

Revolution Revelations

MSCNY Article No. 73

These wonderful stamps were issued by Aitutaki in 1976 (American Revolution Bicentennial). They honor John Trumbull who created the three paintings depicted. The US issued stamps for the first painting (*Declaration of Independence*), and all the Freemasons have been identified (MP Vol. 56, No. 4, December 2000 – Group Stamps). For the second painting (*Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown*), the US issued a stamp sheet, but did not include many of soldiers in the painting either on the sheet or on the perforated

stamps. As to the third painting (*General Washington Resigning his Commission*), it has not been used for a US stamp. The Aitutaki stamps are the only stamps I have seen showing this painting.

I have analyzed this whole situation on the following pages; the objective being to identify individuals who are now seen on an actual stamp, but not seen on US stamps, and to identify the Freemasons. This accomplished, the stamps can be added to a Masonic collection for the applicable individuals.



The Masonic Philatelist

Freemasons Shown on this Stamp (Not seen on US stamps)



2. Marquis de Laval (1747–1817), Lodge St. Jean de Montmorency – Luxembourg, Paris

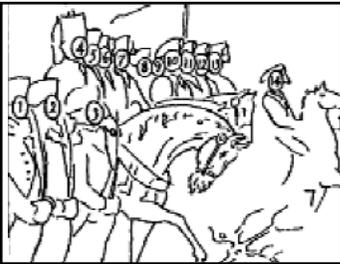
4. Armand-Louis de Gontaut duc de Lauzun (1747–1793), Lodge St. Jean de Montmorency–Luxembourg, Parris

7. Marquis de Saint-Simon Montbleru (1743–1819), Lodge La Candeur, Paris

8. Jean-Axel, Comte de Fersen (1754–1810), member of La Society Olympique, which admitted only Freemasons.

9. Joseph-Francocois Damas, Compte Charles de Damas-d'Antigny (1758–1829), Lodge La Candeur, Paris

10. Francois-Jean Chastellux, Chevalier de Chastellux (1734–1788), Lodge Saint Alexandre d' Ecosse, Paris



Freemasons Shown on this Stamp (Not seen on US stamps)



12. James Clinton (1736–1812), Warren Lodge, Little Britain, New York

13. Mordecia Gist (1743–1792), Lodge No. 16, Baltimore, Maryland

15. Edward Hand (1744–1802), Montgomery Lodge, No. 19, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

16. John Peter Muhlenberg (1746–1807), Lodge No. 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

18. Ebenezer Huntington (1754–1834), American Union Lodge, Roxbury, Massachusetts



For more precise and additional information on the foregoing, please refer to *The Masonic Philatelist*, Vol. 33, No. 1, September and October 1976, page 8, "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown," by Wessel M. Lane, the Netherlands.

The Masonic Philatelist

The third painting (*General George Washington Resigning His Commission*) as seen on the Aitutaki stamps is enlarged below with a key showing some of the individuals depicted. The Freemasons we know, and who have been depicted on US

stamps. are #15–James Monroe, #17–James Madison, and #22–George Washington. Only time will tell if there are yet other Masons. Masonic memberships emerge very slowly as old records come to light and reveal information of this nature.



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| 1. Thomas Mifflin, Pennsylvania, President Delegate | 9. Richard D. Spaight, North Carolina Delegate | 17. James Madison, Virginia Spectator | 25. General Smallwood, Maryland Spectator |
| 2. Charles Thompson, Pennsylvania Secretary | 10. Benjamin Hawkins, North Carolina Delegate | 18. William Ellery, Rhode Island Delegate | 26. Gen. Otho Holland Williams, Maryland Spectator |
| 3. Elbridge Gerry, Massachusetts Delegate | 11. Abiel Foster, New Hampshire Delegate | 19. J. Townley Chase, Maryland Delegate | 27. Col. Samuel Smith, Maryland Spectator |
| 4. Hugh Williamson, North Carolina Delegate | 12. Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Delegate | 20. Samuel Hardy, Virginia Delegate | 28. Col. John E. Howard, Maryland Spectator |
| 5. Samuel Osgood, Massachusetts Delegate | 13. Arthur Lee, Virginia Delegate | 21. Charles Morris, Pennsylvania Delegate | 29. Charles Carroll and two daughters, Maryland |
| 6. Eleazer McComb, Delaware Delegate | 14. David Howell, Rhode Island Delegate | 22. General Washington | 30. Mrs. Washington and her three grandchildren |
| 7. George Partridge, Massachusetts Delegate | 15. James Monroe, Virginia Delegate | 23. Col. Benjamin Walker Aide-de-camp | 31. Daniel of St. Jenifer, Maryland Spectator |
| 8. Edward Lloyd, Maryland Delegate | 16. Jacob Read, South Carolina Delegate | 24. Col. David Humphreys Aide-de-camp | |

The Masonic Philatelist

With regards to John Trumbull, he was a remarkable American artist who became our eyes for the important events in the American Revolution. He was the next best thing to a camera. The amazing paintings seen on the stamps featured are in the US National Capitol. I have seen them first-hand and they are breath-taking (all exceedingly large). To create paintings of that nature, one needs to be very special. Trumbull was not a Freemason as far as we know; however, I would say he created more paintings of Freemasons than any other artist in history.

CLM



John Trumbull (1756–1843)

Notes for Clarification on the *Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown* Stamps

1. The US Bicentennial Issue of 1976, #1686a, b, c, d, e was on a sheet showing the Trumbull painting with the soldiers on the left cropped out, and individual stamps within the sheet. The soldiers not contained within an individual stamp (i.e., in the background) are therefore not on a stamp.
2. Because the Aitutaki stamps for the *Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown* painting includes additional Freemasons as shown, we now have a specific stamp for these individuals. The Aitutaki stamps cut off two soldiers (#19, Timothy Pickering, and #23, Nicholas Fish), however neither of these individuals were Freemasons.
3. There may be other non-US stamps showing the “new” Freemason identified on these stamps. Whatever the case, we now have them associated with the Aitutaki stamps.