



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
Robert A. Domingue
59 Greenwood Road
Andover, Mass. 01810

VOL. 41, NO. 2

July August 2015

Whole No. 228

ANOTHER MASONIC STAMP ISSUED BY ROMANIA

Romania has issued another Masonic issue. Although your editor has not yet been able to identify the release date, it apparently has been issued to commemorate the 135th anniversary of the foundation of the National Grand Lodge of Romania. The three souvenir sheets have appeared as offerings on eBay listed by a seller in the United Kingdom. The normal Romanian dealers have not yet offered them for sale. The three different sheets include the conglomerate of a Coat of Arms of the Grand Lodge, a 2.10 L stamp depicting the embellished Masonic emblem, a 14.50 L stamp picturing the Grand Lodge building and the Masonic Square and Compasses (shown below). The other two sheets include four of the respective stamps, the Grand Lodge Seal and other symbols (partials of those two sheets are shown below).



This marks the fourth release of a “Pure” Masonic issue by this nation. Previous issues were on December 8, 2004, November 4, 2010, and May 14, 2014. The 2004 issue was for Masonic Organizations in General, the 2010 issue for the 130th anniversary of the National Grand Lodge, and the 2014 issue for the World Conference of Grand Lodges.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

President
E. E. “Gene” Fricks
25 Murray Way
Blackwood, NJ08012
genefricks@comcast.net

Editor & Secretary-Treasurer
Robert A. Domingue, BF
59 Greenwood Rd.
Andover, MA01810
radpm67@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

None – what aren't we doing right?

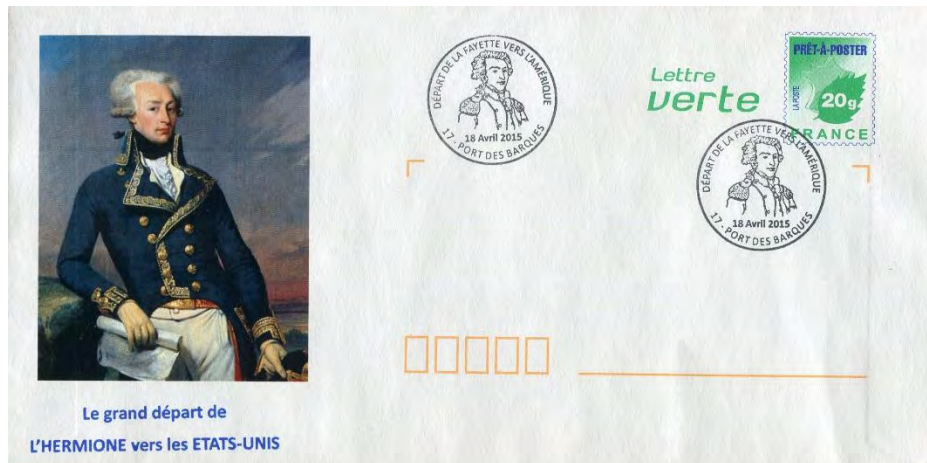
ADDRESS CHANGES:

None – everyone is staying put.

CLOSED ALBUMS:

None – Thankfully everyone is staying well.

Bro. Jean Prouteau of La Rochelle, France has sent in this recent cover bearing a cancellation commemorating the departure of Bro. Lafayette to America aboard the Frigate “L’Hermione”. The replication reconstruction of the Frigate “L’Hermione” was started in 1992 and was launched at Rochefort in May 2014. He also included a personal stamp depicting the Frigate “L’Hermione” and a picture of its launching – “l’installation des voies”.



Bro. Prouteau, many thanks for sharing these items relating to our noted Brother, the Marquis de Lafayette who provided valuable assistance to the Revolution of the United States in the 1770-80 decades.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE MASONIC ORDER IN BUILDING MODERN ROMANIA

The following article which appeared in “The Moldavia”, the magazine of the Philatelic Society of IASI, can be considered quite appropriate to the philatelic releases presented on the title page of this issue of our Newsletter. It was written by Grigore Mantescu, 30°, Senior Warden, PHOENIX Lodge.

The beginning of Freemasonry in Valachia was set by the historians in 1733, being related to the name of the Italian Anton Maria del Chiaro, who was secretary of the Constantin Brancoveanu. It is also mentioned the name of Dimitrie Cantemir (1693, 1710-11), member of the Scottish Rosicrucian Order and the fact that the sword bearer Nicolae Milescu, a contemporary of Cantemir, was a Freemason.

Other sources said that Italian Carra brought Freemasonry through Venetian and Florentine salesmen, under the reign of Constantin Mavrocordat, but this thesis was not confirmed. So far, the only reliable documents are those regarding the Italian Anton Maria del Chiara, who established a Lodge first in Galati (1734) and then Iasi. It is also said that Constantin Mavrocordat himself established a Lodge called “Moldova”, with active members such as: Leon Gheuca – Husi bishop, Iordache Cantacuzino, sword bearer Ionita Cuza, Manolache Bogdan, Iordache Darie Darmanescu, grand captain Vasile Bals, first judge of the Court Iordache Dulgheru, Kaymakam Iordache Cantacuzino, and Sandu Sturza. The membership of so many hierarchs and high priests such as Grand Hierarch Dionisie Lupu, bishops Amfilohie and Gherasim was remarkable for the Freemasonic movement.

Some sources mentioned that Horea and Tudor Vladimirescu were also Freemasons. In Transylvania, the Freemasonic movement came through Austrian connection. Freemasons such as barons Ladslau and Ioan Kemeny, Earl Bethlen, and Baron Iosif Nalaczy were also members of the tenant’s imperial guard from Ardeal. After the 1821 revolution, conducted by Tudor Vladimirescu, the Freemasonic societies settled as a major aim the reconstruction of the ancient Dacia territory in order to bring together all Romanians in one state. Therefore, humanist societies established by Freemasons began a campaign for sustaining the necessity of an independent state, preparing the national revolution. It was the time for first Freemasonic sacrifices.

Creation of true and modern Romanian Freemasonry was set as a premise in Paris in 1820 when “Athenee des Etrangers” Lodge initiated rich tenant sons sent abroad for education who later became remarkable politicians and intellectuals acting for the new modern Romanian state: Golescu brothers, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Ion Ghica, Vasile Alecsandri, Costache Negruzzi, Costache Negri, Alecu Russo, Ionel Bratianu, C. A. Rosetti, I. Heliade Radulescu, Cristian Tell, Gheorghe Magheru, Major Voinescu, Grigore Alexandrescu, Nilolae Balcescu, and Colonel Ionel Campineanu.

Literary and Cultural societies appeared in Valachia before and after 1848 – as mentioned by Nicolae Iorga – which had the mission of accustoming Romanian citizens to understand the latest political tendencies, to teach them to adhere to Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity ideal, and, on the other hand, to train leaders for the social revolution. Around 1848 there were three secret societies in Valachia disguised in “literary salons”:

1. A secret society founded by Dr. Tavernia and led by T. Campineanu where the future leaders of the 1848 Revolution were trained. Among its members – most of them rich tenants – were writers I. Voinescu, Cezar Bolliac, Grigore Alexandrescu; they strongly believed in liberal ideas.

2. A secret society founded by I. A. Vaillant and led by Mitica Filipescu. Their members called each other “brother” and used the password “May 1840” which is most likely the year of establishment. Special members were Eftimie Murgu and Nicolae Balcescu.
3. A secret society “Fratia” (“Brotherhood”) established in 1843 in Bucharest by Nicolae Balcescu and Ion Ghica. Their members were Cezar Bolliac, Aron Florian, and the painter D. Rosenthal. After the failure of the 1848 Revolution, “Fratia” remained a society activity.

Some documents state that Nicolae Balcescu also established another society, “Asociatia Literara” (“Literary Association”), also secret.

In 1848 or so, the Freemasonic activity in Valachia was not growing separate from the European social movements. At the same time, Freemasons from France, Germany, Italy, and Austria prepared social revolutions in order to create national states. After the big failure, Freemasons were chased, deported, and sent to jail but during those years the bonds between Romanian and European Masons were very strong. Even if the revolutionary movements did not reach their goals, they meant the beginning of the future Masonic social and political activities. The cultural societies played a strong role in educating the Romanian people beyond the political aspects. They granted scholarships to students without financial support and helped them complete their studies. While they studied in European cities, young Romanians received light from French Lodges and later were activated back in their native country.

After 1848, Masonic actions became more intense in Valachia with the aid of Napoleon III, an emperor who want the generous Principle of Nationality to be the absolute winner in many European countries. With the support of French diplomacy, Romanian people were able to escape from foreign tutelage (Organic Rules) and succeeded in unifying the Romanian Principalities in 1859 having a Masonic leader – Alexandru Ioan Cuza. After this year the Masonic activity gained more strength. In 1866 Carol I was crowned with the help of the Masonic Lodges. During his reign, as a result of his blood relations with the royal courts in Europe, Romania became a modern national state.

After the Independence War of 1877, with the political support of great European powers granted through Freemasons, Romania began a large transformation – economically, socially, and politically. During this period the first Constitution – inspired by Freemasons and one of the most democratic Constitutions in Europe at that time – was developed.

The last act related to the creation of the national unitary Romanian State was settled when signing of the peace treaty following the First World War. More precisely, under the reign of King Ferdinand and with the help of Universal Freemasonry, a Grand Union was unified with Transylvania, a Romanian territory held under the Hapsburg Empire. Economic, social, and political progress became more powerful. This beneficial period ended at the beginning of World War II when totalitarian forces outlawed Freemasons and Masons were sought and punished for being members of the Fraternity.

After 1990, Freemasonry, after a long period of inactivity, again provided the “Light” and began working for the well-being of all people – whether they were brothers or not. At this time, my brothers, we must fulfill the task of continuing the Work of our ancestors and complete the Universal Freemasonic Movement by actions in every Lodge and through the bonds between Romania and Freemasonry abroad.

Editor’s note – Several of the Brethren cited above can be found on stamps issued by Romania.

MASONIC PHILATELIC ISSUANCES FROM ITALY

The Italian Association of Masonic Philately (Associazione Italiana di Filatelia Massonica) has generously provided a couple of Masonic postcards and a cover which were recently released. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from the Secretary of the organization, Massimo Morgantino at: AIFM – Grande Oriente d’Italia, Via San Pancrazio 8, 00152 Roma – Italia or through his e-mail address at filatelia.massonica@gradeoriente.it. Their website is www.grandeoriente.it (filatelia).



LANCE CORPORAL ALBERT JACKA

Bro. Eddie Levey of Mildura, Victoria, Australia has provided a set of five stamps released by Australia Post on April 14, 2015 for the Centenary of World War I featuring the Landing of Gallipoli. The second stamp from the left depicts Lance Corporal Albert Jacka who received the Victoria Cross for his bravery during World War I.



Albert Jacka was born in 1893 in Winchelsea, Victoria, Australia. He enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces (A.I.F.) in September 1914 and was assigned to the 14th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Division. On April 26, 1915 Jacka's Battalion landed at Anzac Cove. He was the first Australian to be decorated with the Victoria Cross during the First World War, receiving the medal for his action during the Gallipoli Campaign where on May 19, the Turks captured a section of the trench at "**Courtney's Post**", one end of which was guarded by Jacka. Jacka fired shots into the trench wall until others arrived. It was then decided that while a feint attack was made from the same end, Jacka would attack from the rear. The party gave cover fire while Jacka leaped over the parapet shooting five Turks and bayonetting two others forcing the rest to flee. He later served on the Western Front and was twice further decorated with the "**Military Cross and Bar**". Upon the end of the War, Jacka returned to Australia and was elected Mayor of St. Kilda serving 1930-31. He never fully recovered from the wounds he sustained during the War and died in 1932 at the age of 39.

Bro. Jacka was initiated in the "**Caledonian Lodge**" No. 113 in Elsterwick, Melbourne, Victoria on January 12, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on February 9 and raised to a Master Mason on March 25, all in 1922. He resigned with clearance on October 11, 1928.

Bro. Levey informs us that in April 2015, he was elevated to the position of Right Worshipful Past Junior Grand Warden – an honor which he was thrilled to receive from his Grand Master. Congratulations, Bro. Eddie.

INTERESTING AND STRANGE MASONIC TRIVIA THE TRUTH IS STRONGER THAN FICTION

In 1939 the Mormons left Missouri and settled in the area of Nauvoo, Illinois. On October 15, 1841, the Illinois Grand Master issued a dispensation to form a Lodge at Nauvoo. On March 15, 1842, Joseph Smith received his First Degree and the others shortly thereafter. Certain irregularities were reported – in five months the Lodge initiated 256 candidates and 243 were raised. After investigation, the Grand Lodge revoked the dispensation but the Lodge continued to work. On April 5, 1844 the Mormon Masons dedicated a Masonic Temple. Illinois Masons got in trouble for taking part in the ceremony. Opposition to the group and internal dissension led to the assassination of Joseph Smith and the removal of the Mormons from Illinois.

THE FORGET-ME-NOT MASONIC INSIGNIA

Bro. Daniel Frankignoul of Brussels, Belgium has written to inform us that the US will issue a special stamp in 2015 for Missing Children. The design will include forget-me-not flowers. He reminds us that this flower is a Masonic Symbol in Germany. He has provided us with two dissertations regarding the background and significance of this symbol. The shorter version is presented here, the longer version is available via e-mail or snail mail from your editor.

“Masonry has long used symbols to teach its valuable and important lessons. Every Mason is familiar with their usage. One of the most recent symbols that are associated with Masonry is the blue Forget-Me-Not flower. During the early 1930s, this delicate, little, five-petaled flower, which is similar to the common violet, became a symbol of Freemasonry in Nazi Germany and exemplified the spirit, dedication, and courage of men who literally held to their Masonic principles and beliefs in the face of gravest danger.

“Shortly after Adolph Hitler came to power in 1933, he issued two decrees. One provided for Nazi control over the educational process. The second made membership in a Masonic Fraternity a crime. Hitler viewed Freemasonry as part of "the Jewish conspiracy" and wanted it eradicated. At that time there were 85,000 Masons in good standing in Germany. Adolf Eichmann, who would later play an important role in Hitler's "final solution," raided the Grand Lodge of Germany and confiscated all of their records including the names and addresses of 80,000 German Masons. Lodge property was confiscated and Eichmann secretly issued orders that Masons should be put to death. His orders were followed. The remaining 5,000 German Masons whose records were not found, immediately went underground hiding their records, lodge paraphernalia, and identifying jewelry. Active Freemasonry in Germany ceased to exist.

“In 1934, members of the German Grand Lodge of the Sun (one of Germany's pre-war Grand Lodges) began wearing the blue Forget-Me-Not instead of the traditional square and compass on their lapels as a mark of identity for Masons. This was a Masonic secret that was never broken. Throughout the whole era of Nazi domination, little blue Forget-Me-Nots appeared on lapels in cities and even in concentration camps, worn by brothers whose love of freedom, learning, and Freemasonry remained strong even under repressive Nazi rule.

“In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened in Bayreuth by Past Grand Master Beyer, a pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was adopted as an emblem of that first annual convention by those who had survived the bitter darkness of the Nazi era and were now able to openly rekindle the light of Freemasonry. In 1948, the first Convent of the United Grand Lodges of Germany also adopted the pin as an official Masonic emblem honoring those brothers who had been forced to shelter the light of Freemasonry within but dared to wear the little flower openly. The tradition of using the blue Forget-Me-Not as a tribute to those whose fidelity to the Fraternity sets them apart was also used by the Masonic brotherhood of the blue Forget-Me-Not that recognizes the contributions of Masonic educators.

“Although Adolph Hitler was able to destroy the outward vestiges of Freemasonry by desecrating temples and imprisoning or murdering Masons, he was never able to completely eradicate Freemasonry in Germany. He was never able to understand that respect for individual rights and the love of liberty and learning will continue to burn in the hearts of some men, and that is the place where Masonry can endure even under the most repressive environment. Like the phoenix, Masonry rose out of the ashes of Nazi Germany (as it is also doing in several former communist-bloc countries) as a tribute to the courage of man and the durability of those values and lessons that Masonry holds dear.”

Callaway, Walter M., "Forget-Me-Not, A Masonic Symbol in Germany." California Freemason. P 168-69. "Das Vergissmeinnicht, The Forget-Me-Not" Square & Compass. P 19-20. Roberts, Allen. Explanation of the Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not. Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M. Printing August 2002

JIMMIE RODGERS, THE FATHER OF COUNTRY MUSIC: TWO TIMES A MASON

This past January when I was in Reston, Virginia being inducted into the Society of Blue Friars, I had a very interesting discussion with Bro. Pierre G. Normand, Jr., BF a Past Master of the Texas Lodge of Research regarding the Masonic membership of Bro. Jimmie Rodgers. He informed me that he had provided an article which was published in The Transactions of the Texas Lodge of Research several years ago. Upon my later request, he indicated that he did not have a copy readily available but did create an abbreviated and revised version for me. I have further abbreviated it for inclusion here but if a member wishes the full version, I have it available as a PDF or a Word document – either will be provided upon request. Recently, he also informed me that he will provide an electronic version of the original article – I will also make that available if desired. Many thanks to Bro. Normand.

“In 1996, Brother John N. Cunningham, an active Masonic Philatelist and a born Texan but living in Washington, D.C. contacted me and asked my assistance in correcting a wrong to which he had accidentally been made an accessory. In the late 1970s, he had written an article about Jimmie Rodgers, published in the *New Age Magazine*. Knowing that Jimmie had grown up in Mississippi, he called the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi who told him that Jimmie Rodgers had been a member of John L. Spinks Lodge No. 507 in Meridian, Mississippi. That made sense, because Meridian had been Jimmie’s hometown, and he had many friends there. After the article appeared in September 1978, Brother Cunningham received a number of letters informing him that Jimmie Rodgers had been initiated, passed and raised in Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 1219 in San Antonio, Texas. In fact, Jimmie had moved to Kerrville, Texas, in 1929, where the air was drier and healthier for him. The Secretary of Blue Bonnet Lodge in San Antonio even sent Brother Cunningham photocopies of Jimmie’s Petition for the Mysteries, and the minutes from the three meetings where Jimmie had been initiated, passed and raised. The dates of his three degrees in Blue Bonnet Lodge were over a five month period – 3 December 1930, 6 March 1931, and 6 May 1931. In fact, the Scottish Rite's records showed that he took all the Scottish Rite Degrees in a four-day class held in San Antonio on 11, 12, 13 and 14 May 1931, only one week after his Master Masons Degree. To Brother Cunningham, this was irrefutable proof that Jimmie Rodgers was a Texas Mason, and not a Mississippi Mason. Brother Cunningham was furious, and felt he had been hoodwinked by the Grand Secretary in Mississippi.

“The Grand Secretary in Mississippi had sent additional information to Brother Cunningham stating that, on 3 August 1931, a couple of years after Jimmie moved to Texas, he took a demit from the lodge at Meridian, but could not say if he had affiliated with another lodge in Texas. But, according to the Grand Secretary’s office in Mississippi, Jimmie Rodgers was initiated, passed and raised in their John L. Spinks Lodge, and provided the dates of each degree. It seemed that someone was mistaken. Still irate about being fooled by Mississippi’s Grand Secretary, Brother Cunningham wrote a second article about Jimmie Rodgers, setting the record straight, stating that Jimmie Rodgers received all three degrees in Blue Bonnet Lodge in San Antonio, and this second article was published in the Fall 1980 issue of *The Royal Arch Magazine*. But, Brother Cunningham continued to simmer about being given bad information by the Grand Secretary of Mississippi.

“Then, sixteen years later, the Scottish Rite’s Northern Masonic Jurisdiction published a calendar for the year 1996, which featured twelve postage stamps commemorating the lives of famous American Masons. One of those was the 1978 Jimmie Rodgers commemorative stamp. Unfortunately, the caption below the paragraph, drawing from the incorrect information that appeared in Brother Cunningham’s 1978

article in *The New Age Magazine*, stated that Jimmie Rodgers was a member of “John L. Spinks Lodge No. 507, Mississippi.” (Believe it or not, the calendar issued in 1996 was based upon information provided by your editor in response to a request from the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. I was apparently not aware of Bro. Cunningham’s revised information at the time I provided them my input.)

“The dormant volcano that was Brother Cunningham’s resentment over the issue erupted. He was furious once again, and that was when he contacted me, asking if I could help him set the record straight, once and for all. In a letter to me, he fumed that “That old Grand Secretary down in Mississippi tried to STEAL Jimmie Rodgers from Blue Bonnet Lodge in San Antonio. Jimmie was a Texas Mason!” Brother Cunningham sent me copies of all the material he had gathered on Jimmie Rodgers, the original petition for Blue Bonnet Lodge, the copies of the minutes from his three degrees, etc. I looked over the material, and knew that I had to write a paper about it. But, I needed to gather all the research myself.

“On 17 June 1996, I contacted the new Grand Secretary in Mississippi, and, without mentioning Brother Cunningham, simply inquired about the Masonic record of Jimmie Rodgers. I later received a very cold but professional response by fax, which gave Brother Rodgers’ degree dates as “Initiated 8/9/20, Passed 12/31/30, Raised 1/5/31 in John L. Spinks Lodge No. 507, Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.” The letter also stated that “he demitted from said Lodge on 8/3/31,” and added that “our records do not show which Lodge, if any, he may have joined in another state after said date of 8/3/31.” Dissatisfied with this sparse response, I telephoned the Mississippi Grand Secretary’s office again and inquired further. It was then that I discovered that unquestionable proof in the form of an original petition or lodge minutes were not available because all the records of John L. Spinks Lodge had been lost in a fire in March 1985. The Grand Secretary was, however, nice enough to send me a photocopy of the membership file card in question.”

Brother Normand then went on to explain how he went through the possibility that there had been a possible name mix-up but finally, after contacting many people who knew Jimmy Rodgers, including relatives, that Jimmy actually did go through the series of three degrees twice. After receiving his Entered Apprentice degree in 1920, he advanced no further in that Lodge before moving to Texas. He decided to join Blue Bonnet Lodge in San Antonio as stated on December 3, 1930, had returned to Meridian, Mississippi for the New Year Holidays and received his second and third degrees in John L. Spinks Lodge to please his relatives in that area and then returned to San Antonio following a short musical tour (performing in 37 towns in western Texas and Oklahoma) and received his second and third degrees again in Blue Bonnet Lodge. When Brother Normand examined the application form Bro. Rodgers filled out in Texas, he could see that his answers regarding previous applications were answered in a “part-way” devious way so that no “laws” were broken. Bro. Jimmy Rodgers was one who really wanted to please everyone and managed his Masonic applications in such a way as to keep everyone happy. Reading Brother Normand’s full explanation provides a much more interesting dissertation than I can provide here in this abbreviated version but I believed that I should not take up the full five pages here – those members interested should simply request the full version and it will be provided immediately. For those desiring the original article provided to the Texas Lodge of Research, Bro. Normand would be glad to provide it by request to him at pete.normand33@gmail.com.

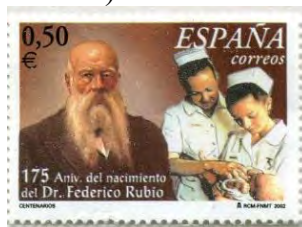
It is interesting to note that upon the death of Bro. Rodgers on 26 May 1933 in New York City the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York sent official notification to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas which was then forwarded to the Secretary of Blue Bonnet Lodge. On instructions from the Rodgers’ family, Jimmie’s remains were sent to Meridian, Mississippi, where he received a burial with full Masonic honors conducted by Meridian Lodge No. 308, Meridian, Mississippi.

FEDERICO RUBIO y GALI

Federico Rubio was born August 30, 1827 in El Puerto de Santa Maria in the province Cadiz, Spain. His father was a lawyer at the royal court in Seville and when he was exiled to France, Fererico went to primary school in Cadiz. At the age of 16 he was advised to study medicine – something he did not want to do as he preferred to write poems. Once he started, however, he found the work very interesting – especially the surgical activities. He continued to study medicine at the University of Cadiz and received a Bachelor degree in 1850. He then published his first study, “Surgical Clinic Manual” and settled in Seville where he soon became known as an excellent surgeon. He, along with several other Democrats, was arrested in 1859 on charges of conspiracy against the government of Narvaez and exiled to London where he attended classes under the famous surgeon Ferguson. Following that term, he went to Paris where he received excellent training from Professor Broca. In 1860 Federico returned to Seville to try to do something about the hygiene in that city. He introduced the latest surgical techniques with the removal of the uterus and ovaries and removal of the larynx and kidney, In 1868 the Free School for Medicine and Surgery was opened in Seville where Federico played a remarkable role in pioneering in public health. He also taught in clinical surgery.

Federico also served as a member of the constitutional government of Seville and was a Member of Parliament. He was promoted as a candidate for the congress of the Democratic Party in 1868 and was elected in 1869. He moved to Madrid and suggested in Parliament that the provincial and city authorities could raise a tax to support faithful Catholics. He took part in a conference of the federal Republican Party, chaired by Bro. Pi y Margall, which put forward several serious problems. A month later he attended a meeting with the Duke of Montpensier, brother of Queen Elizabeth II as a representative of the Freemason and revolutionary Don Henry, brother of King Francis. In 1873 he went to England as the Ambassador to that country but the British government did not recognize the new Spanish rule and, also, not him. This was the end of his political career however he continued to be committed to the party. He then travelled to America where he visited the main hospitals. In 1880 he established the Institute for Therapeutic working in the Hospital de la Princesa in Madrid and in 1896 the Royal College for Nursing, St. Elisabet of Hungary. He was named an Honorary Member of the “Royal College of Surgeons” in London and in 1900 named an Honorary Professor there. He died August 31, 1902 in Madrid, Spain.

He is referred to as a Freemason in the website <http://www.logiamoria143.com>. During the Revolution of the manifest of Seville, that document was signed by several Freemasons including Antonio de Aristegui, Federico Rubio, Francisco Diaz Quintero, Manuel Carrasco, Antonio Marchado, Tomas Arderius, Manuel Silva, and Sanchez Peralta. Federico Rubio was honored by Spain on the 175th anniversary of his death with a stamp issued on May 8, 2002 (Scott 3164).



-
- This article and the following two appeared in the De Getande Rand publication “*De Verlichte Loep*”, Issue No. 102 composed by Bro. Henk Godthelp and translated by Bro. Emiel Crab. We extend many thanks to them for sharing their work.

MIHALY CSOKONAL VITEZ

Mihaly Csokonal Vitez was born November 17, 1773 in Debrecen, Hungary and died there on January 28, 1805. His Masonic involvement is found in the listing of Hungarian Freemasons “Magyar szabadkomuvesel listaja”. He is pictured on stamps issued by Hungary on July 28, 1955 (Scott 1137) and November 17, 1973 (Scott 2258).



Having been born and educated in Debrecen. He fell in love with a rich girl (the “Lilla” in his poems) and tried to find a permanent job but when he found such a position as a teacher, she was already married. He was appointed while still very young to the professorship of poetry in Debrecen. Shortly thereafter, however, he was deprived of the post because of the immorality of his conduct. The remaining twelve years of his short life were passed in almost constant wretchedness and he died in his native town – in his mother’s house – when only 31 years of age. In his younger years he sympathized with revolutionary movements but when Napoleon wrested control in Europe, he was not able to tolerate that type of control. He wrote his first poetical work, “bekaegerharc” (frogs and mice fight), in 1791 and two years later translated Mozart’s *Zauberflöte*) into Hungarian and wrote a social satirical comedy “*Tempefoi*” (the thinker Penzeff). The reason for the latter effort was bitterness regarding the lack of support and availability of publishers – it finally appeared in print in 1844. He started to study law in 1795 in Sarospatak but the following year published a magazine containing his own poems. In retrospect, he is considered one of the most important Hungarian poets of the 18th century with his lyricism exhibiting a sense of pessimism and cynicism of classic beauty. In 1801 he met Bro. Kazinczy with whom he corresponded with for years and then travelled to Pest to study hydro-engineering/hydraulics. His apartment in Debrecen was destroyed by fire in 1802 and he finally retired, poor and ill with tuberculosis, to his birthplace and died without seeing publication of most of his works.

JUAN MARIA MONTALVO y FIALLOS

Juan Maria Montalvo was born March 13, 1832, in Ambato, Ecuador; his father was a merchant and his mother had some farmlands. As a child he witnessed political intrigue as his brother and uncle had to live in exile. He studied philosophy in Quito at the Seminary of San Luis and then law at the University of Quito until he returned home in 1854 but without qualification. Through his brothers’ contacts with General Jose Maria Urbino, he was able to secure a job on a minor diplomatic post in Rome. In 1858 he was appointed Secretary in the Ecuadorian legation in Paris. He returned in 1860 because a political shift that had occurred and the liberals were expelled by the conservatives led by the dictator Gabriel Garcia Moreno.

In January 1866 Juan published the first of many pamphlets against Moreno and three years later Juan Montalvo left hastily and rushed to Ipiales in Colombia when Moreno was again appointed president. In exile, Juan was supported by Bro. Eloy Alfaro who lived in exile in Panama. Juan continued his attacks on Moreno and in 1875 Moreno was stabbed to death by a group of insurgents and Montalvo shouted “My pen has slain him”. He returned to Quito in 1876 and wrote a number of pamphlets in which the government of President Antonio Borrero was attacked. He then turned his vitriolic pen against President Veintemilla and eventually wrote his masterpiece “Las Catilinarias” He, of course was exiled again and in 1881 travelled finally to Paris where he spent the rest of his life. He wrote his best work, “Siele Tratados” and a witty sequel on Don Quixote while living there. He died there on January 17, 1884 as the result of tuberculosis.

Bro. Montalvo was one of the prominent Freemasons in Ecuador and is cited in the website <http://es.wikipedia.org> in the article “Granmasoneria en Ecuador”. He is also discussed in the book “100 masones au palabra” by Antonio Franco C. It is believed that he was probably initiated around 1870 in Lima during his trip to Europe. He is pictured on several stamps issued by Ecuador in 1899 (Scott 139 and 147), 1949 (Scott C202). 1982 (Scott 1024), and 1989 (Scott 1224 and 1226).



NEW ISSUES OF MASONIC INTEREST

The following new issues considered applicable to a Masonic stamp collection have been announced.

Ghana 3/19/14 - #2788c Horatio Kitchener and 2790b – Marechal Joseph Joffre

Gibraltar 3/20/15 - #1504-8 – Set of 4 and a S/S – Winston Churchill – Death 50 Year Anniversary

Montserrat 12/4/14 - #1353 – Sheet of 4 stamps Famous People – B. Franklin, W. Churchill

Philippines 7/23/14 - #3538-8 Set of 3 and a S/S – Apolinario Mabini – Birth 150th Anniversary

Pitcairn Islands 12/11/14 - #750 – Strip of 4 stamps – 75th Anniversary of Byrd’s Expedition

Romania 4/6/13 - #5438 – One stamp – King Carol – Bucharest University

Joseph Jerome Lalande, a French astronomer, published in 1801 the first significant catalog of the stars listing nearly 50,000 stars. He was the founder of the famous French Lodge “Les Neuf Soeurs” (the Nine Sisters).