

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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## NORMAN ROCKWELL

Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms" paintings were immortalized on a small sheet of stamps issued by the U.S. on July 1, 1994. He was a member of Red Mountain Lodge No. 63 in Arlington, Vermont.



Born February 3, 1894 in New York City, he created more than 4,000 original works in his lifetime. While he was still in his teens he received his first commission - painting four Christmas cards. Not long after, while still in his teens, he was hired as the art director of Boys' Life Magazine, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America. His annual contributions for the Boy Scouts calendars between 1925 and 1976, were only slightly overshadowed by his most popular of calendar works: the "Four Seasons" illustrations for Brown & Bigelow that were published for seventeen years beginning in 1947 and reproduced in various styles and sizes since 1964. He was a 1939 recipient of the Silver Buffalo Award, which is the highest adult award given by the Boy Scouts of America. His last commission for the BSA was a calendar illustration entitled "The Spirit of 1976", which was completed when Rockwell was eighty-two, concluding a partnership which generated 471 images for periodicals, guidebooks, calendars, and promotional materials. His connection to the BSA spanned sixty-four years, marking the longest professional association of his career. When Norman was twenty-two, he was commissioned to paint his first cover for the Saturday Evening Post. It was an opportunity of a lifetime, and he considered the magazine the "best show window in America". He was more than happy to paint 321 covers for the magazine over a nearly fifty-year period. Some of his best-known works graced the covers of the Saturday Evening Post.

Most of his works are either in public collections, or have unfortunately been destroyed in fire or other misfortunes. He also was commissioned to illustrate more than forty books, including Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn for Samuel Clemens as well as painting the portraits for Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon, as well as those of foreign figures, including Gamal Abdel Nasser and Jawaharlal Nehru. He also created a portrait of Judy Garland (Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz), and one of his last portraits was of Colonel Harland Sanders (Founder of KFC and

a Freemason) in 1973. He painted six images for Coca-Cola advertising, illustrations for booklets, catalogs, posters (particularly movie promotions), sheet music, stamps, playing cards, and murals - including "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "God Bless the Hills", which was completed in 1936 for the Nassau Inn in Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1943, inspired by a speech by President Franklin Roosevelt, Norman painted the "Four Freedoms" which were reproduced on the covers of four consecutive issues of the Saturday Evening Post along with essays in the magazine from contemporary writers of the day. The paintings were so popular that they toured the United States, and raised more than 130 million dollars towards the war effort through the sale of war bonds. In 1977, for "vivid and affectionate portraits of our country," he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States of America's highest civilian honor, by President Gerald Ford. Norman's son, Jarvis, accepted the award. Norman Rockwell died on November 8th, 1978, of emphysema at age eighty-four in his home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

-This article was contributed by Bro. Dwight Seals as part of his "Masonic Did U Know?" articles distributed by e-mail. He was not aware of Bro. Rockwell's Masonic membership (nor was I) until he saw it in a post by Todd E. Creason, 33°, the founder of the Midnight Freemasons blog and author of several books and novels, including the Famous American Freemasons series.

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## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

429. Raymond G. Feyes, 10307 Kirkwren Dr., Houston, TX 77089. Bro. Feyes is a Retired Presbyterian Minister and now works part time in security. He is a member of Pasadena Lodge #1155 and Archives Lodge #1377 in Houston as well as the Eastern Star Chapter - Archives #1095.

### **ADDRESS CHANGES:**

125.0 James E. Hansen, 4129 N.W. 88<sup>th</sup> Ave., Apt. 107, Coral Springs, FL 33065

167. Capt. Frank M. Hoak III, USN Ret., 15529 E. Sundown Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

314 James F. Knisley, 3121 N. 109<sup>th</sup> Dr., Avondale, AZ 85392

### **CLOSED ALBUMS:** - both long term members.

143. Raymond W. Koch, late of Richland Center, WI – died March 31, 2017 – see article below.

154. John A. Elmore, The Woodlands, TX – I have not received any notification of his passing but the Nov.-Dec. 2017 issue was returned "Unable to Forward". He was always very prompt to submit his dues but did not do so in the Spring of this year. When I "checked him out" on the web, all I found was that he sponsored annual scholarships for selected students who are majoring in Journalism. Any information regarding him would be appreciated.

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The November 2017 issue of The Northern Light included an article announcing that Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33° was one of four individuals who received the Medal of Honor at the annual meeting of the Supreme Council. Congratulations, Bro. Samiec.

**RAYMOND W. KOCH**  
MASONIC PHILATELIST SUPREME

Just recently, James E. Lee sent me a copy of his Winter 2017 Philately Magazine. For those of you not familiar with James Lee, he is an excellent, reliable stamp dealer who just recently was the first recipient of the American Philatelic Society Dealer of the Year Award. He was introduced to stamp collecting 60 years ago when his parents gave him a Minkus *My First Stamp Album* on Christmas Day. He has been a dealer since 1972 and has been a very active member of the American Stamp Dealers Association, serving as president for four years.

He sent me a copy of his Winter 2017 Holiday Edition of “Philately” and the cover illustrations immediately caught my eye – a stamp and a cover each bearing a Masonic Square & Compasses cancel identified as “Ex-Koch”. Inside there were several other stamps and covers bearing Masonic cancellations. On page 2 he explained what had come to pass:

“The focus of this issue is composed of selected items from the Masonic cancellation collection formed by the late Raymond W. Koch. It features both on and off cover examples. There are over 500 covers and over 750 stamps. We are offering it on consignment at the direction of Ray’s estate. Inquiries for approval selections are invited.



1922 – March 31, 2017  
My Friend Ray

“He was a client and, more importantly, a true friend for over 25 years. I first met Ray at a small show in southern Wisconsin in 1991, where he asked to see any Masonic covers or cancels that I might have. We spent more than an hour talking about his collection. A year later I sold him the Masonic cancels from the late Bill Weiss’s 15c large bank note collection along with a spectacular cover that is featured in this newsletter. Our relationship was then off and running.”

“Ray’s pursuit of material for his collection lasted for over 60 years. He bought out the Carl Pelander sales in the 1950s, the Greenbaum sale held by Robert A. Siegel in 1972, and Dr. Swan’s collection that was handled by the late Ed Hines to name a few. Over the years we would meet for dinner at shows around the country: St. Louis, APS StampShow, Philadelphia, and Chicagopex. Ray was one of the most wonderful, kind, and humble person you could ever hope to meet. I last saw him three years ago. He was battling a medical condition, confined to a nursing home, but still had that solid hand shake and that ever present twinkle in his eye. His love of Masonics came from his involvement with the Masons and having achieved the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree. I was honored when Ray asked me to sell his collection after he had passed.”

Ray was a long-time member of the Masonic Study Unit and I corresponded often with him. At one point in time we almost met at a stamp show, but it didn't happen. His loss will have an impact upon Masonic Philately.

Some examples of the offerings in the James Lee "Philately" are shown here and those who are inclined to seek further details and/or acquisition should contact him at P.O. Box 3876, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3876, [jim@jameslee.com](mailto:jim@jameslee.com), or (847) 462-9130.

**James E. Lee's** \$5 • Free To Clients  
 Volume XIX No. 4  
 Winter 2017  
 Whole No. 84

**Special  
 Holiday  
 Edition**

# Philately



**111 - Bethel, VT**  
 Masonic cancel  
 1c Buff, with a full  
 strike of Masonic  
 "Square & Compass"  
 cancel which is at-  
 tributed to Bethel,  
 VT. With PF certificate which  
 mentions small thin spot. Ex-  
 Koch (FC84-01) \$200.00

**65 - Quincy, MA Masonic on cover**  
 A beautiful strike of Masonic "Square & Compass"  
 with knob on cream colored full cover to Lowell, Mass.  
 (S/E No. FR-M1 4). A gem! Ex-Koch (PH84-01)  
 \$295.00

**Masonic Cancellations from the Collection of Raymond W. Koch**

This is just a sampling of the 700+ cancels found in Ray's collection. Selections can be supplied on approval. As is the case with fancy cancels there may be tiny faults. However, we can dip any cancel upon request.



**65 "Square & Compass" (S/E No. FR-M1 4), full strike. (FC84-02) \$300.00**

**65 "Square & Compass with knob and 'G', full strike. (FC84-03) \$225.00**

**184 Negative Boston purple "Square & Compass", 95% strike. (FC84-04) \$125.00**

**159 "Star & Crescent", 95% strike. (FC84-05) \$50.00**

**114 "Square & Compass", Woodville, Va., full strike. (FC84-07) \$175.00**

**146 "Sword in Plumes", full strike. (FC84-08) \$275.00**

**111 - 1.0m pair  
 green purple "Square & Compass" with knob and "G". (FC84-05) \$45.00**

**65 "Square & Compass", Brookline, Mass. full strike. (FC81-09) \$95.00**

**65 "Square & Compass with 'G', East Edgemoor, Me., (FC84-10) \$135.00**

**Masonic Cancellations on Cover from the Collection of Raymond W. Koch**



**62 - Oxford, Ind. 3c Rose, struck with Masonic "All Seeing Eye" cancel on cover reduced 1/4" at left. Considered to be one of the most outstanding Masonic cancels. 184 (S/E No. FR84-09) \$300.00**

**147 (12) - New Orleans, La. 3c. Uccas, struck with Masonic "Open Book" cancel on double-weight cover. No. Charles Wood cover. (PH84-09) \$175.00**

**65 - Ketchikan, Alaska, 1c Rose, tied by large negative Masonic "Square & Compass" cancel on full cover. Ray brought this cover back in a 1951 Polaroid photo. (PH84-01) \$195.00**

**147 - Oxford, Ind. 3c Crown, tied with Masonic "All Seeing Eye" cancel on full cover. Showing right above address block. (PH84-09) \$175.00**

**Masonic Cancellations on Cover from the Collection of Raymond W. Koch**



**31 - Canton, Mass. 3c. Full tied, tied by Masonic "Triangle" cancel to full envelope. Three edge racks along the top edge of the cover. Great strike! (PH84-14) \$200.00**

**84 - Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 3c. Rose, tied by bold complete strike of negative Masonic "Square & Compass" cancel on cover opened along right edge. Red tied blue paper on back. (S/E No. FR-M1A 23) (S-3). Swan. (PH84-38) \$175.00**

**65 - New York, N.Y. 3c. Rose, tied by a full, nearly complete strike of Masonic "Square & Compass" cancel on cover clearly retained at the right. Couple of edge racks. (S/E No. FR-M2; 3a) Note the detail in the square! (PH84-39) \$250.00**

The above dissertation regarding the "disposal" of an individual's collection, should make us aware of the plans we should make. In my situation, none of my 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 4 very young great-grandchildren, along with their spouses, show no interest in philately. I realize that the pages bearing stamps and Masonic information regarding them are not very valuable from the standpoint of stamps and covers and might be best offered to a Masonic organization. My collection of "Pure" issues, Fancy Cancels, and autographs of noted Masons on stamps or covers related to them might be better handled such as Bro. Ray did with his. "Food for Thought".

## BONAPARTE BROTHERS

On January 5, 1970 the “sand dune country” of Ajman issued a stamp honoring the bicentennial of the birth of Napoleon Bonaparte which pictures his four brothers, Louis, Jerome, Joseph and Lucien. Bro. Jean-Claude Vilesy has provided the Masonic affiliation of this family but I have not yet found the stamp or an illustration of it.

**Louis Bonaparte** (September 2, 1778 – July 25, 1846) Father of Napoleon III. He was made King of Holland in 1806 by Napoleon I and abdicated the throne in 1810. When his brother, Joseph, was named Grand Master in 1805, Louis was named Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France.

**Jerome Bonaparte** (November 15, 1784 – June 24, 1860) he was made King of Westphalia in 1807 by Napoleon I. After Napoleon’s defeat in 1814, Jerome settled in Florence, Italy. He returned to France in 1848 and was made Marshal of France in 1850. He was initiated February 22, 1801 in the Lodge “La Paix” in Toulon and was Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Westphalia.

**Joseph Bonaparte** (January 7, 1768 – July 28, 1844) Eldest of the four brothers of Napoleon who made him King of Naples from 1806 to 1808 and King of Spain from 1803 to 1813. From 1815 to 1832, following Napoleon’s defeat, he lived in the United States. He was made a Freemason at the Tuilleries in April 1785 and that same year he was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France by Napoleon.

**Lucien Bonaparte** (May 21, 1775 – June 29, 1840) He aided Napoleon in securing the dictatorship of France. He was named ambassador to Madrid in 1800 and was exiled in 1810 for opposing Napoleon’s policies. On his way to the US he was captured by the English and held as a prisoner of state in England. It is believed that he was a Mason within the Grand Orient of France.

**Napoleon Bonaparte** was said to be a member of the Army Philadelph Lodge but cannot be verified. There were four Lodges named “Les Philadelphes but none of them played a significant role – the first was La Philadelphique (1788-90) and later in 1812, another in Paris in 1784, one in Marseille in 1782 and one in Parma, Italia. There was a special Rite – The Philadelphes Rite based on the “Reformed Memphis Rite” which was used by the Grand Lodge of the Philadelphes” (1749-1879). None of these were a Military Lodge. The Secret Society “Philadelphes” was a conspiracy society and the most important fact is that this society was against Napoleon. Consequently, it does not appear that Napoleon was, in fact, a member of the Masonic Fraternity.

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## MEXICAN PRESIDENTS THAT WERE FREEMASONS

Some time ago, we received a question regarding the Masonic membership of a Mexican President – Guadalupe Victoria. Bro. Franco Herrera has provided the listing of those Presidents and Emperors of Mexico who were members of the Fraternity. They are listed here as recorded in “*Diccionario Enciclopedico de la Masoneria*”.

Don Agustin de Iturbide (Emperador 1822-1823)  
Don Guadalupe Victoria (Presidente 1824-1829)  
Don Vicente Guerrerri (Presidente 1821)  
General Don Gualalupe Gomez Pedraza (1832)  
Don Valentin Gomez Farias (Vice-Presidente 1833)  
General Javier Echeverria (Presidente 1841)  
Don Nocolas Brava (Presidente 1842-1843)  
Don Bonito Juarez (Presidente 1858-1867 y 1871-1872)  
Don Mwlchor Ocampo (Estadista 1859)  
Don Sebastian Lerdo Tejada (Presidente 1873-1876)  
General don Perfino Diaz (Presidente 1876-1880 y 1884-1911)  
Don Ignacio M. Altamnirano )Gran Maestro G.: Log.: Valle de Mejico 1885-1891)  
Don Francisco I Madero (Presidente 1911-1912)  
General Don Victoriano Huerta (Presidente 1913-1914)  
General Alvaron Obregon (Presidente 1920-1924)  
General Don Plutarco Elias Calles (Presidente 1928-1930) y posteriormente Gran Maestro  
Ing. Pascual Ortiz Rubio (Presidente 1930-1932)  
Gral. Abe lardo Rodriguez (Presidente 1932-1936)  
Gral. Manuel Avila Camacho (Presidente 1940-1946)  
Lic. Miguel Aleman (Presidente actual 1946–1952)

Thank you, Bro. Herrera; now we can match up the stamps with the names of those who were Freemasons.

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### NEW ISSUES

The appearance of new issues in Linn’s that have Masonic significance are becoming few and far between. The following have been identified over the past four months.

Austria May 13, 2017 – Scott 2677 – Maria Theresa  
Monaco – June 1, 2017 – Scott 2889 – Rotary – Melvin Jones  
Australia – April 4, 2017 – Scott 4605/5 - Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip  
Croatia – May 13, 2017 – Scott 1038 – Maria Therese  
Sierra Leone stamps released between 2014 and 2017 are listed on several pages – Gen. Douglas MacArthur is noted in the myriad of listings

A new “Pure” Masonic issue was recently listed on eBay – two stamps in the shape of the Masonic Square & Compasses picturing Ben Franklin on one and the other picturing Winston Churchill, Douglas MacArthur, John Glenn and George Washington. I doubt that these stamps ever saw the nation which issued them – the Central African Republic.

## THE SHRINERS

I think we all recall the stamp issued by Canada on September 19, 2001 to recognize the Shriners and the work they do. I recently was posed the question of “Were the creators of the Shrine Freemasons?” The following article should answer that question.



The Shriners International describes itself as a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. There are approximately 360,000 members from 195 temples in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Mexico, the Republic of Panama, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Europe and Australia. It is best known for the Shriners Hospitals for Children that it administers and the red fezzes that members wear. In 1870 there were several thousand Masons in Manhattan, many of whom lunched at the Knickerbocker Cottage at a special table on the second floor. There, the idea of a new Fraternity for Masons stressing fun and fellowship, was discussed. Walter M. Fleming, M.D. and William J. Florence took the idea seriously enough to act upon it.

William Florence, a world-renowned actor, while on tour in Marseille, was invited to a party given by an Arabian diplomat. The entertainment was something in the nature of an elaborately staged musical comedy. At its conclusion, the guests became members of a secret society. He took copious notes and drawings at his initial viewing and on two other occasions – once in Algiers and once in Cairo. When he returned to New York in 1870, he showed his material to Walter Fleming. Fleming took the ideas supplied by Florence and converted them into what would become the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Fleming created the ritual, emblem, and costumes. They were both initiated on August 13, 1870 and then initiated 11 other men on June 16, 1871. The group adopted a Middle Eastern theme and soon established Temples – the first being at the New York City Masonic Hall on September 26, 1872; Walter Fleming was the first Potentate. In an effort to encourage membership, on June 6, 1878, the Imperial Grand Council of the Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America was created with Fleming elected the first Imperial Potentate. By 1938 there were about 340,000 members in the United States.

William J., or Billy, Florence was the professional name used by William Jermyn Conlin, a popular actor, and a Freemason. Born July 26, 1831 in Albany, NY. He adopted the stage as a profession and met with immediate success and continuous popularity until the time of his death in Philadelphia on November 19, 1891. He was a member of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 155 of Philadelphia and received his degrees on October 12, 1853. He was a member of Zerubbabel Chapter No. 162 in 1854 and Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1 in 1854. He became a member of Aurora Grata Lodge of Perfection on April 16, 1867.

Dr. Walter Millard Fleming was born on June 13, 1838 in Portland, Maine and died at Mount Vernon, New York on September 9, 1923. He was a prominent medical man, and joined the Masonic Fraternity on February 13, 1869 being raised in Rochester Lodge No. 660 of Rochester, New York. He moved his office and residence to New York City and associated with Aurora Grata Lodge of Perfection in 1870. He received the Consistory degrees up to and including the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree on May 31, 1871 and was given the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree on September 19, 1872. He affiliated with New York Lodge No. 330, New York City on December 3, 1872. He was exalted in Lafayette Chapter No. 207, Royal Arch Masons, became a member of Adelpic Council No. 7, Royal and Select Masters, and was knighted in Columbia Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar of New York City on March 19, 1872. He was elected Eminent Commander at the succeeding Conclave on April 15, 1872 and served as the Illustrious Potentate for the next four years. Elected the first Imperial Potentate, he served in that position until December 1887. He also served as the first Grand Imperial Potentate from 1876 to 1886.

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The following articles have been copied from Bro. Emiel Crab's translations of the research documented in "De Verlichte Loep", the newsletter produced by De Maconnieke Filatelistische Studiegroep De Getande Rand. Bro. Crab is now the Editor of that publication. The members of that Study Group appear to be able to acquire a lot of Masonic information from the various European countries as well as those of South America. We thank them for their efforts.

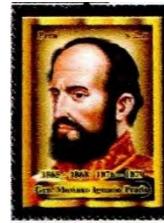
### **ARTURO MANUEL ODRIA AMORETTI**

Bro. Odria was born November 26, 1896 in Tarma, Peru – a town east of Lima centrally located in the Andes. He died February 18, 1974 in Lima, Peru. He was a member of the military, a politician, and president of Peru for two terms (1948-1956) acting essentially as a military dictator. After attending the Dominican primary school, he went to the San Ramon College in Tarma. His father died in 1914 and the family moved to Lima. In 1919 he graduated from the Military Academy and joined the Army. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 1924 and was appointed as a teacher at the Military Academy. In 1941 he took part in the battle of Zarumilla during the Ecuadorian-Peruvian war and was promoted to Major General and appointed director of a special training school for warfare. He was promoted to General in 1946 and was appointed Minister of Government and police affairs. In 1948 he successfully carried out a coup against President Jose Bustamante and was appointed president. Two years later, he resigned and was temporarily succeeded by Zenon Noriega, but won the 1950 elections as the only candidate. During his second term, he was popular among the poor but civil rights were still very limited. His motto was "not words but acts" and he did much to promote education, health, security, integration, and public works. This gave work to thousands of people with a major economic step forward for the country. In 1956 he allowed opposition parties and finally free elections and was succeeded by Manuel Prado Ugarteche. He remained involved in politics and helped form an alliance and opposition bloc in Parliament. After a military coup dismissed Pres. Belaunde, Odria took a step back from politics and later died of a heart attack.

Bro. Odria was a member of Manco Capac Lodge No. 35 in Lima. He is included in the list of "Gobbernantes Masones" (Masonic Government) located on the site of the Grand Lodge of Peru. He is also listed on the "Dialogo-entre-masones" and "Apuntes de la historia de los Masones Antiguos, Libres y Aceptados del Peru – GRAN ORIENTE DEL PERU" websites. He is pictured on stamps issued by Brazil on August 25, 1953 and Peru on July 15, 2011.



Stamps picturing Bro. Odría



Stamp picturing Bro. Prado Ochoa

## MARIANO IGNACIO PRADO OCHOA

Bro. Prado Ochoa is also included in the list of “Gobbernantes MASONES” (Masonic Government) located on the site of the Grand Lodge of Peru. He is also listed on the “Dialogo-entre-masones” and “Apuntes de la historia de los MASONES Antiguos, Libres y Aceptados del Peru – GRAN ORIENTE DEL PERU” websites. He is pictured on a stamp issued by Peru on July 25, 2011.

Bro. Prado Ochoa was born on December 18, 1826 in Huantico, Peru to members of an important Creole family in that town. He died on May 5, 1901 in Paris, France. He was a member of the military, an anarchist, and an interim president of Peru as well as a two-term president. For a short time, he studied law at the University of San Marcos but had to return home to represent the family interests after the death of his brother. In 1853 he joined the Army in Lima, leaving his mistress and child. He participated in several wars and revolutions within Peru and in 1864 was appointed Prefect of Arequipa. He led a coup against Juan Antonio Pezet after the signing of the Pereja Vivanco Treaty and held the interim presidency for two months and won the 1865 elections. During his reign he defended Peru against attacks by Spain during the Battle of Callao in 1896 and was proclaimed a national hero. In 1868 he had to resign under pressure from the Peruvian Congress and left for Chile. He returned to Peru in 1872 and in 1876 won the election and again became president serving until 1879. In the beginning of his term he was involved in a war in the Pacific. He decided that he had to go Europe to buy arms but was seen by the Peruvian people as treason. Bro. Nicolas de Pierola used the opportunity to commit a coup and proclaim himself President. At the end of the war Prado Ochoa returned to Peru but went back to Europe where he died of cancer.

## JOSE FELIX RIBAS HERRERA

Bro. Ribas is included in a list of prominent Freemasons of the Gran Logia de la Republica Venezuela. He is also on the list of 39 Masons buried in the National Pantheon (symbolic remains were placed in a casket). He is pictured on a stamp issued by Venezuela on April 26, 1976.



Bro.: Ribas was born September 19, 1775 in Caracas, Venezuela. His father was the Mayor of that city and took education very seriously, so Jose was sent to a seminary. He then went to work in agriculture. At the age of 21 he married Josefa Palacios, the aunt of Bro.: Simon Bolivar and soon began to take an interest in politics and republican ideals and sympathized with the independence movement. In 1808 he took part in a coup but was taken prisoner. He defended himself by telling that the day of the action he was at a public square relaxing himself. In reality, he was often with other Republicans on the square for preparing an uprising. He was later acquitted by the authorities. On April 25, 1810, he took a seat as Councilor in the Supreme Junta of Caracas. In October he organized a protest meeting because of the execution of 28 Freedom Fighters in Quito. In addition to his political activities in the interim government, Ribas was appointed lieutenant colonel of the battalion Barlovento. Although he had no military background, he paid for the Army himself. He also maintained close contact with Bro.: Francisco de Miranda and offered him the necessary support when he came into the country.

Along with other Republicans, Ribas became a member of the Sociedad Patriotica (a kind of Order) as opposed to the new Venezuelan Congress. It was funded by Bro.: Miranda in accordance with the French model of Jacobin Club where eloquence on the basis of equal rights of all residents being encouraged. After the fall of the First Republic of Venezuela in 1812, Ribas went with Bolivar to Curacao and then to New Granada where Bolivar began to fight for freedom. In 1813 Ribas was nominated as general by Bolivar and during a brief period in the Second Republic of Venezuela fought along with him in various battles. The most important was the “Battle of La Victoria” where he and his comrades successfully foiled the attack of the royal army. He encouraged his army with the words “We have the choice between victory or death, so we have to have victory”. During the battle of Urica, he fought again with the Republicans but lost the battle. He helped in vain with his troops but had to flee. He was betrayed by a slave to the royal army. He was caught and beheaded. His head was fried in boiling oil and then exhibited in a small cage in Caracas. Nearly two centuries later, Ribas was “rehabilitated” by President Hugo Chavez.

## JUAN LOVERA

Juan Lovera was born July 11, 1776 in Caracas, Venezuela and died there on January 29, 1841. He was a noted Venezuelan painter in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and his most famous works – Revolution of April 19, 1810 and The Independence of July 5, 1811 are both depicted on stamps released by Venezuela in 1960 and 1962, respectively. He is pictured on a Venezuelan stamp issued on March 27, 1980. He is included on a list of Gran Logia de la Republica Venezuela, listing prominent Freemasons in that nation.



Bro.: Juan Lovera was the son of a candle master in the cathedral of Caracas and his wife. He studied at the Dominican Convent of San Jacinto where he also received painting lessons given by the monks. At that time he went often to the studio of Antonio Jose Landaeta, a painter, and learned a lot from him. One of the first portraits he made was that of Alexander von Humboldt in 1799. In 1808, Lovera collaborated on the reconstruction of the Victorian Church – especially the restoration of the altar – and he painted a portrait of God. In 1814 his family emigrated to Cumana when the army of Jose Tomas Boves occupied the city of Caracas; but in 1820, he returned to Caracas. In 1821 he was appointed as a government painter by Gen. Carlos Soublette, mayor of Caracas – a very remarkable action at the time because he had a tinted skin. This worked out well for Lovera because of his poor health and had no money in his pocket and it enabled him to continue painting. Due to his high position, the residents forgot his skin color and he was popular with the residents by his portrait painting – including such as Bro.: Jose Antonio Paez, Cristobal Mendoza, Bro.: Simon Bolivar, Bro.: Jose Maria Vargas Ponce. Together with Bro.: Francisco de Paula Avendano, they created the first lithographic workshop opening in 1828.

1835 was an important year for Lover. The government of Caracas wanted to purchase his most important painting (19 April 1810). Lovera felt very honored and donated his painting. In 1838 he wrote a letter to Congress informing them that he would donate his next major work – the Signature of Independence – to the government. In the last years of his life he invested a lot of his time teaching poor students. He was appointed professor at the Academy for drawing art in Caracas. In 1841, after his death as a tribute, an arts society was founded.

### **FRANCISCO GE ACAYABA de MONTEZUMA, VISCONDE de JEQUITINHONHA**

Francisco was born on March 23, 1794 in Bahia, Brazil, with the name Francisco Gomes Bandao, the son of a Portuguese trader and his wife. His first wife passed away in 1836 and he re-married six years later. Upon proclamation of independence he changed his name to Francisco Ge Acayaba the Montezuma. He graduated from the University of Coimbra in 1822. During the revolution he was a member of the provisional government of Bahia. He sat in the constitutional meeting of 1823 in Bahia and represented the province in the fourth legislative term from 1838 to 1841. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs and interim Minister of Justice in the fourth cabinet of the government of Diego Antonio Jeijo. He was extraordinary envoy and plenipotentiary minister (diplomat) in England. He served as senator for Bahia in 1851, advisor to the government in 1850 and founder and honorary president of the Brazilian institute of the Bar Council. He was one of the 27 founders of the Brazilian Historical and Geographical Institute in 1838. He published an impressive number of works on economics, history, politics, and law. Although he refused the title of Baron, he was, by imperial decree, raised to nobility with the title “Viscount with Greatness”. Moreover, he was “Commendador de Ordem de Nossa Senhora da Conceicao de Vila Vicosa” and honored with the medal of the War of Independence. He died February 15, 1870 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Bro.: Francisco played an important role in Brazilian Freemasonry. On March 12, 1829, while in exile, he received the approval of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite in the Netherlands, now Belgium. Back in Brazil, he installed the Supreme Council on November 12, 1832 and received the title of first Sovereign Commander of Brazil. In mid-1889 he received the dignity of the Imperial Order of the Cross awarded by proclamation of the Republic of Brazil and was admitted to the Order of Freemasons of the Holy Cross Knights led by Pedro I. A Lodge was named after him. He is pictured on a stamp issued by Brazil in 2013.



### **JOAO BATISTA DA SILVA LEITAO de ALMEIDA GARRETT VISCOUNDE de ALMEIDA GARRETT**

Born on February 4, 1799 in Porto, Portugal, Garrett was a Portuguese writer, poet, and politician. He died of cancer on December 9, 1854 in Lisbon, Portugal. According to “Grande Loga Regular de Portugal”, Bro.: Garrett was one of the most famous Freemasons of his time. Unfortunately, the details are presently unknown. He was pictured on a stamp issued by Portugal on March 7, 1957.



In 1809 Garrett and his family were forced to flee to the Azores during a French invasion in Portugal. He received his education from his uncle, Bro.: Dom Frei Alexandre da Sagrada Familla, the 25<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Angra. His nanny often told him stories which he later incorporated into his poems and novels. Early on, he changed his name to Joao Baptista da Silva Leitao after his godfather. In 1818 he moved to Coimbra to study law at the university. In that same year he published under the name Almeida Garrett “O Retrato de Venus” which caused quite a stir. In 1820 the Liberal Revolution broke out and although he was not actively participating in the violence, he wrote two verses which were copied by his friends and distributed in the streets of Porto. Because of this, he had to leave Portugal and seek refuge in England. There he was influenced by the works of Shakespeare and Walter Scott. In 1825 he moved to France where he wrote his first romantic works. He returned to Portugal in 1826 where he issued a few newspapers. In 1828 he was exiled again to England where he staged his first play at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. After the Portuguese Civil War, he was appointed Consul General in Brussel. On his return to Portugal, he established a new theater organization. In 1852 he was appointed by Maria II of Portugal to 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount and that same year was minister of Foreign Affairs.