



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

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MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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PELEG NYE

I have just finished an interesting book by Nils V. Bockmann, *Peleg Nye, The Jonah of Cape Cod*, which has incited my curiosity as it mentioned that he was a Mason. Mr. Bockmann also cites Bro. Peleg's story as being documented in *Every First Monday, A History of King Hiram's Lodge, Provincetown and its members, 1795-1995*, published in 1995. Bro. Nye was actively engaged in the whaling industry and there must be a stamp honoring that profession which can be used to tie him to our hobby of Masonic Philately. A Sperm Whale is pictured on a stamp issued by Australia in February 1982.

In Mr. Bockmann's book he states that Bro. Nye "was installed as a Freemason on January 28, 1878 with no mention of Lodge or location cited. Pat Latham of the Grand Secretary's office in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has provided me with his Masonic information that is in his file: He was initiated, passed, and raised on February 24, 1855 and is listed as a member of the Fraternal Lodge of Centerville, Massachusetts on November 20, 1865. In 1855 Peleg was married living in his sister's house in Sandwich, Massachusetts. In 1865 he was actively engaged on a whaling boat operating out of Provincetown, Massachusetts. My best guess would be that he received his degrees in Fraternal Lodge and became a member there. He then moved to Provincetown and either joined King Hiram's Lodge or affiliated with them in later years.

Peleg Nye was born in April 1817 in Sandwich, Massachusetts, the seventh and last child born to Herman and Mehitable Howland Nye. In 1834 Peleg sailed out of New Bedford, Massachusetts as a crewman aboard the 366-ton *India* which searched for whales in the Cape Horn area and returned home in April 1838. His second trip was another four-year whaling trip to the Sandwich Islands aboard the *Pershia*. He left New Bedford in 1842 and apparently went to Provincetown where he became a captain of a whaling ship by 1851, the *Belle Isle*. This ship experienced a collision with another ship which stymied his career as captain but by 1864 he was aboard the *George W. Lewis* as a first mate on a whaling trip. On November 16, 1864 they encountered a sperm whale. Peleg was in command of one of the two pursuit rowboats and when they harpooned it, Peleg was able to

shoot it. As it neared the boat Peleg shoved a hand lance into the whale who then throw his head around and broke the bow of the boat throwing Peleg into the mouth of the whale as he dove down. Apparently once below the surface, the whale spit out Peleg and he floated to the surface – unconscious but alive. Taken back to the primary ship he was brought back to life and his broken bones began to heal. His recovery was slow but he returned to Provincetown in 1865 and continued on whaling expeditions until the 1880s when he was listed as a “Retired Mariner”. He died on August 3, 1896 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

NONE

ADDRESS CHANGES:

260. Edward Shane, 301 E. Yuma Ave, Room 402, McAllen, TX 78503
Bro. Shane has moved to the State Veteran’s Home.

RESIGNED:

367. Don Podratz, Eureka, CA

Bro. Podratz has sold all of his collections except those stamps and covers with Masonic themes and will be disposing of them soon. He is nearly 83 years old and cannot get around as well as he used to – he is on oxygen 24/7 and uses a walker. He has been a Worshipful Master, headed all bodies in the Scottish and York Rites and last year was awarded the KYCH. He has been a Shriner for more than 40 years, has received his golden Veteran’s Award, and has become a side-liner in most of his various Lodge visits – but is still the Prelate in the Commandery.

Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy has sent in a clarification regarding the article about Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Strictly speaking, he is not a Mason but is an “enlightened of Bavaria”. The Order of “The Enlightened” is not a Masonic Order. The links with Freemasonry are very important and many of its members were Masons. In the 18th century they covered “The Enlightened” of Bavaria and those of Lyon and Avignon in France. It is also advisable to consider a link with Alchimia groups and understand the contributions and similarities of each. Bro. Vilesy may be providing a paper on this subject for our use.

Bro. Trevor Fray, President of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain, has recently published a booklet titled **“Is it TRUE what they say about MASONS?”** A 40-page booklet, it concentrates on “Guidelines for Masonic Philatelists”. Following a brief introduction, he presents three talks which he has delivered throughout England during his 42 years as a Masonic Stamp Collector: **“Masonic Philately”**, **“Answering Our Critics”**, and **“Is it true what they say about Masons”**. He offers this booklet as a non-profit venture asking only the

price of printing and postage – three pounds for purchasers in the United Kingdom and five pounds British Banknote elsewhere. He can be contacted at 78 Merryvale Road, Beacon Park, Plymouth PL2 2RP, England

NEW ISSUES

The July issue of the Linn's Scott New Listings Update offers only four releases of stamps with a Masonic tie:

Tuvalu – May 25, 2015 - #1339 – Souvenir sheet showing Long Reigning British Monarchs.

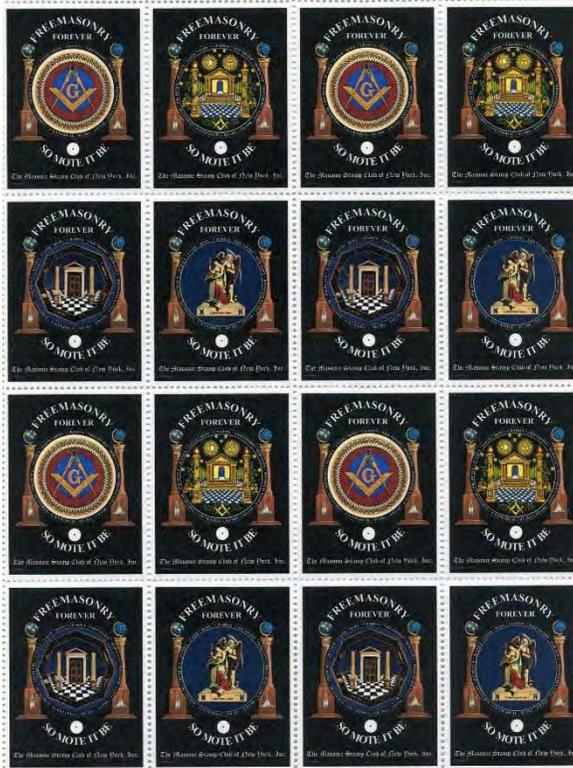
United States – June 1, 2016 - #5079 – Souvenir Sheet showing Classics Forever which picture stamps showing George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

Uruguay – 2015 - #2508/13 – Stamps picturing Gen. Jose G. Artigas

Uruguay – Aug. 17, 2015 - #2519 – Stamp honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Grand Orient.

MORE MASONIC SEALS FROM BRO. CHRIS MURPHY

Bro. Murphy has forwarded full sheets of the three Masonic seals that he has generated. He can be reached at Suite 903, 7171 Beresford St., Burnaby, British Columbia Y5E 3ZB, Canada.



FREEMASONRY
FOREVER
Masonic Creed





Truncated to show only the top two rows as the stamps are all the same.

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FRIEDERICH ADOLF BARON VON RIEDESEL

The United States issued a stamp on August 3, 1927 to the 150th anniversary of the Battle at Saratoga. Major General is pictured – he is the left hand figure of the pair behind the two central figures.



Definitive details of Baron von Riedesel’s Masonic membership are not known. There were several Masonic Lodges in the German Regiments – he most likely was a member of one of them. Before he left Canada in 1783 an Honorary Masonic title was conferred upon him.

Friedrich Adolf was born June 3, 1738 in Lauterbach, Germany and his early education took place there. To comply with his father’s wishes, he left for the study of law at the age of 15 at the University of Marburg. An indifferent student, he spent time watching troops drill and a friend tricked him into enlisting in the Marburg battalion. His father cut off his allowance when he heard of it. The two were later reconciled and Ensign Riedesel was granted an allowance from his father to help meet his expenses. His regiment went to the Holy Roman Empire for the Seven Years War in 1759 and he distinguished himself in battle, gaining

the attention of Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick and Frederick the Great. By 1761 he was a colonel in charge of two Brunswicker regiments. In August 1762 he was wounded in battle against the French and was sent to Minden to recover. There he married and commuted to Brunswick where he was adjutant to the Duke. In 1776 he commanded the Duke of Brunswick's forces sent to fight in the American Revolution. He and his wife were captured when General Burgoyne surrendered after the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 and he was imprisoned with the Convention Army in Charlottesville, VA. They were transferred to New York where he spent a year on parole before being exchanged for the American General Benjamin Lincoln. In 1781 he was named officer in charge of the Sorel District where he and his family stayed until his departure from North America at the end of the Summer of 1784. He led the remainder of his Brunswick to a review by the Duke of Brunswick who had become duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel in 1780. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General in 1787 and given command of the Brunswick troops in the southern provinces of Holland. He retired in 1793 but was named Commandant of the city of Braunschweig. He died there January 6, 1800.

MASONIC TRIVIA

In 1839 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 15th, 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 Master revoked the dispensation but the Lodge continued to work. On April 5, 1844 the 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 the state of Illinois.

MASONIC RITUAL AS SHOWN ON STAMP DESIGNS

Some time ago, Bro. Richard Wright of Lodi, California submitted some panels showing stamps which he translated into certain lines of ritual we hear in our degrees. Here is a second display aimed at accomplishing the same end product. Try it and then see how well you; answers on the next page.



1

3





2

4



ANSWERS

Panel 1: Act – Square – Tongue – Secrecy – Charity – Woven – Religion –
Obligation – Diety –

Duty – Happiness.

Panel 2: Contemplative – Mason – Reverence – Admiration – Glorious – Works – Creation – Idea

– Creator

Panel 3: Ancient – Brethren – Operative – Speculative (2) – Masons – Building – Solomon’s –

Temple – Stately Edifice – Six – Days – Seventh – For – Six – God – Created – Earth

– Rested – Seventh

Panel 4: Seventh – Advent – Brethren – Rest – Labors – Contemplate – Glorious – Works –

Creation – Adore Creator.

MANUEL CARLOS PIAR

The Netherlands Antilles issued two stamps which picture Manuel Carlos Piar – one on April 26, 1967 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his death and one on July 24, 1987 to note Bolivar-Curacao Friendship.



Manuel Carlos Piar has been considered to have been a Mason because of his association with the Latin American revolutionists but there is one major concern which would lead the doubt of that claim. When he was condemned to receive capital punishment his execution was conducted with the approval of Simon Bolivar. During Bolivar’s government, many capital punishments pronounced to officer-Freemasons were commuted to a life sentence by Bolivar.

Manuel Carlos Piar was born April 28, 1774 in Willemstad, Curacaohas; he did not have any appreciable education; his father was a vagabond and his mother a washer-woman. He became known in 1804-05 when he eliminated an English invading army on Curacao. He roamed the land and the seas until he came to Haiti where there were some liberation actions. He became commander of an armed schooner and after several years came in contact with Francisco Antonio de Miranda on Barbados. He was then included in de Miranda’s staff of the independence movement in Venezuela. After some unsuccessful actions, the two of them fled to Trinidad and along with many other liberation fighters took a solemn oath to liberate Venezuela or die trying. A day after they sailed to Venezuela, Piar defeated some Spaniards and along with Brion supported Bolivar in his blockade of the harbor town Puerta Cabello. He was promoted to the rank of General and in February 1814 swore allegiance to Bolivar. There were many conquests over the Spaniards from 1814 to 1817 and Piar’s success was a thorn in the side of many of the Generals. They tried to convince Bolivar that Piar would be a dangerous rival and were responsible for a fast growing split between the two. Piar requested permission to leave the army and settle elsewhere because he thought they dropped him because of his birth and the color of his skin; this attack

proved fatal. Bolivar placed him under arrest and ordered a court martial under the chairmanship of Brion but there was no examination. The death sentence was pronounced for insubordination, plotting and desertion and was carried out by a firing squad on October 16, 1817 in Angostura, Venezuela.

FERDE GROFE

Ferde Grofe was one of eight composers featured on a set of U.S. commemoratives issued in 1997 as part of the Legends of American Music, Classical Composers, and Conductors series.



Brother Ferde Grofe was raised a Master Mason in St. Cecile Lodge #568, New York City, NY.

Composer Ferde Grofe, the Prince Minister of Jazz, was born Ferdinand Rudolph von Grofe (pronounced grow-fay) on March 27, 1892 in New York City. While still a child, his family moved to Los Angeles, California. His father was an actor and baritone singer while his mother was a cellist and music instructor. Growing up in Los Angeles, he attended public schools and studied with several music instructors, first his mother and then Pietro Florida and Ricardo Dallera. He attended St. Vincent's College under family pressure to study law but in 1908, he found work as a violinist at convention halls and as a pianist and arranger for various with dance bands. In 1909, he produced his first commissioned work, *The Elks Grand Reunion March*, for the Elks Convention in Los Angeles. This same year, Grofe was hired by the Los Angeles Symphony as a violist, a position he maintained for 10 years. While with the symphony, he continued to compose his own works and formed his own jazz ensemble. In 1923, playing in local clubs around Los Angeles, he met the famed jazz conductor Paul Whiteman who hired him as pianist and arranger for his orchestra. Whiteman instantly had a hit recording with a song composed by Grofe with lyrics by Theodora Morse, *Wonderful One*. The following year, Grofe came into national recognition with his arrangement of *Rhapsody in Blue*, a commissioned work by George Gershwin (submitted as a piano score, to which Grofe added the orchestrations). The symphony that would catapult Gershwin, Whiteman and Grofe to fame, premiered on February 12, 1924 at New York's Aeolian Hall. Grofe's first major suite, *Mississippi Suite* premiered in 1926 in New York City, performed by the Paul

Whiteman Orchestra. The suite was the first of many works Grofe dedicated to American landscape and feeling.

In 1931, Grofe's most famous work, *The Grand Canyon Suite*, premiered in Chicago at the Studebaker Theater on November 22. The work consists of five movements each designed to describe an episode of life in the Canyon. Grofe had fallen under the spell of the Grand Canyon and had vowed to translate its impressions into a tangible form. As he would later write, "It became an obsession. The richness of the land and the rugged optimism of its people had fired my imagination. I was determined to put it all to music someday." In 1932, Grofe left Whiteman and in 1933 he was appointed conductor of the Capitol Theater Orchestra in New York City. For the next six years, Grofe worked as conductor, composer and arranger with his own orchestra, touring throughout America and introducing several symphonic suites including, *Free Air*, *Tabloid*, *Hollywood Suite*, *A Day At The Farm*, *Wheels Suite* and *3 Shades of Blue*. From 1939 through 1942, he worked as an instructor of orchestration at New York's Julliard School of Music. In 1942, he again had popular

success in collaboration with lyricist Harold Adamson for the song "Daybreak." The song was a top ten hit for Tommy Dorsey in 1942. Throughout the 1940's, Grofe collaborated on several film scores, including *Strike Up the Band*, *Thousands Cheer* and *Minstrel Man*. His score for *Minstrel Man* received an Oscar Nomination for Best Music and Scoring of a Musical Picture in 1945. In early 1950s, he continued to write scores for films, composing *Rocketman X M* and *The Return of Jesse James*. In 1954, Grofe and his wife Anne, began touring throughout America in two-piano concerts. In 1955, Grofe again returned to conducting and arranging and introduced his first suite for orchestra in 16 years, *Hudson River Suite*. In 1958, he was commissioned by the New York State Power Authority to compose a suite to commemorate the opening of the Robert Moses Power Plant in Niagara Falls. The *Niagara Suite* 1961 premiere was performed by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Ferde Grofe. The last major suite written by Grofe was the *World's Fair Suite*, the official suite of the 1964 New York World's Fair. In addition to his Oscar Nomination, Grofe received an Honorary Music Doctorate from Illinois Wesleyan University and from Western State College of Colorado. He was also adorned with the Griffith Foundation Golden Eaglet for Composition and received the Sinfonia National Honor. Ferde Grofe died on April 3, 1972 in Santa Monica, California (at age 80, and was buried in the Mausoleum of the Golden West at the Inglewood Park Cemetery in Inglewood, California).

-With thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals and the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK, JR.

John Steinbeck was honored on a stamp released by the United States.



According to his Grand Lodge of California record, Bro. Steinbeck was initiated in Salinas Lodge No. 204 (Salinas, California) on March 21st, 1929, passed on April 12th, and raised on May 24th that same year. His father, John E. Steinbeck, Sr. was a longtime member of the same lodge. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, Steinbeck Jr. demitted just a little over four years after his raising on July 21, 1933. In his younger days, he was a DeMolay member.

John Jr. was born on February 27, 1902, in Salinas, California. His paternal grandfather, shortened the family name to Steinbeck when he immigrated to the United States. The family farm in Heiligenhaus, Mettmann, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, is still named "Großsteinbeck." His father, John Ernst Steinbeck, served as Monterey County treasurer. John's mother, Olive Hamilton, a former school teacher, shared Steinbeck's passion for reading and writing. The Steinbecks were members of the Episcopal Church, although Steinbeck later became agnostic. Steinbeck lived in a small rural town, no more than a frontier settlement, set in some of the world's most fertile land. He spent his summers working on nearby ranches and later with migrant workers on Spreckels sugar beet farms. There he learned of the harsher aspects of the migrant life and the darker side of human

nature, which supplied him with material expressed in such works as *Of Mice and Men*. He explored his surroundings, walking across local forests, fields, and farms. While working at Spreckels Sugar Company, he sometimes worked in their laboratory, which gave him time to write. He had considerable mechanical aptitude and fondness for repairing things he owned. Steinbeck graduated from Salinas High School in 1919 and went on to study English Literature at Stanford University near Palo Alto, leaving, without a degree, in 1925.

He became a noted American author of twenty-seven books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books, and five collections of short stories. He is widely known for the comic novels *Tortilla Flat* (1935) and *Cannery Row* (1945), the multi-generation epic *East of Eden* (1952), and the novellas *Of Mice and Men* (1937) and *The Red Pony* (1937). The Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) is considered Steinbeck's masterpiece and part of the American literary canon. In the first 75 years since it was published, it sold 14 million

copies. The winner of the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature, he has been called "a giant of American letters". His works are widely read abroad and many of his works are considered classics of Western literature. Most of Steinbeck's work is set in southern and central California, particularly in the Salinas Valley and the California Coast Ranges region. His works frequently explored the themes of fate and injustice, especially as applied to downtrodden everyman protagonists. John Steinbeck died in New York City on December 20, 1968, of heart disease and congestive heart failure. He was 66, and had been a lifelong smoker. An autopsy showed nearly complete occlusion of the main coronary arteries. In accordance with his wishes, his body was cremated, and interred on March 4, 1969 at the Hamilton family gravesite in Salinas, with those of his parents and maternal grandparents.

-again thanks to Bro. Dwight Seals

BRAZILIAN MASONIC PERSONAL STAMP

The stamp celebrates the inauguration of the President of COMAB (Confederacao Maconica do Brasil) by Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Parana, Joao Neto Krainski, 2016-2017. "Together, the Great States of the East, which are part of COMAB, provide a full demonstration of unity of action, cohesive ideas and purposes, and an ally in the struggle for moral, cultural, and political improvement of free men who voluntarily devote themselves to building a better Brazil." Further information can be obtained from Bro. Renato Mauro Schramm, President of the Clube Filatelico Maconico do Brasil, Caixa Posta 3085 – 88010-970 – Florianopolis – SCD – Brasil.



MASONIC COVERS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

The Masonic Philatelic Study Group, De Getande Rand, has recently issued three Masonic cacheted covers along with personal stamps tied to the event celebrated on the cover. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from Bro. Emiel

Crab at emicra46@gmail.com or Hoogboomsweetweg 120, 2930 Brasschaat, Belgium.



MORE INFORMATION FROM BRO. EDDIE LEVEY

Bro. Levey, of Australia, informs us that he was looking through some recent releases of stamps from Portugal and has found that in 2013 they released a set of stamps for Major Characters of Portugal History and Culture which includes Raul Rego. He found that Bro. Rego joined Freemasonry in 1971. He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Orient Lusitano serving from 1988 to 1990. He is also serving as Sovereign Grand Commander in Lisbon.

On a personal note, Bro. Levey states he has just been installed as Master of the Mark Master Masons Lodge in Mildura – for the third time around – for the next 12 months. Congratulations.

MASONIC TRIVIA

Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall on July 8, 1776 to call the people together to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell developed a crack when it was rung for the death of Chief Justice Marshall, Past Grand Master of Virginia.

Grand Masters generally have the power to make “Masons at Sight” which means the Master can do away with the formalities such as filing of petitions, waiting periods, etc. Some famous Masons who were made that way include: William H. Taft, General George Marshall, and General Douglas MacArthur.

RICHARD ALLEN

Richard Allen was born a slave on February 14, 1760 on the estate of Benjamin Chew in Kent, Delaware. Soon the whole family was sold to Stokely Sturgis, a planter in Delaware. When the latter came in financial difficulties, Richard’s mother was sold with three of her children. Richard and an older brother stayed with Sturgis. Richard taught himself to read and write and at the age of 17 he joined the Methodists and became a kind pastor who organized services among his peers on the plantation – which was tolerated by Sturgis. Sturgis later became aware that slavery was bad and he offered his slaves the opportunity of buying themselves free. Richard did his utmost to earn extra money and bought his freedom in 1780; he changed his name from “Negro Richard” to “Richard Allen”. He moved to Philadelphia and became preacher at St. George’s Methodist Episcopal Church. He attracted more and more black church-goers to listen to him but this was not welcomed by the church council and Richard was ordered to stop preaching his sermons. He and another preacher (Bro. Absolom Jones) founded a new church – especially for the black followers. This was not appreciated and they were discriminated against and persecuted; one day, while they were praying in their church, they were arrested.

Bros. Jones and Allen founded the Free African Society (FAS), a community to support runaway slaves. In 1794 their church was officially opened, supported by the Episcopal Church, and Bro. Jones was appointed the first black Episcopalian priest in the U.S. Richard Allen and his disciples followed the Methodist religion and founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was appointed as the first black Methodist Minister in 1799. In 1816 he was appointed by the other ministers as their first (black) bishop. He married Flora in 1790 and together they worked hard for the church and school but she died in 1801 having had no children. He then married Sarah Bass and they had six children. Sarah was nicknamed “Founding Mother” of the AME. Richard died March 26, 1831 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was buried in his own church. There is a school, park, street, and a college named after him.

The USPS issued a stamp for him on February 2, 2016 as part of the “Black Heritage” series.



Brothers Jones and Allen were founding members of the African Lodge No. 459. Bro. Jones was the first Worshipful Master and Bro. Allen was the Treasurer. It is stated (in Bro. Joseph Walkes' book on the History of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana, 1842-1979) that both Brothers Jones and Allen were installed by Prince Hall – the founder of Afro-American Freemasonry.

-with many thanks to Bro. Henk Godthelp of De Getand Rand and Bro. Emiel Crab

for his translation.

FRANCISCO ANTONIO DE MIRANDA

Francisco de Miranda is pictured on a stamp released by France in 2009. He was initiated into Freemasonry by the Marquis de Lafayette – most likely in a Lodge in Paris. He then went on to found the Revolutionary Lodge “Gran Reunion Americana” at 27 Gradton Street in London and the Lodge “Caballeros Racionales” in Cadiz, Spain from which the Lodge “Lautora” arose.



Bro. Miranda was born March 28, 1750 in Caracas, Venezuela into a family of a prosperous family whose specialty was linens which failed to translate into high social status. He and his brothers and sisters grew up during a tumultuous generation that witnessed the unsettling effects of the Bourbon Reforms in Spanish America and also the impact of the Enlightenment and the American and French Revolutions. At the age of 12 he entered the Academy of Santa Rosa in preparation for his matriculation at the Royal and Pontifical University of Caracas in 1764. For reasons that are unclear, he never completed his studies there although he always insisted he received his Bachelor's degree in 1767. It was

there that he developed his love of books and the pursuit of knowledge. By 1770 he had decided on a military career, gathered the necessary letters of support, and embarked early in 1771 on the *Prince Frederick* for Cadiz, Spain. He won a commission as captain in the Princess' Own Infantry in 1772 with his first posting to the Spanish forts on the North African coast. He was bored with the monotony of garrison duty and requested transfer to a post where he could better demonstrate his talents. In 1774, when Spain declared war against Morocco and Algeria, he made a favorable impression on his peers during the siege of Melilla and in 1775 was on campaign in Algeria. He was later reassigned to Cadiz and grew increasingly disenchanted with the Spanish military. He was arrested several times for insubordination. In 1778, when France signed an alliance with Britain's rebellious colonies in America, he was offered the chance in 1780 to accompany the Regiment of Aragon to Cuba and participated in a joint French-Spanish-American siege of British forces at Pensacola in 1781. He was sent to Jamaica to arrange for an exchange of prisoners with the British authorities. Miranda later became an actor in the French Revolution and continued to entertain hopes of leading a third revolution against Spain. As a French general, his career was not especially distinguished and his political ties to the revolutionary faction known as the Girondins raised the suspicions of the Jacobins of Maximilian Robespierre. Brought to trial and imprisoned, he was released by the more conservative government known as the Convention. He remained in France until 1797 when he returned to London to press the government for British action against Spanish America. By 1804 Spain was totally dominated by France and the British plans to attack them were taken off the shelf so Miranda decided to act on his own. He embarked from England in 1805 and traveled to the U.S. where he organized and led an abortive expedition to the coast of Venezuela. He joined with Simon Bolivar in 1810 and in 1811 Venezuela declared its independence from Spain, he was placed in command of the Venezuelan troops. The following year he was named commander in chief but surrendered his troops to the Spanish. Bolivar ordered his arrest and in 1813 he was incarcerated in Cadiz where he died on July