



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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MARTIN NADAUD

Bro. Jean-marie Sauvaitre of France has forwarded this cover bearing stamps recently issued for Bro. Martin Nadaud on July 3, 2015.



Martin Nadaud was born on November 18, 1815 in the Creuse. He followed his father's footsteps of becoming a Freemason in Paris, he entered politics in an effort to help improve the lives of his countrymen. During the coup of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, he was imprisoned and then exiled to England for 19 years. In 1870 he was appointed prefect of Creuse and was re-elected three times. He died on December 28, 1898 leaving for posterity "A Paris quand le bâtiment va tout va" ("In Paris when the building goes all goes"). This phrase is still relevant today.

Thanks to Bro. Sauvaitre but for the sake of completeness, could any member help by identifying the details of Bro. Nadaud's Masonic membership (Lodge and degree dates) and any more details regarding his apparent interesting career. So far, I have been unsuccessful in finding any information on the world-wide web.

Please note that something has happened to my page numbering and they are all the same. Please change manually. Sorry about that.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

None

ADDRESS CHANGES:

None

RESIGNATIONS:

473. Bro. Jack D. Turpie, 213, Eldon St., Greenock, PA16 7QA, Renfrewshire, Scotland (Health issues)

CLOSED ALBUMS:

127. Bro. Zolten Szollosy (on May 17, 2015), late of Kew Gardens, NY

The semi-annual meeting of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club will be held on Sunday, September 6, 2015 at the Baltimore Philatelic Exposition (BALPEX) at the Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031. The anticipated program will be a discussion on “**Jean Sibelius, his Music, as a Mason and Philatelic Topic**”. The program will include some of his music and an overview of his life as well as the many stamps and other philatelic items related to his career,

- Bro. Walter Benesch, President – GWMSC

As an interesting side-note, the full-size replica of the Hermione, the ship that carried the Marquis de Lafayette to America in 1780 to help the revolutionaries fight the British, which was pictured in the previous issue of this Newsletter, sailed into Castine, Maine in mid-July for a two day visit prior to departing for Nova Scotia. Unfortunately (from your Editor’s viewpoint) it did not take part in the Tall Ships parade which took place in Portland Harbor on July 18 – I saw that parade from the Portland Head Lighthouse area and would have enjoyed seeing it there. The Hermione is 216 feet in length and 185 feet high. It would have been an impressive sight.

Your Editor received some well-deserved and well-appreciated corrections via an e-mail to the recent article on Bro. “Mihaly Csokonai Vitez”. His name should have read in Hungarian, “Vitez Csokonai Mihaly, or in English, Vitez Michael Csokonai. *Vitez* is a title meaning Gallant, not a family name as it was printed; therefore it should be the first word when his name is mentioned. (The “l” instead of an “i” was an outright error.) Further, his poetical work was written “*bekaegerharc*” (frog, mice, fight). It should have been written “*béka egér harc*”. Finally, I should have written his work as *Zauberflöte*, or as its English title *Magic Flute*. I appreciate these comments as it helps me learn and pass on more correct information.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL JOINT ISSUE - 10 MAY 2013 THE BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA (BE'ER SHEVA)

About two years ago, our President, Bro. Gene Fricks, sent me the following article which apparently was put away out of sight. It needs some help to be totally accepted as part of our Masonic Philately, so I enter it here for some help from our Australian members, or others who might be knowledgeable regarding the Masonic memberships of the commanders of the Allied units mentioned in the article.

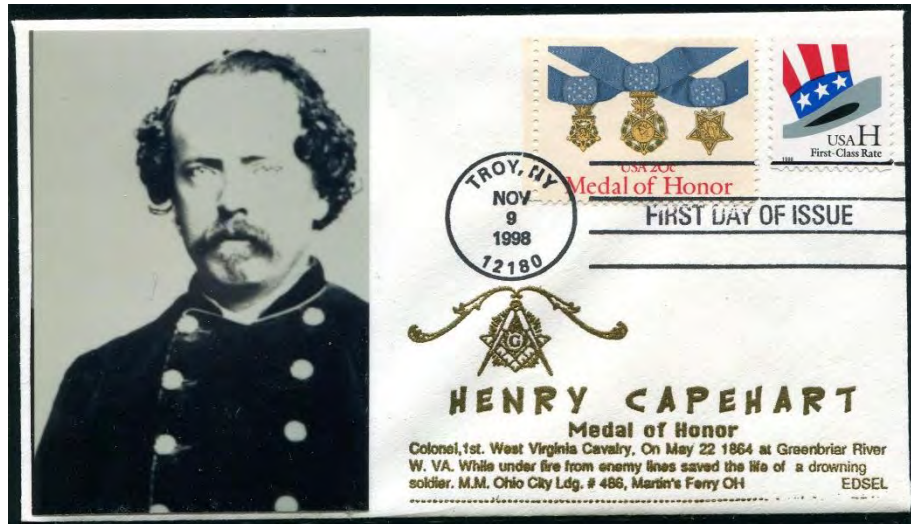
The year 2013 marks the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba which took place on 31 October 1917 as part of the wider British offensive known as the third battle of Gaza during World War I. The final phase of this day long battle was the famous mounted charge of the Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade, widely considered to be the last great mounted charge in military history. Although heavily outnumbered, the Australians seized the strategic town of Beersheba from the Turks. Thirty-one Australian Light Horsemen were killed in the charge and 36 were wounded, while the Turkish defenders suffered many casualties and between 700 and 1000 troops were captured. The capture of Beersheba allowed British Empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza and then advance and ultimately capture Jerusalem, setting up a chain of events which eventually culminated in the establishment of Israel in 1948. This battle profoundly altered the course of World War I.

The Australian 60c stamp features a statue of an Australian Light Horseman in the Park of the Australian Soldier at Be'er Sheva, Israel, and is the work of Australian sculptor Peter Corlett. The photograph in the background of the \$2.60 international rate stamp was once considered to represent the actual battle of Beersheba but is now accepted to be a re-enactment. In the foreground are photographs of the horsemen with the Beersheba Bridge behind. The Israeli ILS 2 and ILS 6.10 values feature the same scenes. The joint issue was released on May 10, 2013.



HENRY CAPEHART

This Masonic Cacheted Cover produced by Bro. Edsel Hatfield honors Bro. Henry Capehart.



Henry Capehart was born March 18, 1825 near Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He passed away on April 15, 1895. He was a surgeon and officer in the U.S. Cavalry during the American Civil War and received the Congressional Medal of Honor for saving the life of a drowning soldier while under fire at Greenbrier River, West Virginia, on May 22, 1864. He attended high school in Pittsburgh, PA and had a younger brother, Charles, who he helped raise after their mother's early death. Upon graduating from Jefferson College (now known as Washington & Jefferson College), he moved to Waynesburg in 1847 to continue his medical education and then started a practice in Bridgeport, Ohio after earning his license in 1849. He was a member of Ohio City Lodge No. 486, Martin's Ferry, Ohio.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Capehart left his medical practice in Bridgeport, Ohio and volunteered for the Union Army. He was appointed regimental surgeon of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry on September 18, 1861. In the latter half of 1863, he participated in the battles of Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, and Mine Run. Upon the recommendations of General Judson Kilpatrick and others, he was made colonel and succeeded Nathaniel P. Richmond, who resigned for health issues, as commander of the regiment on February 22, 1864. Beginning in May 1864, Capehart and the 1st West Virginia Cavalry took part in campaigns along the Shenandoah Valley. On May 22, while fording the Greenbrier River under Confederate fire, Private Watson Kerr was swept off his horse and down the fast moving stream. Capehart attempted to catch the soldier as he swept by but was pulled off his horse as well. Both men were carried down the river and over a waterfall. Capehart then grabbed Kerr and pulled him from the water. It was for this action that he was awarded the Medal of Honor years later – on February 12, 1895. He was assigned command of a cavalry brigade in the Union Army of the Shenandoah and upon recommendation of General George A. Custer was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General on March 13, 1865. His brigade was transferred to Custer's division, participating with it in the Appomattox Campaign. Following the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, he was promoted to Brevet Major General on June 17, 1865. He mustered out of the service on July 8, 1865 at Wheeling, West Virginia. His brother, Major Charles E. Capehart, was also awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in the Civil War.

- With thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals and his Did You Know (DYK)

BYRON BANCROFT “BAN” JOHNSON

Bro. Byron Bancroft “Ban” Johnson, around the start of the 20th Century, was known as “the most powerful man in baseball” – not because of his home run ability, but for his influence as the national game developed. He can be associated with the two U.S. commemoratives which have been issued to honor baseball. He was a member of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2 located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Born in Norwalk, Ohio, on January 5, 1865, he went to college to become a minister and then began to study law, before becoming a newspaper sports writer. In that role he met Charles Comiskey and formed the Western Baseball League, with Johnson as president. In 1900 the league was renamed the American League; Johnson was the first President thereof and he enticed leading National League players to join the new league. He is credited with cleaning up the sport by doing away with gambling, rioting, brawling, and crookedness. He also helped establish the World Series between the American and National League Champions. After his retirement, Bro. Johnson helped to organize the Little Leagues, which for many years was called the Ban Johnson Little League. He died in March 28, 1931 in St. Louis, Missouri.

-information provided by the Masonic Service Association *EMESSAY NOTES*

FRANCIS ROBLES GARCIA

Francis Robles Garcia was born May 5, 1811 in Guayaquil which was still under Spanish reign. Baptised three days later, he was the last of nine children to his parents. At the age of 12 he was sent to the nautical school of Guaraquil and went under the supervision of Gen. Juan Illingworth. He became involved in the siege of the port of Callo on August 31, 1828 after which he became eligible for promotion for his bravery, discipline, and calmness. He married in 1836 and fathered three children. In 1856 he was named president of Ecuador – the first time in the history of that country that a president was “elected”. He declared a general amnesty for the political exiles and sought abolition of the English departmental concessions from the lands in the East and in the coastal areas of Ecuador. He was successful and on September 21, 1857 the Icaza-Pritchett contract was signed allowing the estates to come into the Ecuadorian hands. He had many public works carried out in the maritime areas and kilometers of roads were constructed. He founded the Scientific Institute in Latacunga in 1857, an institute for young girls in Loja in 1858 and the Ambato Bolivar Schools. He instructed judges to advocate more freedoms for the poor and the native Indians. Ecuador went to war with Peru in 1858 and General Robles and Bro. Jose Maria de Urbina were captured by the rebels in April 1859 – they were later freed by Gen. Guillermo Franco. Following a terrible earthquake in March 1859 which damaged Quito heavily, Robles ordered the repair of the damage as quickly as possible. As a result of several intrigues, he and Gen. Urbina were forced to flee the country. He died in Guayaquil, Ecuador on March 2, 1893.

Bro. Robles is listed in the Wikipedia article of Freemasonry in Ecuador under “Other Famous Masons” but no other information seems to be available. He is pictured on regular issue stamps issued by Ecuador in 1907, 1913 and 1915.



SAM HOUSTON and SANTA ANNA

The following article is condensed from one of Bro. Dwight Seal's "Masonic Did U Know" e-mails from about a year ago. It presents a summary of the available information on "Why did Sam Houston spare the life of Santa Anna at San Jacinto?" which was authored by Otho C. Morrow, Past Master of Holland Lodge No. 1, Houston, Texas, Great-Grandson of Sam Houston. Many articles have claimed that Houston's refusal to permit the execution of Santa Anna resulting from his having given Houston the Masonic sign of distress.

Turning from conjecture to fact; Houston, though contrary to his general practice of ignoring those who sought to defame him and to discredit his accomplishments, and of declining to explain or justify his actions, did on two occasions give his reasons for the treatment of Santa Anna at San Jacinto and during the period of captivity which followed that event. Accounts of both are to be found in Crane's *Life and Literary Remains of Sam Houston*.

The first of these appears in a letter dated March 21, 1842 written by Houston during his second term as President of the Republic of Texas, to Santa Anna, then President of the Republic of Mexico, in reply to derogatory statements about Texas and its people publicized by Santa Anna. In this letter, Houston writes, "You have presumed to arraign the conduct of the then existing cabinet and to change it with bad faith; and though you are pleased to commend the conduct of our illustrious Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas, and myself for acts of generosity exercised toward you, you take care to insinuate that we only were capable of appreciating your proper merits. That you may no longer be induced to misconstrue acts of generosity and appropriate them to the gratification of your self-complacent disposition, I will inform you that they were acts of magnanimity characteristic of the nation to which we belong. They had nothing to do with your merits or demerits. The perfidy and cruelty which had been exercised toward our companions in arms did not enter into our calculation. Your sacrifice would not restore to our gallant companions their lives, not to our country their services. Although the laws of war would have justified the retaliation of your execution, yet it would have characterized the acts of a nation by passion and revenge; and would have evinced to the world that individuals who had an influence on the destinies of a people were subject to the capricious impulses of vengeance of which you so recently set an example.

"So far as I was concerned in preserving your life and subsequent liberation, I was only influenced by considerations of mercy, humanity, and the establishment of a national character. Humanity was gratified by your preservation. The magnanimous of all nations would have justified your release, had they known how little its influence was dreaded by the Texans. If, upon your return to Mexico, you should have power, and a disposition to redeem the pledges you had voluntarily made to yourself, as well as this Government, of an earnest disposition to see the independence of Texas recognized by Mexico, I believed it would have a tendency to restore peace to the two nations, diminish the aggregate sufferings of their citizens. And promote the prosperity of both countries. In the event that you were not disposed to redeem the pledges thus given, but urge a prosecution of the war by Mexico against us, I wished to evince to mankind that Texans had magnanimity, resources, and confidence sufficient to sustain them against all your influence in favor of their subjugation.

"Your liberation was induced by such principles as these; and though you tendered pledges, doubtless to facilitate and insure your release, they were received, but not accepted, as a condition. I believe that pledges made in duress are not obligatory upon the individual making them; and if you intended to exercise the influence which you declared you would, the unconditional liberty extended to you would interpose no obstacle to their fulfillment."

The second account is found in Houston's farewell address of February 28, 1859, given before the Senate of the United States shortly before his retirement from that body, after serving some thirteen years as Senator from Texas. His speech is devoted almost entirely to "refuting calumnies produced and circulated against his character as Commander-in-chief of the army of Texas." It reviews in detail the political and military history of Texas from December 1835, the time of his appointment as Major General by the Consultation then in session at San Felipe, until shortly after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Houston relates the following regarding his reception of Santa Anna and his reasons for the courteous treatment accorded to him. "He was treated as a guest. No indignity was offered him by the Commander-in-chief. To be sure, there was some turbulence of feeling in camp, but no rude manifestations. Under these circumstances it was that Santa Anna was received. Propositions were made to the Commander-in-chief that he should be executed, but they were repelled in a becoming manner. No one has sought to claim the honor of saving him on that occasion; and did the General feel a disposition to claim any renown, distinction, or fame, for any one act of his life, stripped of all its policy, he might do it for his conduct on that occasion.

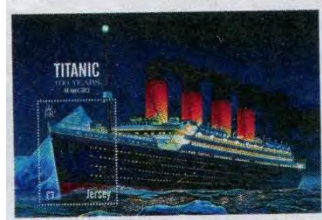
"But sir, there was reason as well as humanity for it. While Santa Anna was held prisoner his friends were afraid to invade Texas because they knew not at what moment it would cause his sacrifice. His enemies dared not attempt a combination in Mexico for invasion, for they did not know at what moment he would be turned loose upon them. So that it guaranteed peace to Texas so long as he was kept prisoner; and for that reason, together with reasons of humanity, his life was preserved. It is true, he had forfeited it to the laws of war. Retaliation was just; but was it either wise, or was it humane, that he should perish?"

Enumeration by Houston on these two occasions of the reasons which prompted his action should amply refute the "Masonic sign of distress" version; however, in depth consideration of Houston's reference to Santa Anna's "merits or demerits" gives rise to the interesting question of what attributes, either of character or accomplishment, Santa Anna could possibly claim, so soon after his sanction of the barbarous acts committed at the Alamo and Goliad, which Houston would have any semblance of "merit" other than his Masonic affiliation. Could Houston have been saying to Santa Anna in a discreet way, "Your Masonic affiliation had nothing to do with my acts of magnanimity; nor were they influenced by your giving the sign of distress?" Houston's positive statement, appearing shortly after his reference to "merits and demerits" that "So far as I was concerned in preserving your life and subsequent liberation, I was only influenced by considerations of mercy, humanity, and the establishment of a national character," lends support to an affirmative answer to the question; and also contradicts any representation that use of the Masonic sign of distress by Santa Anna was the motivating factor for the sparing of his life at San Jacinto.

Bro. Houston received his degrees in Cumberland Lodge No. 8, Nashville, Tennessee being initiated on April 17, passed on June 20, and raised on July 22, 1817. He demitted in November 1817 and is believed to have been a Charter Member of Nashville Lodge No. 17 before re-affiliating with Cumberland Lodge No. 8 in 1821. He served as Junior Warden in 1821 and was listed as attending the Grand Lodge of Tennessee in 1824 as a Past Master. He is listed in the proceedings of 1828 as suspended for un-Masonic conduct. He affiliated with Holland Lodge No. 36 of Louisiana (later No. 1 of Texas) in 1837 and demitted on July 14, 1842. He is next reported on the rolls of Forest Lodge No. 19, Huntsville, Texas, in 1851. On December 20, 1837 he presided over the first Masonic Convention at Houston, Texas which established the Grand Lodge of Texas. He is pictured on two U.S. stamps – one in 1936 and one in 1964.

HAROLD GODFREY LOWE

Bro. Lowe was raised to the Master Mason degree on January 13, 1922 in St. Trillo Lodge No. 2659, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. He was the Fifth Officer and survivor of the RMS *Titanic* when it sank on its maiden voyage on the morning of April 15, 1912. Several stamps and cacheted covers have been issued in memory of that event.



Commander Harold Godfrey Lowe was born November 21, 1882 in North Wales. He ran away from home to go to sea at the age of 14, refusing the offer of an apprenticeship from his father. He started as a Ship's Boy aboard the Welsh coastal schooners as he worked to attain his certifications. In 1906 he passed his certification and gained his second mate's certificate, then in 1908, he attained his first mate's certificate. By the time he started with White Star Line in 1911, he had gained his Master's certificate and, in his own words, "experience with pretty well every ship afloat – the different classes afloat – from the schooner to the square-rigged sailing vessel, and from that to steamships, and of all sizes." He served as third officer on White Star's *Belgic* and the *Tropic* before being transferred to the *Titanic* as Fifth Officer in 1912. Despite his numerous years at sea, however, the maiden voyage of the *Titanic* was to be his first transatlantic crossing.

Like the ship's other junior officers, Lowe reported to White Star's Liverpool offices at nine o'clock in the morning on 26 March 1912 and travelled to board the *Titanic* at Belfast the following day. On sailing day (10 April) he assisted (among other things) in the lowering of two of the starboard lifeboats to satisfy the Board of Trade that the *Titanic* met safety regulations. When the *Titanic* departed Southampton at noon, Lowe was on the bridge, relaying messages to various parts of the ship by telephone. On April 14, the night of the sinking, he had been relieved at 8:00 and was asleep in his quarters when the ship hit the ice berg at 11:40 P.M. He remained asleep through the collision and did not wake up until as much as half an hour had passed. As he explained later "We officers do not have any too much sleep, and therefore when we sleep, we die." When he finally awakened and realized the situation, he immediately got dressed, grabbed his revolver, and went to work. He was charged with loading lifeboat No. 5. While assisting in the lowering of this boat, he had a brush with White Star owner J. Bruce Ismay who was manically urging him to hurry. "If you will get the hell out of that then I shall be able to do something!" Lowe responded. "Do you want me to lower away quickly? You will have me drown the whole lot of them!"

Around 1:30 A.M. Lowe engaged in a conversation with Sixth Officer Moody and while launching lifeboats Nos. 14 and 16 on the port side of the ship, the two junior officers felt that this group needed to have an officer with them. Moody insisted that Lowe should get onto lifeboat No. 14 and that he would get on another one. By the time lifeboat No. 14 was being launched, things were beginning to get precarious on the boat deck as the majority of passengers began to realize that the giant ship was foundering. As lifeboat No. 14 was descending, Lowe used his revolver to fire three shots between the side of the boat and the side of the ship in order to frighten away a group of men attempting to leap into the lifeboat.

After reaching the water, Lowe ordered his lifeboat to be rowed about 150 yards (140m) away from the *Titanic*. When the ship foundered at around 2:20 A.M. Lowe had begun to gather several lifeboats together. He wished to return to pick up survivors but had fears of being swamped by hordes of people. He redistributed the survivors in the group of lifeboats he had gathered to ready one lifeboat for a search for additional survivors. The lifeboat he took back to the site of the sinking had no passengers and an excess of crewmen to facilitate rescue. Reluctantly, he waited until the screams died down before returning. When he returned to gather survivors, he picked up only four men, one of whom died later that night. Lowe's was the only boat to return for survivors. After that, Lowe had his crew raise the mast (he was the only officer to make use of the mast and sail in each lifeboat); using a breeze that had sprung up, he continued on to rescue the passengers on the Collapsible A. Lowe and his group of lifeboats were picked up the next morning by the RMS *Carpathia*. He remained aboard his boat long enough to ship the mast and make certain everything was properly stowed.

The *Titanic* survivors arrived at Pier 54 in New York on April 18th. Lowe was soon called upon to testify in the American inquiry into the sinking. He boarded the *Adriatic* on 2 May to return to England where he participated in the British inquiry. His testimony in the American Senate Hearing was direct, often to the point of being flippant; when asked what an iceberg was composed of, he responded, "Ice, I suppose, sir." After returning home, Lowe married Ellen Marion Whitehouse in September 1913. They had two children together. He went on to serve in the Royal Naval Reserve during World War I, attaining the rank of Commander before retiring to Deganwy with his family. He died at the age of 61 on May 12, 1944 of hypertension and was buried at the Llandrillo-yn-Rhos church in Rhos-on-Sea, North Wales.

-article provided by Bro. Norman Lincoln through Bro. Dwight Seals

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic interest have been reported in the philatelic media.

Netherlands – 6/22/15 – Scott # ? – King William II – Battle of Waterloo

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands – 1/15/15 – Set of 12 stamps honoring Explorers, Scientists, and Ships - #521 pictures Ernest Shackleton

Turkey – 11/3/14 – B309 – Souvenir Sheet for Organ Donation – pictures a Heart
- 4/16/14 – O312/4 – Kemal Attaturk

Tuvalu – 7/21/14 – 1281/3 – Pair and S/S for meeting of Queen Elizabeth II and Pope Francis – 2 values
picture Prince Philip

United States – 5/18/15 – 4987 – Forget-Me-Not for Missing Children

An eBay find – A recent eBay offering shows a cancelled 5 cent Trinidad and Tobago stamp which depicts, in addition to a small illustration of Queen Elizabeth II, a photograph of the Masonic Hall.



VICTOR SLAVESCU

Victor Slavescu is the individual on the right of those pictured on a mini-sheet recently issued by Romania. He was one of 92 Masons who were members of the Romanian Academy according to a document from Bro. Horia Nestorescu-Balcesti (AASR 33°)



Born May 23, 1891 in Rucar, Romania, Victor Slavescu received his early education at a variety of locations as his father was in the military and served in many locations such as Slatina, Pitesti, and Bucharest. Upon passing his exam, he attended Paris University where he followed the courses of several famous economists. He then went on to Germany where he attended lectures on political economics, statistics doctrine, finance, and economics. He obtained his PhD in 1914 at the age of 23 in Social Economics and Philosophy graduating Cum Laude at the University of Halle; his thesis was on Romanian agricultural issues. Returning to Romania, he was immediately included in the elite circles and, with his economic background, was pushed forward into the higher echelons of liberal politics. However, he could find only a modest job with the help of the Romanian Bank. He published articles on the commercial banks in Romania in 1915 and wrote for magazines and newspapers on the nation's economy. Victor met Bro. Ion Răducanu in Iasi creating a life-long connection – both were teachers at the academy for commercial and industrial studies in Bucharest and both published in economic journals. Victor wrote an article in 1916 titled “Victory for the Romanian capital, 5 year struggle of the Romanian Bank.”

During World War I he served as a volunteer officer in the Army, was wounded near Brasov, and after six months in the hospital was sent to the front lines in Moldova. After the war he was appointed director of the Romanian Bank at a time of great expansion within the country; he developed new systems for business, trade, and banking. He continued to publish articles and after nine years with the Romanian Bank, he was appointed director of the “National Industrial Credit Bank” in 1923. He became a technical advisor to Vintila Bratianu and was appointed as lecturer at the Academy for higher commercial and industrial studies in Bucharest. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1928 and following the murder of his colleague Virgil Madgaru, he was appointed professor for economic policy and national economy. He had been active in politics for some time and was elected six times as a member of Parliament for the liberal national party in the period 1927 to 1940. In 1933 he was appointed State Secretary for Finance in 1933. Following the assassination of the Prime Minister in 1934, he assumed the portfolio of finances in the new Cabinet until February 1935 when he was dismissed with the excuse that he felt more comfortable in the education field. Victor became a member of the Romanian Academy in 1936 and the following year was appointed Vice President of the Superior Council of Banking and Economics. Victor was arrested by the Communists in June 1950 and placed in the prison of Sighet for “activities against the working class”. This action happened to most politicians and intellectuals known from the period between the two wars. After a five year imprisonment, he was freed, withdrew from public life, and devoted himself to scientific research. He created many manuscripts and printed works, including 80 books on economics. He died September 24, 1977 in Bucharest.

-with thanks to Bros. Henk Godthelp and Emiel Crab of the Studiegroep De Getande Rand

NATHANIEL PITT LANGFORD

Nathaniel Langford was an explorer, businessman, bureaucrat, vigilante, and historian from St. Paul Minnesota who played an important role in the early years of the Montana gold fields, territorial government, and the creation of Yellowstone National Park. Born in 1832 in upstate New York, he moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1854. He worked as a banker involved with the investment of the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood. On June 16, 1862, as a member and officer of the Northern Overland Expedition, commanded by Capt. James L. Fisk, he left St. Paul to establish a wagon road to the Salmon River mine regions of the Rocky Mountains via Fort Benton. The expedition ended up at the Grasshopper Creek gold fields in the area soon to be named Bannack, Montana. There Langford and his fellow businessmen established freight companies, a saw mill, and other businesses. He was also part of the vigilante movement – the infamous Montana Vigilantes – that dealt with the lawlessness in Virginia City and Bannack, Montana during the 1864-64 period. Shortly after the Montana Territory was established on May 28, 1864, he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue and National Bank Examiner, positions he held for five years in the Montana Territorial government.

Langford was a member of the 1870 Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition which explored portions of the region that soon would become the Yellowstone National Park. Mount Langford, 10,623 feet in the Absaroka Range, 7.5 miles east of Yellowstone Lake, was scaled by Langford and Doane during the expedition and named after him. After his participation in the expedition, Langford was appointed as the first superintendent. There was no money available to offer him a salary for this new position so he had to make his living elsewhere. This left him little time to run the park and he entered it only twice during his five years as superintendent. The first time was as a guest on the second Hayden Expedition in 1872, and his second took place in 1874 to evict a man named Matthew McGuirk who claimed to own the Boiling River – one of the park's hot springs rumored to have healing powers. Langford had no salary, no funding for the park, and no legal way to enforce protection for its wildlife and geological features. Political pressure, which took the guise of accusing Langford of neglect, forced his removal in 1877. In 1905, he published *Diary of the Washburn Expedition to the Yellowstone and Firehole in the Year 1870* as a comprehensive insider's view of the expedition. After his Yellowstone experiences, Langford returned to his home state of Minnesota and began a career as a Western historian. Prior to his passing he served as the President of and on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Bro. Langford was a member of Pacific Lodge No. 10, St. Paul, Minnesota and later affiliated with Helena Lodge No. 3, Helena, Montana, serving as its second Master in 1867. He participated in the founding of the Grand Lodge of Montana in 1866 and was its first Grand Historian. He was elected Senior Grand Warden in 1868 and Grand Master in 1869. It appears that he received the Chapter degrees in Minnesota but was exalted in Virginia City Royal Arch Chapter. The first Masonic Lodge in Montana was formed in 1862. Nathaniel P. Langford was there. He wrote the following concerning the outdoor meeting:

“It was a clear September twilight [in 1862] when we camped on the western side of the range of the Rocky Mountains where they are crossed by the Mullan Road. Impressed with the grandeur of the mountain scenery and the mild beauty of the evening... we ascended the mountain to its summit, and there, in imitation of our ancient brethren, opened and closed an informal Lodge of Master Masons. I had listened to this solemn ritual of Masonry a hundred times, but never when it impressed me so seriously as upon this occasion; such was also the experience of my companions. Never was the fraternal clasp more cordial than when in the glory of that beautiful autumnal evening, we opened and closed the first lodge ever assembled in Montana.”

PABLO MARTIN MELITON de SARSASATE y NAVASCUES

Pablo de Sarasate was a Spanish violinist and composer of the Romantic period. He is pictured on a stamp issued by Spain in 1977 and is listed on page 261 of the 6th printing of *1001 Masonic Composers* by Paul Vandevijvere.

Pablo Sarasate was born on March 10, 1844 in Pamplona, Spain, the son of an artillery bandmaster. He began studying the violin with his father at the age of five and later took lessons from a local teacher. His musical talent became evident early on and he appeared in his first public concert at the age of eight. His performance was well-received and caught the attention of a wealthy patron who provided the funding from him to study under Manuel Rodriguez Saez in Madrid where he gained the favor of Queen Isabella II. Later, as his abilities developed, he was sent to study under Jean-Delphin Alard at the Paris Conservatoire at the age of twelve. There, at seventeen, he entered a competition for the Premier Prix and won his first prize, the Conservatoire's highest honor. He made his Paris debut as a concert violinist in 1860 and played in London the following year. Over the course of his career he toured many parts of the world, performing in Europe, North America, and South America. His artistic pre-eminence was due principally to the purity of his tone which was free from any tendency towards the sentimental or rhapsodic, and to that impressive facility of execution that made him a virtuoso. In his early career he performed mainly opera fantasies, notably the *Carmen Fantasy*, and various other pieces he had composed. In all his travels Sarasate returned to Pamplona each year for the San Fermin festival. He died in Biarritz, France on September 20, 1908 from chronic bronchitis. He bequeathed his violin, made by Antonio Stradivari in 1724, to the Musée de la Musique.



PASCAL LISSOUBA

Pascal Lissouba was born November 15, 1931 in Tsinguidi in the Congo and belonged to the southern tribe Banzabi. He graduated from high school in Nice, Tunis and later studied at the University of Paris from 1958 to 1961. After studying, he returned to the Congo joining the left-wing political party there. In 1961 he was appointed to the Ministry of Agriculture, and in 1963 became the Minister of Agriculture. He then served as Prime Minister under Pres. Alphonse Massamba-Debat until 1966 and when the president was deposed in 1968, he was appointed as a minister in the government of Marien Ngouabi but was deposed in 1969. In 1973 he became a member of the Central Committee of the PCT, the Congolese Labour Party but was soon expelled when he attempted to stage a coup. He was imprisoned from 1977 to 1979 for involvement in the assassination of President Ngouabi. He went into exile into France and was appointed a professor at the University of Paris. He returned to the Congo in 1991 and the following year was appointed President of that nation until his government fell in 1993 and he went into exile in 1997. He is known to be a Freemason and a member of a Lodge under the Grand Orient of France. He is pictured on a stamp issued by the Republic of the Congo on August 31, 1996.

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