



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 17

JANUARY 1961

NO. 5

Champion of Liberty, G. Garibaldi



First Day of Issue November 2, 1960

"Italy has given much to civilization. Its people, wherever they have migrated, have been builders of Communities and Cities. The Italian Immigrants have contributed to the development of America in every field of human endeavor. They have been a great asset to America in promoting a lasting friendship between two great nations."

ARTHUR E. SUMMERFIELD
Postmaster General
of the
United States of America

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

JANUARY 1961
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By the sign of the Gavel

At our December 2nd meeting we had the pleasure of viewing a portion of Mr. John Britt's outstanding airmail collection, this particular phase covering the subject of Essays, Proofs and Trial Colors. Unfortunately, our distinguished barrister friend was unable to remain for the meeting because of a severe virus attack, from which I am glad to report he is now fully recovered.

In his absence, Brothers Sehlmeier, Brooks, Glaser and Yarry endeavored to substitute in giving explanations of the various items, for which I thank

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collector Club Building
22 East 35th Street, N.Y.C.
5th Meeting — Jan. 6, 1961
Resolutions
Members Exhibit - Prizes

IN MEMORIAM

BRO. RUSSELL B. ROANE
BRO. GEORGE E. HAYNES
May their souls find eternal rest.

them. Despite our having missed John's customary eloquence and wit, the meeting was interesting and enjoyed by all present.

Endeavor to attend our next meeting—in fact why not make a New Year's resolution to start the new year right and attend each monthly meeting. Dr. Swan promises an interesting evening — "Resolutions, Members' Exhibit, Prizes." Come down and bring something to show.

Now it is with profound sorrow that I must report the death of our beloved Past President, Bro. Russell B. Roane. Approximately twenty of the local members of the Club attended the Masonic funeral services on December 7, 1960. Further details concerning this sad occurrence will appear in our next issue.

On behalf of the Officers of the Club, including myself, I extend to each and every one of you our best wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year.
—Emanuel M. Reggel.

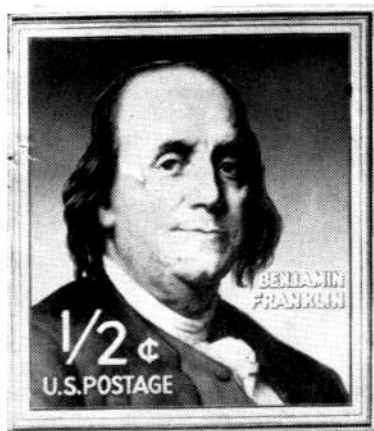
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin, whose likeness has appeared on so many of our stamps, is depicted above on the lowest value of the issue 1954-56, popularly known as the Liberty Series. It replaces a similar denomination, with different portrait, which had been included in the preceding Presidential Series of 1938. The likeness was reproduced from a portrait in pastel by J. S. Dupla in a book entitled "The Pictorial Line of Benjamin Franklin, Printer," furnished by the Library of Congress.

Franklin was born at Boston, Massachusetts, January 17, 1706.

He died at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1790.

He was made a Mason June 24, 1731 in St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia. He was elected Junior Warden June



24, 1731, Worshipful Master, June 5, 1732, and Provincial Grand Master in June 1734. In 1779, while in Paris, he was elected VENERABLE of the LOGE des IX SOEURS. It is said of Franklin that he "did more to establish Freemasonry in America, than any other man of his time."

Franklin excelled as a Statesman, Scientist, and Publisher. Early in life he learned the printer's trade and after moving to Philadelphia, he edited the "Pennsylvania Gazette," and "Poor Richard's Almanack." Among his inventions were the lightning rod, the "Franklin Stove," and experiments in electricity. The latter forms the subject of a commemorative stamp issued on January 17, 1956 to honor the 250th anniversary of his birth.

The central subject of this stamp is a reproduction of a painting entitled "Franklin Taking Electricity from the Sky," by Benjamin West.

As early as 1753 Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster for the colonies. Later he was sent to London as agent for the Pennsylvania Colony. He was a member of the Continental Congress, and served on the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. In 1776 he sailed for France, where he spent nine years pleading the cause of the new republic. His last service was as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He was considered one of the outstanding men of the eighteenth century.—"Masonic Philately," by Sam Brooks.)

OUR DECEMBER MEETING

The invocation was given by Bro. Sam Brooks, our Chaplain.

Absences explained—Secretary Gomm, due to business pressure; Treasurer Munk, due to family illness; Bro.

Charles Sanna, due to car trouble.

Norman Sehlmeier appointed as Acting Secretary for the meeting.

Pres. Reggel greeted all, including two of the older members, Ben Glaser and Morris Strauss, and a new member, Lloyd Ellison who had journeyed here to attend one of our meetings and meet some of his fellow-members. Bro. Ellison responded with a brief narration of his many Masonic and Philatelic activities.

Letters read: from Bro. Orrie G. Odell and Bro. Wm. Huxsell extending Season's greetings to all; also, read by Dave Schwarz, letter from Kalaupapa Stamp Club of Molokai (leper colony), thanking for stamps sent.

Publicity Director Salomon introduced a visitor, his son-in-law, Robert Duberstein.

Bro. Joe Ferola was thanked for his good work during the meeting in translating an Italian manuscript relating to Garibaldi for possible use in the Philatelist.

Dr. Swan reported on some of the prices realized at the recent John A. Fox auction sale, and promised to prepare an article for the M.P. relating to the current auction price trends for Masonic items.

Pres. Reggel explained that our scheduled Guest Speaker, John Britt, who had been in attendance before the meeting, felt ill to the extent that it had been advisable for him to return home. However, Mr. Britt's album pages, consisting of many choice items—essays, trials, designs, proofs, and finished products, all taken from his prize-winning collections of airmails, had been placed previously in the exhibit frames. Norman Sehlmeier endeavored to substitute for John and, without preparation for the specific subject matter, did a fair job. When it came to some of the intricacies, such as the exact distinction between the terms Essays, Proofs, Color Trials, etc., he received valiant support from Bros. Glaser, Brooks and Yarry. All in all, it was a splendid exhibit, and the members voted to forward appropriate certificate and thanks to John Britt.

All present joined in extending to Bro. Jake Glaser their best wishes for his forthcoming holiday trip to Florida. (Yes, he was fortunate enough to have left Brooklyn before the blizzard.)

Discussion had regarding holding another one of the popular Swap Nights, but decided to defer fixing a date until likelihood of more clement weather.

Pres. Reggel read a portion of letter from Bro. P. A. Wilde of Cardiff, Wales, conveying Season's Greetings to all.

GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI

"The George Washington of Italy"

Garibaldi was born in Nice in 1807, son of a small time sea captain. Short were his schooldays and most of them spent on the waterfront. At twelve he was already before the mast on his way to Odessa, Constantinople, and points east. (At 13 he had already saved two children from drowning.) He was 18 when he sailed up the Tiber to Rome. The world's ancient capital made an indelible impression on him.

One day in 1833 at Taganrog on the Black Sea, Garibaldi met another Ligurian who spoke to him of Mazzini and first inflamed his mind with the ideal of a lifetime: the freeing of Italy from foreign and domestic tyrants. He joined the secret "Giovane Italia" Society and enrolled in the Piedmontese navy to start a revolt, which failed. Sentenced to death, he fled to Marseilles. Enrolled in the flotilla of the Bey of Tunis, he reappeared in Marseilles to help the sick of the 1835 cholera epidemic. In December 1835 he embarked for Rio.

At the head of a band of Italian and South American liberals, Garibaldi spent 13 years of almost continuous fighting in South America, first as a sea captain in aid of the Republic of Rio Grande do Sul against the Brazilian Emperor, then in defense of Uruguay against Rosas, tyrant of Argentina. Shot once through the neck, captured and tortured at Gualaguay, Garibaldi roamed the great forests and plains between the Parana and the sea, leading his men into endless skirmish and battle. The phrase "Repubblica Italiana" already appeared on his flag in these years.

In 1839, minutes after meeting her, he asked 18-year-old Anita Riberas to follow him. She did, and fought at his side. Captured, she broke away and fled through the wilderness to rejoin him. They married. Their first born (Menotti) was often carried, slung in a kerchief from Garibaldi's neck, as the couple swam the rivers of the wild country they crossed. Later, in Rome, she was with him on the battlements. During the ensuing escape, she died in his arms in the forest of Comacchio. No girl known to history ever lived such a decade of love and battle with the man who was her fate.

Then in 1848 the trumpets of freedom sounded through Europe, Garibaldi with his "Italian Legion" sailed for Italy. The Old World now rang with his legend. He was no longer the obscure sailor who had fled with a price on his head 14 years before. On hearing that Carlo Alberto (the king who had sentenced him) was at war with the Austrians, Garibaldi forgave and joined him. With his volunteers, Garibaldi won at Luino, Varese, and Morazzone. But the Austrians carried the war.

The Roman Republic lasted from November 1848 to July 1849, when the French army finally overwhelmed the besieged. Not one who then died there dared hope that a few thousand volunteers could withstand the armies of Napoleon III, Franz Joseph, and the Neapolitan Bourbons, all vying for the honor of crushing freedom. Yet the blood of Italians from so many states of the Peninsula, dripping intermingled into the rubble of the Janiculum walls, was to raise the idea of a United Italy from a dream to a necessity.

The triumvirate (Mazzini, Armellini and Saffi) governed Rome well and justly. Garibaldi arrived with his volunteers and, though denied supreme army command, exercised it through the power of fascination. Twice he sortied to drive away the Bourbon armies to the south, and was wounded. On April 30, 1849, he defeated the French on the northern ramparts. When they re-appeared, reinforced, a month later, he led his men recklessly from dawn to nightfall to break the siege. But it closed in. The Republic was doomed.

The Vascello, Casa dei Quattro Venti, Porta San Pancrazio, are names that live in legend. While cannons pounded the houses of poor and rich alike, the Romans rushed to the walls as in the days of Horatius at the Bridge. Garibaldi's officers fell by the score. They were the flower of many noted northern families: Masina, Dandolo, Manara . . . Mameli, who had written the hymn which was to become today's Italian national anthem, was 22. It was after nightfall when he begged Garibaldi to let him join the charge which was to be his, and the battle's last.

A thousand-odd men followed Garibaldi in his escape. With three European armies closing in, he led them, mostly at night, across the Apennines to San Marino. There they dis-

banded. Garibaldi himself embarked on the Adriatic, but the Austrian gunboats forced him ashore. He carried his warrior-wife, who was with child and ill, through the forest combed by Austrian soldiers. In a shack she died. Through the night, Garibaldi fled south with one last wounded companion. Those who helped them on their way, if caught, were shot.

From hand to midnight hand, Garibaldi was passed back, by patriots, over the Apennines into Tuscany. In the plains behind him the Austrian firing squads were adding to the roster of Risorgimento martyrs men and boys who had helped Garibaldi hold Rome: Father Ugo Bassi, the Redshirts' chaplain; Ciceruacchio, who had led the Roman populace to the ramparts, and his son, who was 13. But Garibaldi could not turn back to share their fate. His life's work was still unfinished.

On the shore of Tuscany, in a lonely dawn, the hounded general finally boarded a fishing smack. To Nice (expelled), to Tunis (expelled), then to Tangiers, Liverpool, and finally (December 1850) New York where his welcome was commensurate to his fame. Antonio Meucci, a Tuscan-born scientist of Staten Island, who was tinkering on a contraption later to become the telephone, asked him into his house. There he lived, restless, helping his host make candles for a living, his ears ever listening to the distant rumbles from Italy, crushed but not spent.

From Staten Island, Garibaldi departed on distant voyages—to China, Australasia, Chile, Peru. In January 1854 he left Staten Island for good to meet Mazzini in London. The two great revolutionary idealists now found that they differed: while Mazzini clung to his republicanism, Garibaldi had veered to the persuasion that without the help of Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont Italy could never break her shackles. Readmitted to Piedmont, Garibaldi met Cavour and the King, pledging his sword in any future war of liberation.

The second Risorgimento war (1859) found Garibaldi leading the Cacciatori delle Alpi, a volunteer corps within the (?...)*montese army. He beat the Austrian General Urban at Varese and San Fermo, and entered Brescia. The hasty peace of Villafranco, which left Venetia still in Austrian hands, cooled, but did not destroy Garibaldi's faith in Victor Emmanuel and Cavour. He was right. Nine months later Cavour blinked both eyes and proffered a hidden hand when Garibaldi and his "One Thousand" embarked from Pied-

montese waters on the craziest undertaking known to military history.

On the night of May 5, 1860, from the rock of Quarto near Genoa, Garibaldi embarked on two steamers with 1073 men. His destination: Sicily. His intent: to tear from the Bourbon kings of Naples the whole of southern Italy. Few of his men were regular soldiers, most were boys who fled home at the Garibaldi call. At Talamone, he landed to raid a Tuscan arsenal for weapons. The Neapolitan navy scouring the area missed him. He put foot on Sicilian soil at Marsala on May 11. Now, only a kingdom to conquer lay before him.

They must conquer or must die who have no retreat . . . To kindle rebellion in Sicily and acquire fresh volunteers, "The Thousand" could afford nothing less than immediate victory. On May 15, 1860, at Calatafimi, they met the first Bourbon army—5000 strong. With no cannon, no cavalry, Garibaldi attacked at the point of the bayonet. He drove all before him. Though he squandered men on the bloody slopes and appeared himself to be seeking death, the victory, echoing through the island, gave him a new lease on life. Sicilians rose and started to help in earnest. "The Thousand" were on their way.

Though "The Thousand" were still fighting one against ten, Garibaldi's fame of invincibility now made up for the missing nine. Centuries of misrule almost exploded in his face, as the "picciotti" (Sicilian boys) came flocking to his banners. In great silence, on the night of May 26, he marched his men around Palermo to break in where least expected. Three days of street-to-street fighting followed, while the helping population was decimated by the guns of the fort. The liberation of Palermo awoke Europe to the realization that the redshirted "bandits" were making history.

While Europe gaped, and Cavour from Turin maneuvered to stave off foreign intervention, Garibaldi and his swelling army of volunteers defeated the Bourbons again at Milazzo, crossed the Strait, marched up the mountains of Calabria and entered Naples. Led by Francis II himself, the Bourbon army, still strong, rallied on the Volturno. On October 1, in a two-day maneuvered battle, Garibaldi broke its backbone forever. In the meanwhile the Piedmontese were descending through the Papal States, beating Lamarmora and his Swiss and Belgians at Castelfidardo, to join the North with South.

At Teano, north of Naples, on Oct. 26th, Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont

*First part of word not legible.

and Garibaldi met. With one phrase "Saluto il primo Re d'Italia!" Garibaldi surrendered his powers over the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily. For the first time since the fall of ancient Rome, Italy was united from the Alps to Sicily's tip. The King offered Garibaldi an estate, a castle, a ship . . . They were refused. Aboard the boat which was to take him to Caprera, the lonely island he had acquired years before off the tip of Sardinia, Garibaldi placed a bag of seed-corn. At the last minute, he had to borrow a few hundred lire for his immediate needs.

Only Rome and Venetia now remained to be joined to unite Italy. Garibaldi's heart burned especially for Rome where so many comrades had fallen 13 years before. In 1862 he was again in Sicily recruiting volunteers for a dash ("O Roma, o Mortel!") on the Eternal City. In August he crossed the Strait only to be intercepted, at Aspromonte, by the fire of Italian soldiers. Garibaldi paced in front of his men to keep them from answering, until a bullet smashed his ankle. Technically a prisoner, he reaffirmed his allegiance to the Italian Crown, and returned to Caprera to nurse his wound.

Leading a volunteer corps in the 1866 war, Garibaldi marched up the Trentino valley defeating the Austrians at Monte Suello and Bezzecca. He was converging on Trento when the Italian headquarters ordered him to stop and await the impending armistice. This meant that the Trentino was to be abandoned. Yet Garibaldi answered with his famous "Ubbidisco" (I obey). The next year (1867) he made his last attempt on Rome. With his two sons, he crossed the Papal border winning at Monterotondo, only to see his Red-shirts decimated at Mentana by the French with their new repeating rifles.

Now 63, the aging warrior's ear was cocked to the call of republican guns. On learning that France (1870) had proclaimed a Republic, and was holding out against the Germans, he rushed, with his Redshirts and sons, to Dijon where he won for the French one of the few battles of their losing war. Back in Caprera he rarely left his seagirt fastness. Dreaming of universal brotherhood he wrote, tilled the stony island, and planted the pine woods which stand tall there today.

On the evening of June 2, 1882, the old sailor and farmer sat, propped with pillows, in his armchair overlooking the lonely island and the sea-path of the setting of the sun. Two birds, whom he used to feed, alighted on the sill

and started chirping. Someone was about to scatter them when "no, let them be," he said. The voice which had rung out in 50 battles, none but for freedom fought, had given its last order.

(Note: The foregoing account of our valiant hero's part in man's eternal struggle against tyranny and oppression was forwarded to us by Brother Charles Sanna and is contained in a brochure describing the Garibaldi and Meucci Memorial Museum, at 420 Tompkins Avenue, Rosebank, Staten Island, N.Y. We are indebted to the author, Mr. Lino S. Lipinsky, for the permission which he so kindly gave to reprint this. Mr. Lipinsky is Director of the Museum, which is owned by the Order of the Sons of Italy in America. It is located in the same house where Garibaldi took refuge, as a guest of Antonio Meucci, after the fall of the Roman Republic in 1849.)

Brother Walter R. Harbeson submits the following Masonic information from article in "10,000 Famous Freemasons."

While in Uruguay Garibaldi became a member of Lodge Les Amis de Patrie about 1844. When he came to the United States he affiliated with Tompkins Lodge No. 471, Stapleton, Staten Island, N.Y. In 1860 he became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Palermo, and in 1867 called a convention to unite all the Italian bodies, which however was not successful. He was an honorary member of the Egyptian Rite of Memphis. In 1863 he was elected Grand Commander of the Supreme Council 33 AASR, in Italy. Garibaldi Lodge No. 542, New York City, was named in his honor. It was warranted on June 11, 1864 while he was Grand Master of Italy.

The monument erected to Garibaldi in Rome had large bronze wreaths superimposed on it, acknowledging him as the Grand Master of Italy. These were removed during the Mussolini period but were restored in 1956.

Among Garibaldi's writings is contained the following significant statement: "Whenever there is a human cause, we are certain to find Freemasonry, for it is the fundamental basis of all true liberal associations. Thank all my brethren and tell them with all my heart, that forever I will pride myself upon my Masonic connection."

What could be more Masonic than the words on the Francis Scott Key American Credo stamp (U.S. #1142): "And this be our Motto, in GOD is our TRUST." This stamp belongs in every collection of Masonry on Stamps."

LETTERS

Another one of our octogenary members who keeps young, at least partly through philatelic activity, writes:

"Dear Brother Gommio:

"Attached is my check to cover dues which will appreciate the customary dues card.

"A little history of myself is for your information. Am a sixty-year Mason, belonging to all York Rite bodies of our city (Lima, Ohio), past master blue Lodge in 1930, Valley of Toledo, Ohio Consistory forty years, and will soon pass my eighty-sixth birthday.

"Started my stamp collection in 1888, and while it is not a complete collection, I am really proud of what I have — a nice collection of early United States stamps, plate blocks since the 1920's. The recent story in the M.P. regarding the Liberty Bell 2¢ stamp surely is interesting and am proud to own a substantial block of them.

"Would appreciate being able to attend one of your meetings but distance and my physical condition will not permit such a trip, nor was I able to attend the District meeting held recently in Columbus, Ohio.

"Kindly extend to the other Officers Members my personal regards and keep the good work going.

Sincerely and fraternally,

"Orrie G. Odell.

"P.S. This letter is typewritten by myself (not dictated)."

Brother David Schwarz, who keeps busy receiving and distributing stamps for worthy groups, passes along the following acknowledgment received from the Kalaupapa Stamp Club, located at the leper colony, Kalaupapa, Molokai:

"Thank you very much for the stamps and your kind letter. We appreciate your kind gesture and are happy to receive many stamps from all you good people in the Masonic Stamp Club. Yes, we are all general collectors and would appreciate all kinds of stamps.

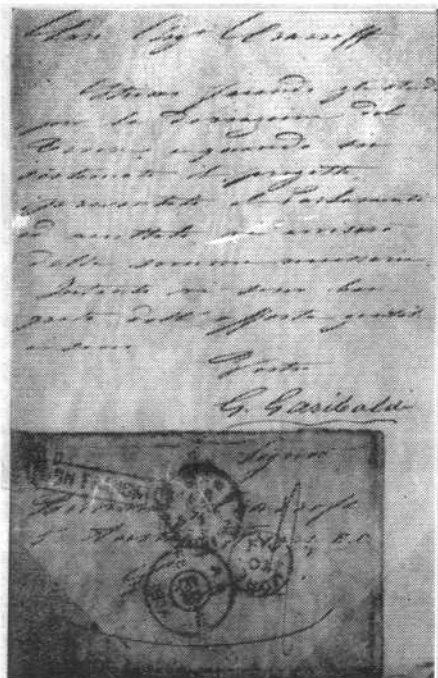
"The Kalaupapa Stamp Club was organized in July, 1950, by Dr. Robert Lee of Honolulu, who came here some friends then and interested us in forming a stamp club. We have ten members at present who find stamp collecting a fascinating and educational hobby.

"Thank you again!"

MASONS ON STAMPS

Bro. Walter R. Harbeson, in sending us data recently regarding the new Garibaldi stamps, also enclosed a photo-

stat copy of one of his album pages showing a letter signed by Garibaldi with his freefrank envelope. He entered this page at the exhibit two years ago when it attracted considerable attention. We are pleased to reproduce it below. We are told that the letter relates to a proposal to Parliament to divert the River Tiber.

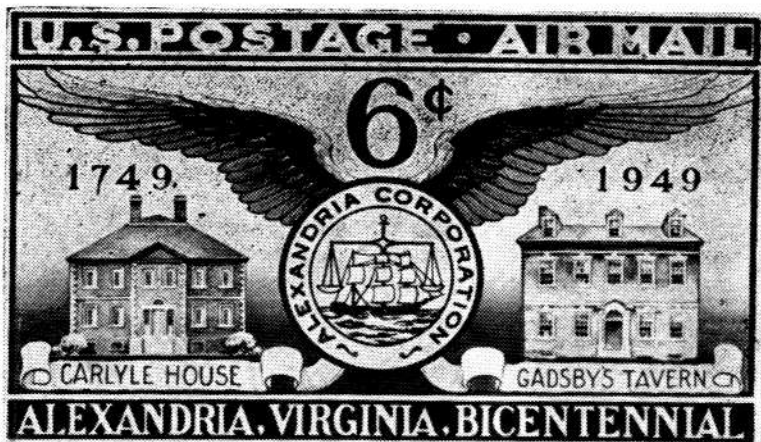


ALEXANDRIA BICENTENNIAL AIR MAIL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

The special air mail stamp (C40) was issued on May 11, 1949 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Alexandria was established in 1749 and named for John Alexander who had purchased land in that area in 1669. During the Revolution it was one of the principal colonial trading centers and the social and political center of that area. William Ramsay was the first Lord Mayor and he is buried in the church yard of Christ Church.

The central design is a reproduction of the Alexandria seal, from the back of which is a pair of outstretched wings. Gadsby's Tavern, which was frequently used as a meeting place by famous



people of that era, appears to the right of the seal. It was built in 1752 and was first known as City Tavern. It was one of the most famous inns of the 18th century. Washington established his headquarters there in 1754 and recruited two companies, and from here marched to the French and Indian Wars. John Paul Jones met Lafayette and DeKalb here when they arrived to aid the colonies in their struggle for independence.

To the left of the stamp is shown the Carlyle House, which was built in 1752 and was the home of John Carlyle, a wealthy merchant, one of the founders of Alexandria. Braddock used it as his headquarters in 1755 and it was here that he met the council of governors and made Washington a member of his staff. Many social and political gatherings were held in its blue room.

Washington maintained a town house in Alexandria and during his residence organized the Friendship Fire Company, and was charter Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 39, then under the jurisdiction of the grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It is now Washington-Alexandria Lodge No. 22 under the Grand Lodge of Virginia. He was also a vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church and on April 25, 1785, along with other prominent laymen of Fairfax Parish, signed a contract to pay annually the sum of five pounds for each pew assigned to them. Washington paid thirty-six pounds for pew No. 60, the highest price paid for any of the pews which were sold. Later, Robert E. Lee also worshiped in the church, having pew No. 40. Christ Church also has the family Bible of Washington used at Mt. Vernon, which was presented to

it in 1804 by George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted son of General Washington. The Reverend David Griffith, a former chaplain in the army, was rector of this church and preached the sermon at Washington's funeral.

Also located in Alexandria is the famous National Masonic Memorial to Washington. It is 333 feet high, located on Shooters Hill, and is a landmark of the vicinity.

Alexandria was also the home of Light Horse Harry Lee, Revolutionary General, and the boyhood home of Robert E. Lee, who here offered his service to command the Army of Virginia which led to his eventual selection as head of the Army of the Confederacy.—Walter R. Harbeson.

NEW ZEALAND STAMP—PICTURES OF EXPLORERS—MASONS

New Zealand in January 1957 issued four stamps for use in its Ross Sea dependency in the Antarctic. The 4d value features portraits of two explorers Ernest Henry Shackleton (1874-1922) and Capt. Robert Falcon Scott (1868-1912), both Masons. The two in a 1901-1904 expedition to the Antarctic made a sledge journey across the Ross Shelf ice. The stamp also pictures the Ross Sea area. Both men in later times gave their lives in expeditions to the South Polar region.—Mirt.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

A nine foot high bronze statue of George Washington in full Masonic regalia was dedicated February 8, 1960, in New Orleans. It was presented to the City by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.—M.S.L.