

# The Masonic Philatelist



VOL. 33

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1976

NO. 1

Masonic Signers of the  
Declaration of Independence



Colorado "Silk" Cachet  
Sponsored by The  
Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.



JULY 4, 1776 JULY 4, 1776 JULY 4, 1776 JULY 4, 1776



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

*Guottalson, John Hancock, Rich Stockton, John Jay, William Ellery, Joseph Hewes, John Adams, George Washington*



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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1976

VOL. 33

NO. 1

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EDITOR ..... Robert A. Smith

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was  
organized in 1934 for the purpose of encour-  
aging research and study in Masonic Philate-  
ly, and to establish bonds of good fellowship  
among Masons who are stamp collectors. The  
need for the organization has proved itself  
through the years with its ever-increasing  
membership and the formation of other  
Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month  
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING

22 East 35th St. N.Y., N.Y. 10017

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Philatelist:

As the newly elected president of the  
Masonic Stamp Club of New York, I  
feel it necessary to acquaint you with  
our position.

Despite the inflation which is plaguing  
us, we have maintained our dues for  
over thirty years at \$5.00 a year. As  
a result we have encountered a serious  
problem. The cost of the stamp is 13c,  
the envelope 2c, addressing, stuffing,  
sealing, etc. all extra. If we have ten  
issues a year, this cost alone is about  
\$2.40 a year for each member. But this  
does not include the cost of printing!

Our printer, faced with rising costs  
and decreasing profits, went out of  
business. We were obliged to find a new  
printer and pay an increased price. Other  
incidental expenses have similarly in-  
creased. Our expenses exceed our  
budget. This is not a healthy condition.  
We are depleting our reserves.

We regret any inconveniences you  
have been caused by not getting the  
Masonic Philatelist on the scheduled  
publication dates.

We will be pleased to receive any  
articles about Masonry and philately  
which you feel may be of interest to  
the Masonic Philatelist's readers.

We miss our stalwarts Norman H.  
Sehlmeyer and Stanley A. Salomon  
whose wisdom and cooperation guided  
us.

WE WILL OVERCOME and we beg  
your indulgence. We are now on an  
upward trend and we will maintain our  
\$5.00 dues as long as we can. In-  
cidentally, if you have not as yet paid  
your \$5.00 dues please do so and help  
our treasurer.

Fraternally,  
JOSEPH NATHAN KANE,  
President

## For A Price List

of Available

## MASONIC COVERS PAST AND PRESENT

Write to

MASONIC CACHETS

451 WEST 46th STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

## SYMBOLS OF MASONRY

### THE LETTER "G"

The letter "G" in Masonry depends on its place and use in a Lodge for its Masonic meaning. In a Masonic Lodge the "letter G" is not a letter, but a symbol for two conceptions; one is geometry, the other God.

Geometry is man-made, can be understood by any intelligent high school student, is concerned with measurements, angles, lines and problems. It has no mystery for the initiated. In Masonry geometry is a symbol of all mathematical learning; G as a symbol of that subject is of a comprehensible matter.

When G is used as a symbol of God, however, it becomes fraught with a different meaning. The human mind can neither conceive nor understand infinity; that which is unlimited except as an abstraction. G in Masonry, considered as meaning God, stands for an idea of such size and extent as to be inconceivable. Thus used, the letter G means an idea too great for the human mind to comprehend.

The letter "G" can be found overprinted on the stamps of Canada and is listed in Scott's catalogue as 016 to 047. The letter G is used on Canadian stamps to signify that they were used on government mail. These stamps may be obtained from collectors and dealers in Canada. They may also be purchased mint from the Post Office in Ottawa, the address is Post Office Department, Financial Branch, Philatelic Section, Ottawa 8, Ontario, Canada. They are referred to as Overprinted "G". While you are able to buy mint copies, you are requested to sign a form that you will not use the stamps for postal purposes. The "G" Overprints are recognized by Scott and other authorities in the Philatelic World.

### NEW MEMBERS

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## 43RD ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM FOR THE 1976-1977 YEAR

### 1976

- Oct. 1 Get Together
- Nov. 5 My Favorite Page
- Nov. 19-21 ASDA Show, Madison Square Garden
- Dec. 3 Past President's Night — Exhibition

### 1977

- Jan. 7 Guest Lecturer
- Feb. 4 Patriotic Night
- Mar. 4 Swap Night (place to be determined)
- Apr. 8 Annual Competition
- May 6 Annual Dinner
- June 3 Annual Meeting; Election of Officers, Installation

### ANDREW W. MELLON

American industrialist and Secretary of the Treasury from 1921 to 1932 under President Coolidge and Hoover. He later became United States Ambassador to Great Britain on February 5, 1932, and resigned the Secretary of Treasury position. In 1930 he established the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust. When the National Gallery of Art was established in Washington D.C. in 1937 as a branch of the Smithsonian Institute, the trustees of the A. W. Mellon fund gave 15 million dollars for the building. In addition, Mellon's private art collection, consisting of 126 paintings and 36 pieces of sculpture was given to the nation as the nucleus of the present collection.

Mellon was made a Mason 'at sight' on Dec. 29, 1928 by J. William Smith, Grand Master of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh. His brother Richard B. Mellon, received the degrees at the same time. He later affiliated with Fellowship Lodge No. 679 of Pittsburgh. He received the Royal Arch degrees in 1931.

He served as a member of the advisory committee in connection with the construction of the George Washington Masonic Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia.

He is pictured on U. S. 1072.

### CLOSED ALBUMS

IRWIN D. FRAZIN — Riverside, CA  
CARL J. BENNING — Deerfield Beach, FL

STEWART D. SWAN — Conn.

JAY BENCHO — Whitestone, NY

## GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

British playwright and novelist. Although not a Freemason, he at one time referred to the organization in his usual Shavian wit. Whenever asked about marriage, his stock reply would be: "I might say that it is like Freemasonry; those who are not received into the order cannot talk about it, and those who are members are pledged to eternal silence."

## THE ANTI-MASONIC "EXCITEMENT"

By Herman Herst, Jr.

These days, membership in a fraternal organization is taken for granted, not only by the member himself, but by the general public, but it was not always like that.

A century and a half ago such a feeling of antagonism for secret organizations developed that Masonry in the United States came as close as it would have without having its light permanently dimmed.

For lack of other important issues, opponents of Masonry used it in their campaign for the White House. - Masonry's greatest enemy, John Quincy Adams, used both his intelligence and writing ability to let Americans know what a demoralizing force he thought Masonry was.

William Morgan, a resident of Batavia, N.Y. became a Mason in 1826. Never a citizen of good repute, it is today suspected that he joined, merely to learn the secrets of the fraternity, in order that he might share them with the public at large. With resentment against all secret societies building, he had no trouble finding a publisher. Illustrations of Masonry was printed in 1827 by Col. David V. Miller, of Batavia and tens of thousands of copies were sold, many to people who bought simply out of curiosity.

Morgan's violation of his oath was known to his Lodge brothers long before the book appeared. His honor was appealed to in vain; he refused to order the book not to be published.

The veil of mystery comes over Morgan at this point. Masons in Batavia claim they traced him to Western Canada where he went to seek a fortune. What is known is that he never returned to Batavia, and out of this fact, Masonry's enemies had all the evidence they wanted on the vile oaths of the fraternity. While the charges were never dignified with formal accusations, the entire nation, and especially those who despised secret societies, were convinced that the penalties assumed by every

Mason when he takes his obligation were visited upon Morgan.

By 1830, fifteen hundred Lodges were abandoned, and 45,000 Masons, out of the 50,000 in this country, left the order, especially when economic reprisals, and worse yet, personal attacks forced them to renounce the fraternity. A few Lodges met secretly. Some destroyed their dispensation, thus making it difficult for them to open again when the excitement died down in the mid-1830s. Masonic records, memorabilia, working tools, aprons and insignia were destroyed or hidden, thus making it difficult today to reconstruct Masonic activities of the period.

By 1830, Adams had retired from the Presidency, Past 63, of the anti-Masonic forces, and when he was asked to associate himself with a proposed daily newspaper in Boston which had as one of its aims, the complete suppression of Masonry, he declined, not for lack of sympathy with the policy but because he felt that the movement needed younger men to sustain it in subsequent years.

The text of the letter comes down to us, thanks to its having been part of a collection of Presidential letters the property of a well known collector. We are happy to offer it here:

"It is my opinion that the Institution of Free Masonry so far as it enjoins secrecy upon its members ought to be suppressed. Such secrecy cannot be necessary for any benevolent or useful purpose of the Society or of its members; and it always may be, as we know it has been abused for purposes the most atrocious — It is incompatible with the principle of equal rights which lies at the foundation of Republican government, and however harmless in the ordinary course of Events, whenever brought into active operation, can be maintained only at the expense of the Peace and harmony of human society.

"It is much to be desired that the whole body of Freemasons in the United States should unite in an explicit and formal renunciation of all secrecy in their future proceedings — That they should by common consent abolish every part of their Institution which now shrinks from the light of day, and without proclaiming their beneficence and charity from the housetops discard the affectation of covering them with a veil and permit them to be felt by their effects. I am not without hope that they will in time perceive the necessity and be made sensible of the moral obligation by unmarking themselves before their country — They now stand arraigned before the world of mankind for the murder of William Morgan. The guilt of perpetrating this crime is doubly confined to a few — but the secret laws, by the influence of which it was committed and by which the criminals have been sheltered from detection have made the secrecy of the order an accessory to the fact — The secret that is written in blood should be revealed — the tree that bears such fruit should be cut down. But I do not feel it to be my duty to take any part in the controversy, which has arisen from this Event — it must be conducted on both its parts of younger men — Nor have I been altogether satisfied with what I have observed of anti-Masonic proceedings. I see no specific object, which the anti-Masons look to as the consummation of their operations and

their electioneering influence, bears both in favour and prejudice more upon individuals, and less upon the vice of the Institution than I think just or equitable."

Adams lived to a ripe old age. His wavering signature on franked covers is well known, especially since shortly after his term as President ended, he was elected to Congress, serving there for 17 years, until he died of a paralytic stroke suffered on the Floor of Congress in 1848. But Masonry as a political issue had long since been forgotten. The nation had other more serious things to argue about for one thing, the issue of slavery, which was beginning to divide the States, and more important than that, the Panic of 1837, the most severe economic depression the nation had suffered since obtaining its independence.

### Grand Lodge of NY Appoints Past President Bernstein to Grand Lodge Office

On October 13, 1976 in Girard Lodge No. 631 our Past President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was honored. Right Worshipful Brother Louis Bernstein was given his Presentation Ceremonies as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.

We all wish Lou all the best for we know how hard he has worked for the club and Masonry. Good Luck on this most important work.

### Did you know . . .

. . . That American Masons can be proud of their members who appear on United States currency?

George Washington appeared on many notes and currently on the \$1 Federal Reserve notes; then Alexander Hamilton on the \$10 note; Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, on the \$10 silver certificate, series of 1878 and 1880; Benjamin Franklin on the \$50 legal tender notes of 1874, 1875, 1878 and 1880. Andrew Jackson appears on the \$5 legal tender notes of 1869 through 1907; Oliver Hazard Perry on the early \$100 national bank notes; General Winfield Scott on the early \$1,000 national bank notes; Commodore Stephen Decatur on the \$20 silver certificate of 1878 and 1880; James A. Garfield on the \$5 national bank notes of 1882 and 1902.

Henry Clay is on the \$50 tender notes of 1869 — and other Masons on U.S. currency include Edwin Stanton, John Marshall, David Farragut, Robert Fulton, Meriweather Lewis, William McKinley and many others.

## MASONRY AND THE DRAMA

By Herman Herst, Jr.

As all members of the Craft know, there is ample drama in Masonry, but not recently did we learn that there was Masonry on the professional stage.

It is more than three fourths of a century since the hit of the London winter season was a play entitled "Are You A Mason?" The play had been a success the previous season in Berlin, where it was originally presented in German.

We have no idea at this late date who did the translation into English, nor do we even know the first names of the German authors of the play. Their last names were Laufs and Kratz.

From a review in the London "Playgoer" though we were glad to note the full cast of characters for the play, as well as a synopsis of it. It was what today would be called a farce. Humor today is not what it was at the turn of the century, and what turned the Shaftesbury Theatre in London into pandemonium then would perhaps not even get on the stage now.

Nevertheless, those who are interested in the manner in which Masonry penetrates ordinary lives, not only philatelically, but dramatically as well, might be interested in learning about "Are You A Mason?", one of the most successful plays of the London 1901-1902 season.

The cast follows, with special note of the presence of Miss Ethel Matthews, who was one of the top actresses of the day:

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE	
September 12th, 1901.—CHARLES FROHMAN and GEORGE EDWARDS present	
ARE YOU A MASON?	
From the German of Laufs and Kratz.	
George Fisher (Stockbroker, formerly Actor) ..	PAUL ARTHUR
Amos Bloodgood ..	GEORGE GIDDENS
Frank Perry ..	MANGH ALLEN
John Hulton ..	MARK KINGHORNE
Hamilton Travers ..	WILLIAM H. DAY
Ernest Morrison ..	CHARLES WELLESLEY
Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood	MARIE ILLINGTON
Eva (Mrs. Perry) ..	ETHEL MATTHEWS
Annie) Eva's Sisters {	AGNES MILLER
Lula) {	JENNIE BUCKLE
Mrs. Hulton ..	Mrs. T. N. WERNMAN
Lottie ..	ANNIE DROPHY
Fanchon Armitage ..	GWEN CONNINGTON
Acts I., II., and III. At Frank Perry's House.	

The synopsis of the play also follows:

"As all playgoing London is aware, there are no dull moments in this whimsical piece, an adaptation from the German of Laufs and Kratz, which sets

all who witness it a-giggling. The newly-made wife of Frank Perry makes holiday in the country. The husband, left "all on his little lonesome," makes holiday in town, but in the good old form of his joyous bachelor days and riotous bachelor nights. He gets detained, with disreputable companions, at Marlborough Street, but is bailed out. His frequent arrival home with the morning milk is matter for much concern to the Irish maid, Lottie, who has been planted to watch things by a thoughtful ma-in-law — one Mrs. Bloodgood. Her husband, Amos Bloodgood, went astray with a certain Angelina some twenty years ago, but has ever since led his wife to believe that he is a mason (in fact, a grand worshipful master of the craft), a little fraud and a convenient cloak for all his naughty goings on and staying out o'nights.

"Ma-in-law insists that Frank, too, shall become a mason, and on the day of the homecoming of his wife and her parents, Frank, fearing the servant's tongue, and confiding in his friend, George Fisher, hits upon a brilliant idea. Why not put his sins on to the lodge? (which, of course, he had forgotten to join). An encyclopedia tells him that masonic brethren are pledged to "inviolable secrecy."

"The terrible oath he declares he has taken serves very well when questioned by his wife, until old Bloodgood (the other humbug) comes on the scene. The sham "brothers" meet in fear and trembling, and, copying each other in the supposed "signs of the craft," they go through extraordinary and idiotic antics, what time the domestic circle seriously takes notes, whispering, "Let us watch the signs."

"At this point shrieks of laughter shake the building in quick succession. Frank, who is in a tight corner, finally confesses to his father-in-law that he is no mason. Naturally the artful old Bloodgood is greatly relieved, but virtuously indignant, and swears he will not give Frank a certain £4,000 previously promised him. George is the friend in need, and to assist Frank, he gets into petticoats, poses as a French milliner, and pretends he is the daughter of the giddy old Bloodgood's Angelina. This sets the fun going in another direction, and George, in his new character, comes in for much kissing and costume measuring, all of which is intensely diverting.

"More laughter accompanies the introduction of Hamilton Travers, a drink-sodden tragedian of the old school, and John Halton, a countryman eager for masonic honors. Bloodgood orders the latter to run over Westminster Bridge

and back, and count the steps, as a preliminary "ordeal," and this he does, returning, at the end of the act, a panting and perspiring "wreck."

In the end, Ernest Morrison, a real mason, is interviewed separately by the two sham masons, and understanding their pitiable position, he promises to help them out, and the usual happiness appears on the horizon. **Are You A Mason?** is a distinct success."

## 1907 Jamestown Commemorative Series

### PART III

By Henry B. Scheuer

#### THE FIVE CENT VALUE AND VARIOUS COVERS OF SPURIOUS ORIGIN

##### Five Cent, Blue

Mrs. Amelia A. Hollenberg is a lost name in United States philatelic history. In 1907, she was the Chairman of the Pocahontas Memorial Association, directly responsible for circulating petitions that resulted in the addition on the five-cent value to the Jamestown Series of commemorative stamps. On March 13, Postmaster General Meyer wrote Mrs. Hollenberg:

"Dear Madam:

In answer to your letter of the 9th instant, and petition of The Pocahontas Memorial Association, I take pleasure in informing you that I have decided to order the issue of a five-cent stamp, in connection with the one and two-cent stamps already ordered, in commemoration of the Jamestown Exposition. The new stamp will bear a likeness of the head of Pocahontas.

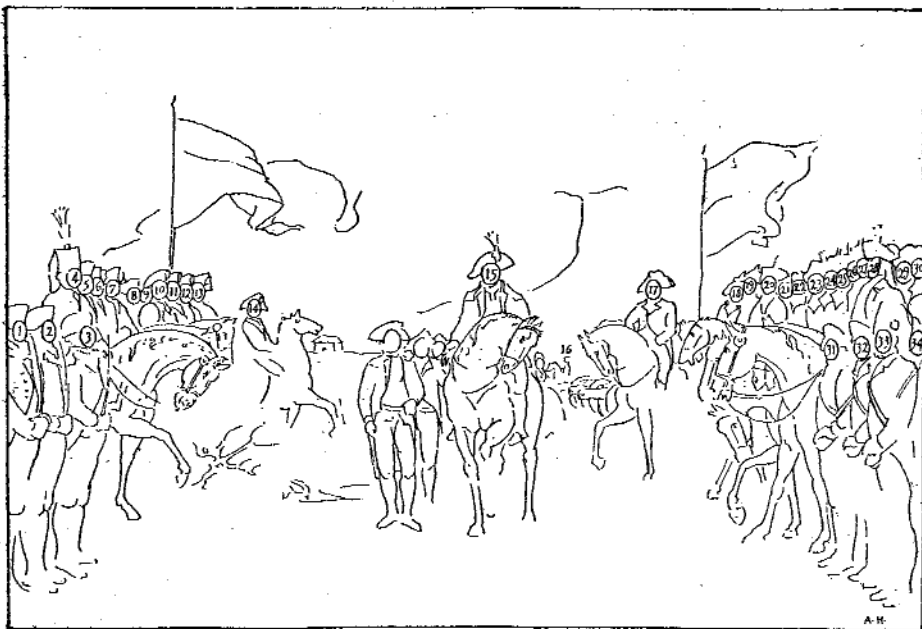
Very truly yours,

(signed)

Postmaster-General"

Pocahontas, the subject of this beautiful blue stamp, was the daughter of the great Chief Powhatan who saved the life of the Jamestown colonist leader John Smith. The colorful heroic effort continues by dramatically describing how she saved Captain John Smith's life by throwing herself between an Indian's upraised hatchet and Captain Smith.

Pocahontas married John Rolfe, one of the Jamestown colonists, and went with him to England, where she was presented to the King and Queen. Pocahontas, or Rebecca Rolfe as she was renamed, died in England when only twenty-two years old. The 5 cent stamp is from a portrait of Pocahontas dressed in Elizabethan clothes. The portrait, by



The Hague, December 12, 1976

Wessel M. Lans  
27 Primulastraat  
The Hague — The Netherlands.

Dear Bro. Smith

Herewith I send you some copy for "The Masonic Philatelist". I hope that you can use it. As I am not sure that this my English is not very bookish and perhaps incorrect, I should like you to reword it if necessary.

## **"Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown"**

by Wessel M. Lane

The Netherlands

You will certainly be aware of the fact that the U.S. Souvenir Sheet "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown" is a beautiful accession to our collection "Masons on Stamps".

Amongst the American Officers on the right side there are 13 Masons: the Brethren: Benjamin Lincoln (15), George Washington (17), Thomas Nelson (18), Marquis de Lafayette (19), Baron Van Steuben (20), James Clinton (23), Mordecai Gist (24), Anthony Wayne (25), Edward Hand (26), John P. G. Muhlenberg (27), Henry Knox (28), Ebenezer Huntington (29) and Walter Stewart (33).

They are mentioned in the Work: "Freemasons depicted in the National History Series of Colonel John Trumbull's Paintings" by R. W. James R. Case, Grand Historian of Connecticut. In this Work you will also find the key-

drawing of this article. It was issued in 1959 by "The Masonic Service Association" in Washington, D.C.

Less known is that also different French Officers, on the picture of Trumbull appearing on the left side, are Masons. Therefore it is regrettable that those persons are not shown on the Souvenir Sheet of the United States. Fortunately the Republic of Aitutaki did a very good work by issuing a strip of 3 stamps, on which these French Officers are printed.

I found the masonic details of these Masons in: "Francs-Maçons Parisiens du Grand Orient de France" (Fin de XVIIIe siècle) by Alain Le Bihan. This Work was issued in Paris in 1966 by the "Bibliothèque Nationale".

I took the following particulars from this scientific work:

2. **Laval.** Anne - Alexandre - Marie - Sulpice - Joseph de Montmorency-Laval, Marquis de Laval. 1747-1817. Brigadier in the army of Rochambeau. 1783 Major General. Emigrated during the French Revolution. He was in 1773 member of the Lodge "Saint-Jean de Montmorency - Luxembourg" in Paris.

4. **Lauzun.** Armand-Louis de Gontaut, duc de Lauzun; after 1788 known as Duc de Biron. 1747-1793. Came to America in 1780. 1783 Major General. Guillotined on Dec. 31, 1793. He was in 1773 member of the Lodge "Saint-Jean de Montmorency-Luxembourg" in Paris. In 1777 member of the Lodge "La Candeur" in Paris.

7. **St. Simon.** Claude-Anne de Rouvroy, Marquis de Saint-Simon Montblert. 1743-1819. Served in the West-Indies. Landed with the fleet of Admiral de Grasse to aid Washington and Rochambeau at Yorktown. He was 1775-1783 member of the Lodge "La Candeur" in Paris. 1786 member of "La Société Olympique" in Paris. 1)

8. **Fersen.** Jean-Axel, Comte de Fersen. 1754-1810. Born in Sweden, Adjutant to Rochambeau. He was in 1786 member of "La Société Olympique" in Paris. 1)

9. **Damas.** Joseph - Francois - Louis - Charles - César, Comte Charles de Damas-d'Antigny. 1758-1829. Aide de Camp to Rochambeau. He was in 1776 member of the Lodge "La Candeur" in Paris. In 1786 member of "La Société Olympique" in Paris 1).

10. **Chastellux.** Francois - Jean, Chevalier de Chastellux. 1734-1788. Served under Rochambeau in the American War of Independence. He was in 1782 member of the Lodge "Saint - Alexandre d' Ecosse" in Paris and of the Lodge "Saint - Alphonse des Amis Parfaits de la Vertu", also in Paris.

1) The "Société Olympique" originated from the in 1779 in Paris installed Lodge "L'Olympique de la Parfaite Estime". Several artists were a member of this prosperous Society. The only list of members (1786) which still exists, mentions 438 members. There is little known of the activities of this Society, only that all members had to be a Mason.

#### Eventually intercalate:

15. **Benjamin Lincoln.** 1733 - 1810. "Lodge of St. Andrew", Boston, Mass. Initiated 1780; Passed and raised 1781.

18. **Thomas Nelson.** 1738-1789. Possibly member of "Harmony Lodge", No. 2, N. Car. W. M. of "Lodge No. 9" in Yorktown.

19. **Marquis de Lafayette.** 1757-1834.

Member of the Lodge "St. Jean d'Ecosse du Contrat Social" in Paris. W. M. of the Lodge "Les Amis de l'Humanité".

20. **Baron von Steuben.** 1730-1794. Member of "Trinity Lodge" in No. 10 in New York City.

23. **James Clinton.** 1733-1812. Member of "Warren Lodge" in Little Britain.

24. **Mordecai Gist.** 1742-1802. Member passed and raised in 1775 in "Lodge No. 16", in Baltimore, Md.

26. **Edward Hand.** 1744-1802. Member of "Military Lodge No. 19".

27. **John P. G. Muhlenberg.** 1746-1807. Initiated, passed and raised in 1779 in "Royal Arch Lodge", No. 3, Philadelphia.

28. **Henry Knox.** 1750-1806. Member of "First Lodge of Boston".

29. **Ebenezer Huntington.** 1754 - 1834. Initiated in 1776 in "Union Lodge", Roxbury, Mass. In 1795 founder of "Somerset Lodge", Norwich, Conn.

33. **Walter Stewart.** 1756-1796. Member of "Pennsylvania Union Lodge".

#### 1907 Jamestown Commemorative — Series . . .

Continued from page 6

Shindler, hangs in the Mellon Gallery.

Less than 8,000,000 five-cent values were released. Of this number, 5,341,000 were distributed in 1907. The United States Official Postal Guide in the November, 1907 number describes the decision to extend sale past the original November 30 deadline:

Jamestown Commemorative Postage Stamps

November 4, 1907

Many people like to use the commemorative issues of postage stamps because of the distinctive designs, and stamp collectors generally desire them for philatelic purposes, but put off their purchases until after the sale of the stamps has been discontinued, and then are disappointed because the postmaster cannot supply them. This disappointment can be avoided by purchasing at once all the Jamestown commemorative stamps that may be desired. While the sale of these stamps is to be discontinued by postmasters after November 30, those remaining in the hands of the public after that date will continue to be good for postage indefinitely.

If their stocks are exhausted, postmasters will make special requisition to the Third Assistant Postmaster - General for commemorative stamps, provided 100, or multiples of 100, of each denomination desired are ordered by patrons.

To Be Continued