1861 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies and fought in the Mexican army against the French and monarchists. He was promoted to colonel and fought in the battle at Queretaro in 1867 which resulted in a victory for the Liberals. After the war he was appointed as a lecturer at several universities and wrote in several newspapers and literary journals. He also wrote novels with a strong Mexican character, but influenced by the European romanticism. As a politician he was particularly interested in education and therefore, under his leadership, many schools and universities were established such as the Liceo de Puebla and the Escuela Normal de Profesores de Mexico. Later he went into diplomatic service in Europe for his homeland Mexico. He died February 13, 1893 in Sam Remo, Italy and is buried there.



On January 11, 1878, Ignacio was elected Grand Master of the Gran Logia Valle Mexico. Soon there were tensions between the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Scottish Council because in 1879 this Grand Lodge was called "Supremo Gran Orienti". Under the leadership of Altamirano the Mexican Freemasonry lived well until 1881. In this period the Grand Lodge also had problems as some of the rural Lodges wanted to accept women. In 1883 the Supreme Council waived the validity of the Symbolic Lodges and transferred them to the "Supremo Gran Orienti" which soon changed the name to "Gran Dieta Symbolica de los Estados unidas Mexicanos". Because Altamirano left for Spain as Consul-General in 1890 his leadership fell off and quarrels and even schism arose.

NEW ISSUES

Very few new issues of a Masonic nature have been listed in the philatelic media:

Great Britain – 10/14/14 – 3331 – A Prime Minister set including Winston Churchill

Grenada – 6/23/14 – 3396a&b – Robert Stephenson's Locomotives

Malta – 9/30/14 – 1521/3 – Grand Masters of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Philippe de Villiers de L'Isle Adam

Nevis – 11/11/14 – 1791/2 – Alexander Hamilton (Dubious membership)

TUDOR VLADIMIRESCU AKA DOMNUL TUDOR

Tudor's Masonic involvement is mentioned in "The contribution of Masonic Order in Building Modern Romania" written by Grigorte Munteanu, Senior Warden, Phoenix Lodge No. 32, Bucharest. Tudor is pictured on a stamp issued by Romania on April 24, 1980 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth.



Tudor is recognized as a National revolutionary hero and was the leader of a popular movement in 1821 in Wallachia. He was born on July 1, 1780 in Vladimiri. His family consisted of free peasants and his surname was a patronymic of the place name. At the age of 12 his family sent him to Craiova where he studied rhetoric, grammar, and Greek. He was bookkeeper and secretary to Iona Glogoveanu in 1806 and leader of the local militia in Closani. He joined the Russian army, was trained to become an officer, and participated in the Turkish-Russian War of 1806-1812. This was the beginning of his revolutionary activities and was marked with his alliance with Eteria. The independence movement in Serbia made a great impression on him and he compared himself and his group with the Greek revolutionary organization. After the war, Tudor went back to Oltenia but in the last half of 1812 he travelled to Vienna which was then the capital of the Habsburg Empire.

In 1821 he announced the Proclamation of Pades in Tismana and organized and led the social movement against the Fanariot government in Wallachia. He then led the revolution in Oltenia which spread to Wallachia and marched with his troops in Bucharest – to the accompaniment of loud applause of a welcoming crowd. Within a few months he was given authority over the entire country, reorganized the army, restored security to the population, and invited traders and workmen. Over time Eteria (the Greek Revolutionary organization) and Tudor's group were not recognized by the Czar of Russia which led to a discrepancy between Tudor and Ypsilanti, the leader of the Eteria. The Romanian followers chose the Turks and Tudor retired to Oltenia. After a conspiracy of the followers of the Greeks, Tudor was slain in Golesti the night of 26 or 27 May, 1821. His body was cut in pieces and thrown onto the grounds of a monastery. According to eyewitnesses, none of the parts were ever recovered. His army was broken by this event and the Tudor movement came to an end. Eventually these results led to the 1848 revolution. Within the communist regime, Romania had an Order of Tudor Vladimirescu – granted to the senior management of the army and the state.

Brethren, we have been losing members as a result of calls to the great beyond as well as resignations because of advanced age, financial concerns, and reduced collecting interests. We need replacements for those members. Please try to interest others in our hobby and the aspects of Masonic Philately. We try to spread the word of Freemasons around the world and to continue doing so, we need an audience. Spread our word to others and encourage them to become part of our Unit.