



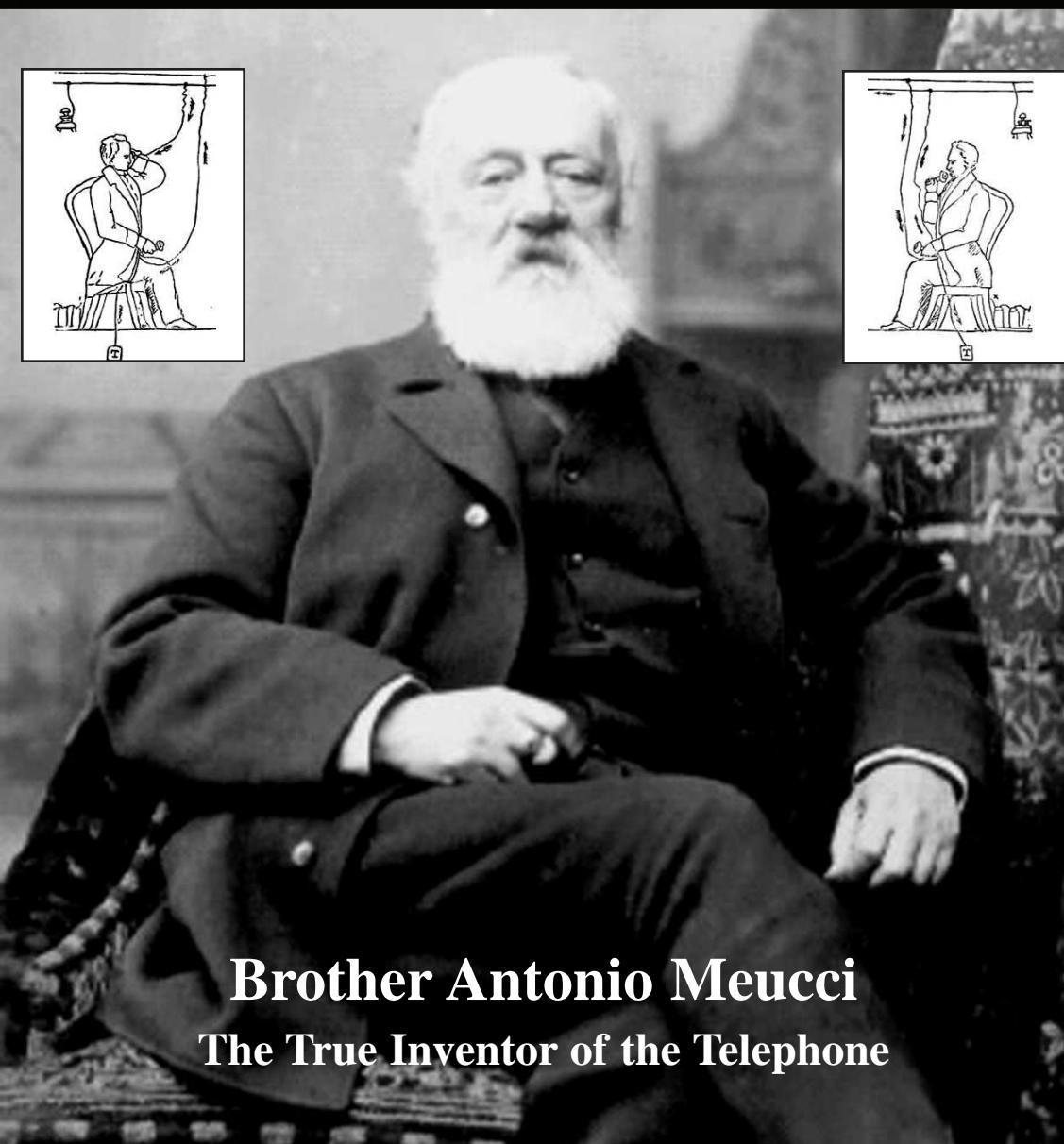
# The Masonic Philatelist

A Quarterly

VOL. 71

June 2015

No. 2



**Brother Antonio Meucci**  
**The True Inventor of the Telephone**

# **The Masonic Philatelist**

**Vol. 71, No. 2**

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**Masonic Notation:** A sprig of acacia will be used by the MSCNY to indicate a Brother has passed on to the GLA. Acacia was used to mark the grave of our first Grand Master and is a Masonic symbol for the immortality of the soul. Seven leaves are shown to indicate the seven liberal arts and sciences.



Traditional symbols, the dagger and the Christian cross, are not appropriate in all cases, and we need something that is totally Masonic in nature.

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# IN MEMORIAM

Our Distinguished Brother, Dr. Allan Boudreau, BF, was called from labor to the Grand Lodge above at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2015 at the VA hospital in St. Albans, Queens, New York; he was 84. He retired from New York University following a long career in faculty and administrative positions. During his tenure, he authored the study titled *The Growth and Development of the Washington Square Campus of New York University* and also authored books and articles on George Washington including *George Washington in New York* and *George Washington and New York City*.



Allan had a lifelong interest in both Freemasonry and Philately. He served as a Worshipful Master and District Deputy Grand Master as well as the Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of New York. He was elected President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York in 1981, took over the position of publisher of their magazine, *The Masonic Philatelist*, in 1983 and assumed the duties of Editor as well in 1990. He wrote numerous articles on Masonic Philately on his own and in conjunction with Bro. Christopher Murphy, BF. He was a member of the Masonic Study Unit of the American Topical Association, the Collectors Club of New York City, and the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club.

Within the Fraternity he was a Past Master and Fellow of the American Lodge of Research, Past Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, New York City, Past High Priest of Jerusalem Amity Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, and a member of most of the concordant Masonic organizations. In 1992 Allan was proclaimed a member of The Society of Blue Friars.

Allan donated his body to New York University. His remains will be then be cremated and sent to Montreal, Canada, where they will be buried alongside his parents.

Allan's children, Andrew Boudreau and Kirstin Boudreau Hofhine, request that donations on Allan's behalf be made to the Masonic Home in Utica, New York, or organizations supporting veterans.

*Farewell faithful Brother, until we meet again...*

**Brother Antonio Meucci**  
**The True Inventor of the Telephone**  
by  
Christopher L. Murphy, BF

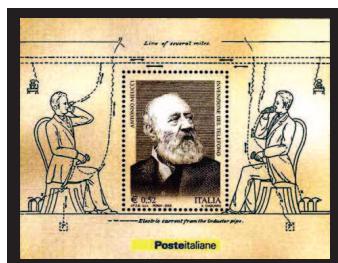
**A**s a career employee with the British Columbia Telephone Company (now Telus), you can imagine my surprise when I discovered that Antonio Meucci (1808–1889) invented the telephone, not the celebrated Alexander Graham Bell.

This came about when I saw a stamp from Italy showing Bro. Meucci and a little write-up in an old issue of *The Masonic Philatelist*. There was no Internet at that time, so one was at the mercy of encyclopedias. The largest, and what I considered would be the best article, was in the *Encyclopedia Italiana*—but I do not speak or read Italian. I made a photocopy of the article, took it to work, and showed it to a young girl in the office who was Italian. She said she could not translate it, but her father could. The next day a beautiful word-for-word, neatly hand-written translation was presented to me. I became convinced beyond a doubt that Bro. Meucci was the true inventor of the telephone.

The story of Bro. Meucci and how he got left out of the glory and wealth of his invention is rather sad. While living in Havana he invented his “telephone” (between 1837 and 1841) to communicate with his invalid wife from the basement to the third floor of their home. As they say, “necessity is the mother of invention,” and this “intercom,” as it were, saved him a lot of steps when his wife needed something while he was working in the basement.

That the human voice will transmit through a piece of string has been known for hundreds of years. I think that perhaps every kid up to the 1980s probably made a “tin can telephone.” Brother Meucci went the next step and had electricity carry the sound through wire. Not only was the voice quality vastly improved, but the speed of the transmission was phenomenal.

He subsequently moved to Long Island, New York. Here he befriended Giuseppe Garibaldi (also a Freemason) who had taken refuge in the United States. Meucci took him into his home and gave him a job working in his candle factory.





Antonio Meucci. His legacy will span human existence—"through the boundless realm of eternity."

Meucci filed a patent for his "telephone" in 1871 and tried in vain to get backing to produce and market the device. He gave his drawings to the Western Telegraph Company for consideration, and the next thing we know Alexander Graham Bell, who was heavily involved with Western, filed his patent for a "telephone." Meucci challenged Bell's patent and essentially won the case, but as his patent had expired and he had not achieved any practical results with his invention, Bell was allowed to continue. The rest is history.

We might ask why Bell did not at least give Meucci some compensation for being the true originator of the telephone, but had he done so this would have implied his guilt as to using Meucci's ideas. As a result Meucci went on to live and die in relative poverty. It is said that Bell also died a poor man. I will guess he was no match for the large corporations.

I wrote a detailed article on the subject, entitled "Freemasonry and the Telephone: A Nearly Forgotten Connection," which was published in *The Masonic Philatelist*, (Vol. 45, No. 3, September 1989, page 3) and later in the *Scott Stamp Monthly* (January, 1992) simply as "The Nearly Forgotten Connection."

When I joined Zenith Lodge, No. 104, Burnaby, BC, in the early 1980s, it was decided to have a "Telephone Night" because of the number of members who were, or had been, telephone company employees. We invited our current Grand

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

Master to the events, and I arranged to present him with an old telephone mounted on a wooden plaque with a brass plate commemorating the event. The photo provided here shows the presentation I made, as Worshipful Master, to our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro. Dennis G J. Marsh in 1987. It was at these events that I sang the praises of our nearly forgotten Brother, Antonio Meucci, and even provided a hand-out.

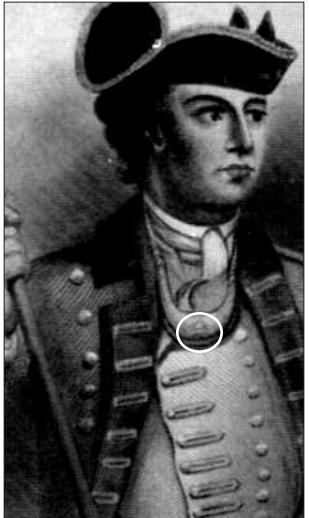


I don't think we will ever know the true facts of the Meucci/Bell argument. For certain, had Bell been denied his patent, it is likely efficient telecommunications would have been greatly delayed. Bro. Meucci just did not have the needed "connections"—who you know is just as important as what you know in the world of business. Whatever the case, in my opinion, it was Bro. Antonio Meucci (lodge not known, but an AASR member) who launched us into a world of instant communications, which neither he nor Bell could have even imagined.

I have made Bro. Meucci the cover story of this edition of *The Masonic Philatelist* as a "brotherly" tribute to him. We can be very proud that he numbered in our ranks. (*Italy* #909, 1332, 2553)

### **Sullivan—Correction:**

The illustration for the location of the compasses emblem worn by Sullivan as seen in the December 2014 MP (page 11) is not correct. The correct location is as shown on the right. It can be seen on the engraving (circled) and the stamp. It is actually compasses and a curved rule, the emblem of a Past Master. The stamp is based on an engraving owned by the Sullivan family. It is not from the engraving by Thomas Hart in the Library of Congress.



Major General John Sullivan engraving and stamp based on the engraving. His Masonic emblem (circled) can be seen on the stamp.

### *From the editor's desk...*

There can be little doubt that if one researches almost any stamp hard enough and long enough, a Freemason will be found somewhere down the line. This is because there have been so many Freemasons involved in about every aspect of meaningful human endeavor.

The basic design of the Masonic Order is "to make good men better." In other words, provide a set of rules for proper conduct in society and facility a way for men who are reasonably established to associate. What do I mean by "reasonably established?" Quite simply, have a job, profession or trade by which they can support themselves. The Masonic Order is not a charity, or an avenue for men to obtain charity or some form of insurance. Candidates for Freemasonry are expected to be self-sufficient.

I would say that the original craft lodges (stone masons) set the rules for admission with regard to the "accepted" masons, and such has carried on to the present day. Really, it was just common sense.

There is no doubt that the process worked. Millions of men joined the Masonic Order and a phenomenal number achieved remarkable acclaim. Did Freemasonry have anything to do with this? It certainly may have from the standpoint of bringing about a great (or greater) degree of self-confidence and self-worth. The way Freemasonry does this is far more effective than run-of-the-mill courses in "achieving your potential."

What about the old "Masonic influence" idea? Where does this fit in? When I was 17-years-old (1958) and a high-school drop-out, I got my first major break in the work-world because I was a Catholic. The manager

doing the hiring was Catholic, so this gave me the edge. I did not learn of this until some years later. I suppose I simply "lucked-out." I went on to finish my education and stayed with the company for 36 years. You can draw a parallel here with membership in any organization, especially those that are fraternal in nature (Eagles, Elks, Odd Fellow, Rotary, and so forth). Many people claim that such "influence" is unfair. I am not going to argue this point, other than to say that there is an element of human nature here that probably can't be overcome. Eventually, I think computers will make the decisions (but it's very simple to program bias).

In addition, Freemasonry and all other organizations provide a means for people to get together and know each other. This inevitably results in people helping each other in ways associated with their profession or trade.

Having said this, I will mention that Masonic ties are probably much more emphatic than other fraternal organizations. I have not researched this, but believe the Masonic Order stands alone in this regard.

The great number of Freemasons associated with postage stamps (directly and indirectly) naturally leads one to question the reason, and in some cases results in absurd sinister speculation. That such Freemasons used the lessons they learned to assist them is very likely. Also, they likely got "good council," coupled with some degree of "influence" of the type I have mentioned. However, that would be the full extent of Masonic involvement—and there is nothing stopping any upright and sincere young man from applying to become a Freemason.

## Great Finds!

Bro. Robert Domingue brings to our attention (*The Northern Light* Vol. 45, No. 3, August 2014, page 21) a unique stamp from Japan showing Bro. Nishi Amane (1829–1897), the first known Japanese Freemason. Amane was a philosopher in Meiji period Japan who helped introduce Western philosophy into mainstream Japanese education. Lodge La Vertu, No. 7, Leyden, Netherlands. (Japan #492)



Postage stamps from Japan are quite unique in a special way. Some years ago, I was given three of the earliest stamps issued by Japan, No. 1, 5, and 9, issued between 1871 and 1873. They were certainly very old, and obviously been in albums over the past century plus. They are very nicely articulated, and certainly created long before the advent of electronic printing. Nevertheless, I was highly skeptical as to their authenticity so took them to a professional. He immediately identified them as fabrications, but said there are still quite valuable. He said they were made at the time the stamps were issued for the purpose of postage. They are counterfeit stamps, likely sold at a cut rate for use on letters. At that time, it would have been very difficult to detect such stamps, so there was obviously a market for them.

Another great find provided by Bro. Domingue is a British stamp honoring the artist Sir Henry Raeburn with one of his paintings. The painting is titled *The Skating Minister*, and the person shown is Rev. Robert Walker (1755–1808) who was a member of St. David Lodge, No. 36, Edinburgh, Scotland. This is what might be termed a “chance stamp.” In other words, the person depicted is shown by chance, and he just happened to be a Freemason. (GB #700)



Painting by Sir Henry Raeburn (1756–1823)



## Brother Friedrich von Steuben The Answer to Washington's Prayer?



A very old, small, and rather inconspicuous US postage stamp shows George Washington in prayer at Valley Forge. We can sort of see the encampment in the background, so Washington went into the forest, found a quiet spot, and prayed. This deed was highly Masonic, as Masons are taught to use prayer when they have nowhere else to turn.

There can be no doubt that Washington was in dire need of help. His rag-tag fighting force was on its last legs. Valley Forge was bitter cold and provisions were very low. All that was holding his men together was their common cause to continue the fight for freedom. Discipline, order, and real military know-how in his ranks of 12,000 officers and soldiers were effectively non-existent.

Prayers are very often answered in strange ways. Washington likely hoped for a miracle, but instead he got the insistent Prussian Baron and military officer, Friedrich von Steuben (1730–1794), who could hardly speak English and thus needed translators.

It's amusing to think of the two when they first met—later sitting across from each other in Washington's tent. Washington was probably looking for advice on obtaining provisions, or at least some sort of military advice, but instead got an ear-full of discipline, house-keeping, and military training needs.

Quite remarkably, Washington listened; the fact that the two were Freemasons likely had a lot to do with this. Washington had received what we Masonically term "good counsel." It needs to be mentioned here that von Steuben came recommended by Benjamin Franklin. Is it possible Franklin had looked at the "big picture" and knew the "medicine" Washington really needed?

Von Steuben was given the "go-ahead" to clean up the Continental Army, and he went about this with such vigor, determination and insistence that every soldier to a man listened. Tents had to be placed in an orderly manner, kitchens properly located, garbage had to be removed, and proper latrines dug and maintained. Von Steuben was well-educated, so knew the importance of hygiene and sanitation—a soldier's health is the most impor-



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

tant aspect in a fighting force. He then taught everyone how to be a proper soldier. Reasonable provisions were slow in coming, but did come and winter passed. In the meantime von Steuben apparently convinced everyone to get by with what they had and to help each other.

Many of Washington's officers were Freemasons, and I would venture to say so were many of the regular soldiers. This would have played a significant part in getting full cooperation. Nevertheless, there were evidently many complaints. Von Steuben had to get his translators to convey some very foul language at times.

The training provided by von Steuben was a very significant factor in the defeat of the British at Yorktown. It might be said that he "evened-out the battle field."

The staunch, but highly respected disciplinarian went on to become a Major General and served as General Washington's chief of staff in the final years of the Revolutionary War. Von Steuben is credited with being one of the fathers of the Continental Army.

During 1778–1779 von Steuben authored his *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*. Its basis was the training plan he had devised at Valley Forge. The book served as the standard United States drill manual until the War of 1812.

Congress greatly appreciated von Steuben's significant contribution to the American cause, and saw that he was properly looked-after (pension and so forth) until he died. Blazing Star Lodge (military lodge), Berlin, Germany. (USA #645, 689)

**Masonic Musing:** There can be little doubt that a fraternal spirit had taken hold of the army officers in the American Revolution. To my knowledge there was, and still remains, no other significant event in world history with so many Freemasons in prominent positions. The essence of this is that Freemasonry instills a very deep sense of trust among its members, which is seldom broken. It also unites men, no matter what their station in life, or their religious beliefs. As a result the way is cleared to tackle any issue without having to deal with aspects that only serve to complicate the process.



Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, by Charles Willson Peale.

# The Masonic Philatelist

## COMPUTER CORNER

Many early editions of *The Masonic Philatelist* have been posted on our website. These editions are a wealth of information—sort of like an archaeological dig.

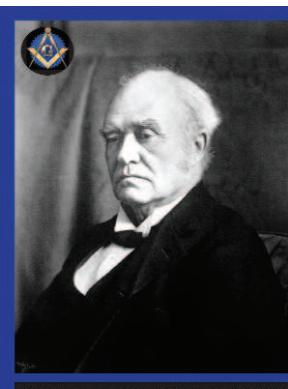
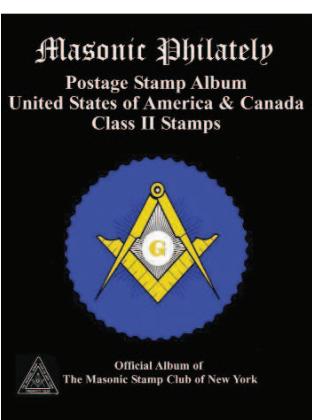
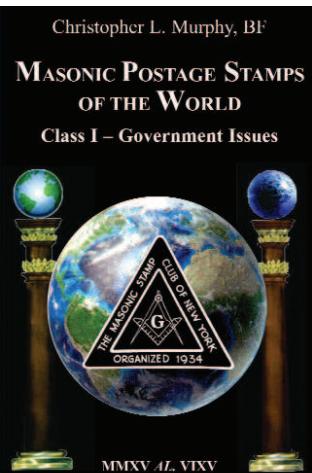
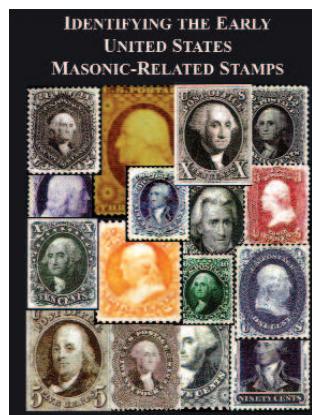
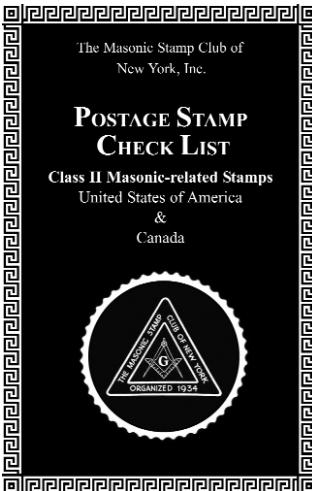
If you are among our members “on the net” then please have a look. Don’t forget, that you can enlarge the pages significantly, so reading the text will not be a problem.

We have also provided a check list for the Class II stamps of the United States and Canada, along with an ebook on the Class I stamps (government issues) world-wide, and a paper on identifying the early US Masonic-related issues.

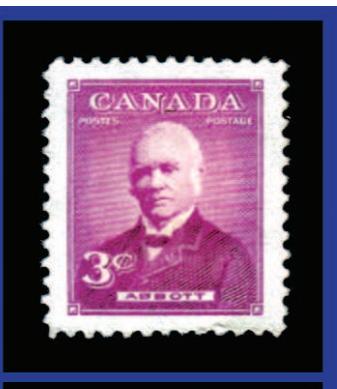
Another project underway is a stamp album for the Class II stamps of the United States and Canada. The last image on the right shows how the pages are arranged. There are 27 pages completed and available for viewing. Additional pages will be added as we move forward.

All of this material may be either simply viewed on our website or downloaded and filed for off-line viewing, or printing.

Everything on our site, including issues of the *Masonic Philatelist* starting in 2014, is provided in color. Access requires the Adobe Reader which is a free download.



Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott, PC KCMG QC (March 12, 1821 – October 30, 1893) was the third Prime Minister of Canada. He served in the office for seventeen months, from June 16, 1891 to November 24, 1892. St. Paul's Lodge No. 374, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. (SfY 1952)



<<http://www.mscnewyork.net>>

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

### MASONIC POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD

#### Class I – Government Issues



## Winner Didn't Take All The Lincoln–Douglas Debates

Politicians have always had debates, but prior to the age of electronics, their audiences were very limited. The debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas (a Freemason) for Senatorship (1858) did, however, get nation-wide attention. Lincoln lost the election, but his performances elevated him to national prominence, leading the way to his presidency in

1860—thus the importance of the debates. A stamp issued by the US commemorating the Lincoln–Douglas Debates is very amusing. It was designed after a painting by Joseph Boggs Beale. The stamp and the painting are shown here with the “stamp design portion” indicated on the painting (white border).

*Continued*



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Beale would have been about 17 years old in 1858, so we can assume he went to the event depicted in his painting, and evidently made careful notes as to what all the signs read that were hanging or carried by people. The signs are quite humorous; they read:

"Westward the star of empire takes its way  
The girls link on Lincoln,  
Their mothers were for Clay."

"Abe the Giant Killer."

"The little Giant Chewing up old Abe."

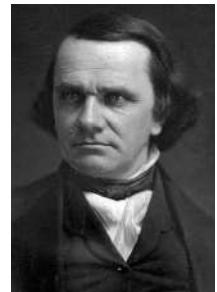
"Free territories and Free Men  
Free Pulpits and Free Preachers  
Free Press and Free Pen  
Free Schools and Free Teachers."  
*(Partially shown on the stamp)*

"Edgar County for the Tall Sucker."  
*(This one is not shown on the stamp.)*

The debates that raged between Lincoln and Douglas paled with their rival-

ry on another issue; they were both in love with the same lady—Mary Todd. She finally settled on Abe, so in this race he definitely came out the winner. Douglas was a member of Springfield Lodge No. 4, Springfield, Illinois. He was a highly active Mason.

Shown on the right is a photographic portrait of Stephen Douglas (c.1858) at about 45 years old. Shown below is an early photograph of Douglas, Lincoln and others, evidently at a debate (1858). It appears to have been superimposed on a background photo. These actual photos would be among the earliest we have of an American Masonic brother. The first photos in this connection would be those taken of Andrew Jackson in 1844 or 1845.



## The Masonic Specialist

**BACON, FRANCIS** (1561–1626); English philosopher and author; his work, *The New Atlantis*, was an early influence of the development of Freemasonry.

**Primary Stamp:** Canada–Newfoundland No. 92

**Year:** 1910

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** John Guy Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** From a painting by Paul von Somer (1576–1621)

**Design:** Portrait of Lord Bacon



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** It would be quite safe to say that Francis Bacon would not be impressed with the illustrated postage stamp. There is nothing wrong with the likeness of the great philosopher, nor the inscription stating that he was “The guiding spirit in the colonization scheme.” What is wrong is the name “Lord Bacon.” When he was raised to the peerage, he took the title of “Verulam” and therefore was Lord Verulam, not Lord Bacon.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Francis Bacon wrote widely on the subjects of truth, friendship, love and the need for study. His fable, *The New Atlantis* (1626) tells of a ship that lands on an unknown island called Bensalem, over which reigned a certain King Solomon. This king and his kingdom were dedicated to scientific research. The book became very popular and led to the formation of the Royal Society of London. As it happened, the Royal Society met at Masons’ Hall because many of the society members were also members of the Masons’ Company (i.e., actual craft masons). One theory is the non-masons later sought fraternal association with the masons and this movement led to the concept and name “Free and Accepted Masons.” Whether this theory is true or not, it has certainly been given substance by the fact that many Fellows of the Royal Society were prominent members of the Grand Lodge of England, which was established in 1717.

**BAILEY, LIBERTY HYDE** (1858–1954); farmer, teacher, writer, botanist and horticulturist; honored for his contributions to horticulture; first president

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of the American Society of Horticultural Science; Hobasco Lodge No. 716, Ithaca, New York.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 1100

**Year:** 1958

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Gardening— Horticulture Issue

**Designer:** Denver Gillen

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** No information

**Design:** “Bountiful Earth”— symbol of the good Earth and horn of plenty



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp was issued on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Liberty Hyde Bailey.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Bailey received his Entered Apprentice degree in the stated lodge on October 10, 1901. He was passed on October 24 and received his Master Mason's Degree on November 14 of the same year. At that time, he was 42 years old and gave his occupation as "teacher." He remained a member for 25 years and then requested, and was granted, a demit. He was not active in lodge work. His father, Liberty Hyde Sr., was a highly active Mason.

**BAKER, JOHN FRANKLIN** (1886–1963); baseball player; member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; Coats Lodge No. 102, Easton, Maryland.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No 1381

**Year:** 1969

**Type:** Commemorative

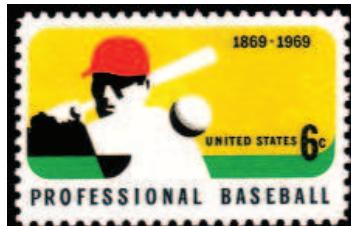
**Issue:** Professional Baseball

**Designer:** Alex Ross

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not applicable

**Design:** Batter

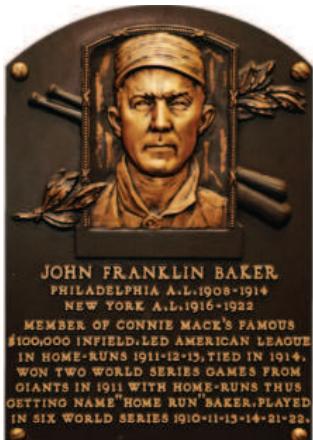


**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 855

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**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#1381) marked the 100th anniversary of baseball as it relates to salaried players. The Red Stockings of Cincinnati (later Cincinnati Reds) became the first team to pay team members (1869). The secondary stamp (#855) commemorated the centenary (1839–1939) of the game of baseball itself. (See entry under Alexander Joy Cartwright for information on the history of baseball as it relates to the secondary stamp #855—subsequent MP issue.)

**Additional Masonic Information:** No further information.



Plaque reads:  
**JOHN FRANKLIN BAKER**

PHILADELPHIA A.L. 1908–1914  
NEW YORK A.L. 1916–1922

MEMBER OF CONNIE MACK'S FAMOUS  
\$100,000 INFIELD. LED AMERICAN LEAGUE  
IN HOME-RUNS 1911–12–13, TIED IN 1914.  
WON TWO WORLD SERIES GAMES FROM  
GIANTS IN 1911 WITH HOME-RUNS THUS  
GETTING NAME "HOME RUN" BAKER.  
PLAYED IN SIX WORLD SERIES  
1910–11–13–14–21–22.

Baker's Hall of Fame plaque. The wording is shown on the right.

**Comment:** Baker's homers, which resulted in his nickname "Home Run," were more for their quality than quantity. Aside from the two home runs he hit in the 1911 World Series, he also scored decisive homers off two of the best pitchers in baseball history, Christy Mathewson and Rube Marquardt.

**BALBO, ITALO** (1896–1940); Italian General; Minister of Aeronautics; organized and lead an armada of twenty-four aircraft in a celebration flight from Orbetello, Rome to Chicago, Illinois, USA in 1933; Savonarola Lodge, Florence, Italy.

**Primary Stamp:** CDN–NFD No. C18

**Year:** 1933

**Type:** Commemorative

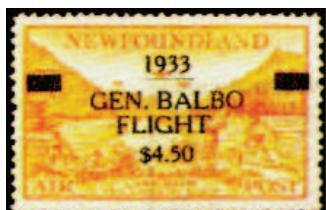
**Issue:** Balbo Flight Issue

**Designer:** J. Scott

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Overprint of #C17 – Labrador, the Land of Gold



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** On July 28, 1933 an Italian air armada of twenty-three Savoia-Marchetti flying boats under the leadership of General Italo Balbo landed at Shoal Harbor, Newfoundland. The armada was on its return flight to Italy from the Century of Progress Exposition at Chicago. The rate of \$4.50 shown on the stamp was that agreed with the Italian authorities to carry a one-half ounce letter to Europe. However, it is known that Balbo had refused to carry mail at a less expensive rate, so the agreement was one-sided. It is reasoned that both the United States and Canada avoided issuing special stamps commemorating the event for political purposes.

The decision to use the “Labrador, the Land of Gold” stamp for overprinting is not clear. Shoal Harbor is at the head of Random Sound in Trinity Bay, about 132 miles N.W. of St. John’s, Newfoundland, which is nowhere near Labrador. However, the stamp does show three light aircraft in the distance so there is a remote connection.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Balbo served as orator in his lodge. In 1923 he was a member of the Grand Fascist Council and he opposed Mussolini’s decision to dissolve Freemasonry in Italy. Balbo died when his plane was shot down near Tobrook in 1940. At that time, he was Governor of Libya. The circumstances regarding his death remain obscure to this day.

**BALCHEN, BERNT** (1899–1973); explorer, aviation pioneer and army officer; piloted first flight (1929) over the South Pole; he was the pilot for Admiral Richard E. Byrd; Norseman Lodge No. 878, Brooklyn, New York.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 733

**Year:** 1933

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Byrd Antarctic Issue

**Designer:** Victor S. McCloskey Jr.

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Map of the world (van der Gritten projection) showing air exploration routes



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 1431

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#733) shows dotted lines with dates indicating the routes Admiral Byrd, with Balchen as pilot, took on his flights. There are also two dotted lines shown without dates (South Polar region). These non-dated lines were the proposed new flights to the Antarctic and South Pole.

The design of the secondary stamp (#1431) was adapted from an emblem used on documents at consultative Antarctic Treaty meetings.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Balchen was also a 32nd Degree AASR Mason, and a Shriner (Kismet Temple). He and Admiral Richard E. Byrd dropped Masonic flags over both the North and South Poles during their exploration flights. Balchen dropped his Kismet Temple Shrine fez over the South Pole. After he helped in establishing a new air base at Thule, Greenland, which was 900 mile from the North Pole, Balchen was one of the organizers of the “Top of the World” Masonic Square Club at the new base. Over 500 airmen and construction workers were members of this club. In Balchen’s own words, “Men need the fellowship and warmth of Masonry at 20 degrees below zero.” In 1954, he was awarded the Grand Lodge of New York distinguished achievement medal. (See entry under Richard E. Byrd for additional information on Freemasonry and Antarctic exploration.)

**BALDWIN, ABRAHAM** (1754–1807); chaplain in the American Revolution; political leader; signer of the U.S. Constitution; one of the founders of the University of Georgia; Masonic membership is speculated, no proof.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No.798

**Year:** 1937

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Constitution Sesquicentennial Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** Painting by J. B. Sterns

**Design:** Adoption of the Constitution



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp commemorated the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. The painting by J. B. Sterns, on which the stamp is based, has a key which indicates the identity of many individual people shown. Abraham Baldwin is number 26. (MP Vol. 56, No. 4, page 13—also on the Club website).

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

The stamp has a symbol on its right and left sides. The right side shows a flaming torch, emblematic of enlightenment. The left side shows a Roman fasces (a bundle of rods with an axe in the middle). This symbol was carried before ancient Roman magistrates as a symbol of authority.

**Additional Masonic Information:** There is conflicting information on whether or not Baldwin was a Freemason. It appears there is a reference to a person by the name of Baldwin who affiliated with American Union Lodge, or who was a visitor to this lodge, during the American Revolution. It was then alleged that this particular Baldwin was Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin, not Abraham Baldwin.

**BALTIMORE, LORD CHARLES CALVERT** (c. 1637–1715); English baron; his family obtained the patent for the colonization of Maryland; proprietary governor of Maryland from 1715 to 1751; The Baltimore family seal is shown on the associated stamp; member of a lodge at Goodwood, Sussex, England.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 984

**Year:** 1949

**Type:** Commemorative

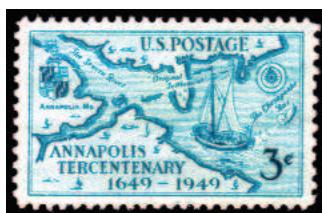
**Issue:** Annapolis Tercentenary Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Map of regions about Annapolis (1718)



**Secondary Stamp(s):** No. 736

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp commemorated the 300th anniversary of the founding of Annapolis, Maryland. The site was named for Queen Anne of England. The secondary stamp No. 736, Maryland Tercentenary, also shows the Baltimore family seal, however, it is different from what is seen on No. 984. It is likely just a different version, but I believe the later stamp shows the official seal.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Charles Calvert was made a Mason sometime in April, 1730. It is recorded that he was one of eight brethren present when Dr. Dessaugliers initiated Frederick, Prince of Wales at Castle Kew on April 28, 1737

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**BANCROFT, DAVID JAMES** (1892–1972); baseball player; member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; Superior Lodge No. 236, Superior, Wisconsin.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 1381

**Year:** 1969

**Type:** Commemorative

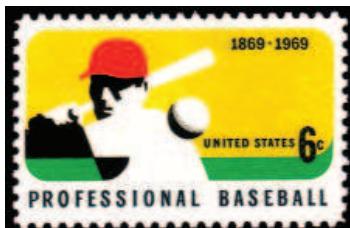
**Issue:** Professional Baseball

**Designer:** Alex Ross

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not applicable

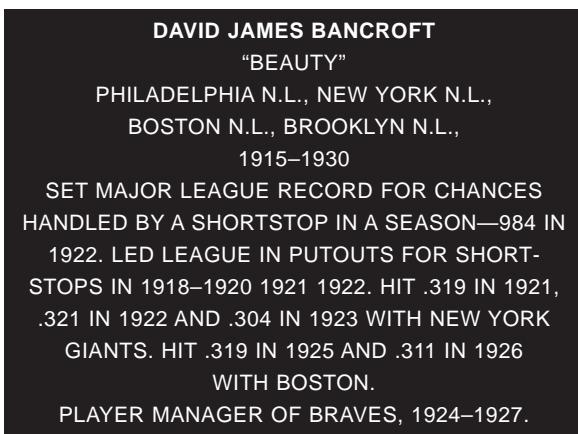
**Design:** Batter



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 855

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#1381) marked the 100th anniversary of baseball as it relates to salaried players. The Red Stockings of Cincinnati (later Cincinnati Reds) became the first team to pay team members (1869). The secondary stamp (#855) commemorated the centenary (1839–1939) of the game of baseball itself. (See entry under Alexander Joy Cartwright for information on the history of baseball as it relates to the secondary stamp #855—subsequent MP issue.)

**Additional Masonic Information:** No further information.



Bancroft's Hall of Fame plaque. The wording is shown on the right.

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**BANKHEAD, WILLIAM B.** (1874–1940); U.S. politician; speaker of the House of Representatives, 74th to 76th Congress; York Lodge No. 211, Jasper, Alabama.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 992

**Year:** 1950

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** National Capital Sesquicentennial  
Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** United States Capitol



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 572

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#992) commemorated the legislative branch of the United States government. The United States Capitol building was designed by William Thornton. The building did not appear as it is shown on the stamp for the full 150 years being commemorated. It was enlarged and the dome was added between 1851 and 1865.

The selection of Washington as the nation's capital was not as well planned and agreeable as may be implied by the beautiful buildings and gardens. Congress originally met in the Old City Hall in Philadelphia. At that time (1783), the nation was flat broke, without credit and heavily in debt for back-pay to soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. A number of violent intrusions by the citizens had occurred and on one occasion, a large angry mob of soldiers virtually invaded the city to present their grievances. Many congressmen, both angry with and frightened by the demonstration, reasoned that another location was necessary to minimize intrusions.

George Washington chose the new site, appropriately named after him, which at that time was a bog. After several years of planning, office buildings were erected and by the year 1800 the new capitol building was open for business. But few were pleased with the new "isolated" location. Congressmen refused to build homes in the city and citizen groups pressed for a more accessible spot. Even Abigail Adams, the new First Lady, lamented, "We have not the least convenience."

Lacking cultural institutions and personal conveniences, Washington became known as the "capital of miserable huts." To make matters worse, the Potomac River paid regular visits, making already muddy streets muddier. Living conditions were so bad that foreign ambassadors stationed in the capital applied for, and collected, "hardship pay" from their governments.

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

How did this tarnished image get turned around? It was a classic case of, “You don’t know what you’ve got ‘till it’s gone.” When the British invaded Washington in 1814, they set fire to the Capitol building. The Americans were virtually incensed to think that anyone would attempt to destroy the nation’s capital. An immense and patriotic rebuilding effort commenced and the age-old ingredients of love and pride worked a miracle.

Note: This story on Washington, because of its length, does not appear elsewhere for Stamp #992.

**Additional Masonic Information:** No further information.

**BANKS, FRANK A.** (1883–1957); supervising engineer of the Grand Coulee Dam; American Falls Lodge No. 58, American Falls, Idaho.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 1009

**Year:** 1952

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Grand Coulee Dam Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Spillway, Grand Coulee Dam



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#1009) was issued to commemorate 50 years of Federal cooperation in the development of resources (rivers and streams) in the West. The central design of the stamp is a view of Grand Coulee Dam showing the spillway. At the left is shown an irrigation farmer at work and at the right there is a power transmission line. This symbolism typifies the two principal benefits of the Grand Coulee Dam project. The word “coulee” means a deep gulch or ravine.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Banks received his Master Mason’s degree in the stated lodge on May 17, 1919.



## Foreign Masonic-related Stamps that Parallel USA & Canadian Designs/Themes

**Class II: EDWARD VII;** British King; his membership in the Masonic Order was a considerable source of pride to Freemasons. However, his mother, Queen Victoria, was not pleased with his behavior and would not allow him any say in the business of the nation or the affairs of her court or family. Before he becoming king, he was seen to personify the fashionable, leisured elite. (*Australian States – Victoria #208*)



**Class II: BYRD,** Richard; American polar explorer, naval officer and pioneer aviator; first to command and navigate flights over the North and South Poles. He and his pilot, Bernt Balchen, dropped Masonic flags over the two Poles. (*Australian Antarctic Territory #L36*)



**Class II: KOSCIUSZKO,** Thaddeus; engineer, Polish patriot and general in the American Revolution; strong indications he was a Freemason, but no firm proof. Kosciuszko Lodge No. 1085, New York, is named in his honor. (*Belarus #94*)



**Class II: WASHINGTON,** George; first President of the United States. Washington on stamps is a topical specialty unto itself. Note how the stamp design extends the stripes (red and white in color) out into the stamp perforations. This is very effective because it contrasts the traditional setting. (*Belize #815*)



**Class II and Class IV: Bartholdi,** Frederick Auguste; French sculptor; creator of the Statue of Liberty. The stamp design is unique because Bartholdi is given "personality." (*Belize #817*)





# **Murphy's STAMP RANT**

***Errors, Oddities & Oversights  
USA & CANADA***

## **Book Two: Design Curiosities – Part 2**

### **BAFFLING BAFFIN**

This stamp marks the anniversary (1880–1980) of Canada's acquisition of the Arctic Islands. All of these islands, except a large portion of Baffin Island, were transferred to Canada by Britain in 1880. Canada already owned about one-half of Baffin prior to 1880 so that portion, of course, was not included in the transfer. This condition undoubtedly caused a little turmoil with the stamp designer. To get around the problem, Canada's original portion of Baffin was shaded to match all other Canadian possessions. The British half of Baffin was made white to match the other islands. This process, however, gives the impression that one-half of Baffin is not an Arctic Island. It would have been better if the stamp had shown Arctic Island Territory rather than Arctic Islands. (CDN #847)



### **BRIDGE OF DEATH**

Quebec Bridge, which is shown on this stamp, spans the St. Lawrence River a few miles from Quebec City. This bridge claimed the lives of 88 workmen in two disasters while the bridge was being built. The first disaster occurred on August 29, 1907, when the south cantilever span collapsed, sweeping 75 workmen to their deaths. Then on September 11, 1916, the center span gave way as it was being hoisted into place, killing 13 more workmen. The bridge took 17 years to complete at a cost of \$15 million. Upon completion, it shortened the railway mileage between Winnipeg and Halifax by more than 200 miles. (CDN #156)



## CANINE LIFE SAVERS

The remarkable Newfoundland dog has been honored a number of times on pre-Confederation Newfoundland postage stamps, and recently on the Canadian issue illustrated. This particular breed of dog has demonstrated life-saving heroism in sea tragedies



unmatched by any other breed. Nature has equipped the Newfoundland with webbed paws giving the animal exceptional ability in water. In the early days of sailing ships, Newfoundland dogs were taken aboard as standard life-saving equipment! Dogs have always been man's best friend, and this breed is among the best of the best. (CDN #1220)

## CHIEF CHATTER

The American Indian chief whose photograph was used for the design of this stamp was Chief Hollow Horn Bear (1850–1913). The stamp was intended to honor the American Indian, however, during the Chief's time, most Native Americans were not even considered citizens of the United States. The stamp was issued about ten years and two months after the Chief died. Chief Hollow Horn Bear has been incorrectly associated with the U.S. five-cent piece (Indian head nickel) and the five dollar U.S. bank note of 1899. The nickel Indian head was a composite of three individuals: Chiefs John Big Tree (nose and forehead); Iron Tail (cheek and chin); Two Moons (hair and headdress). By a strange coincidence, the resulting profile ended up looking very much like that of Chief Two Gun White Calf. As a result, the image on the nickel is often attributed to this Chief. The five-dollar note carries the image of Chief Onepapa. (USA #565)



## CHINESE CHECKERS

Effectively, this stamp honors a former American general, and a volunteer Chinese fighting force. As it happened, Claire Chennault, who is shown on the stamp, was forced to resign his commission in the United States Army Air Service in 1937 because of deafness. The Chinese government, seeing Chennault was available, asked him to become an air force advisor for them in their war against Japan. Chennault took the position and in 1941 he organized the Flying Tigers, a Chinese volunteer force made up mostly of American pilots and mechanics. The force won a series of outstanding victories against Japan between December 1941 and July 1942. It was then incorporated into the United States Army Air Service.



Flying Tiger flight leader R.T. Smith with his plane. The insignia was created by the Walt Disney Company.

## CLEAR MINORITY

With this unusual stamp, Canada celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of women's suffrage (right to vote). The dates shown for the anniversary are 1917–1967. The stamp shows the expression VOTES FOR WOMEN in both English and French (LA FEMME DOIT VOTER). It is highly apparent postal officials and the stamp designer overlooked the fact that the women of Quebec were not given the voting privilege until 1940. In 1967, the province of Quebec comprised about 29% of the total Canadian population. Given a reasonably even distribution of Canadian women, the stamp only applied to about 71% of them up to 1940. (CDN #470)



## COAST GUARD CONFUSION

The date 1790 shown on this stamp is the United States Coast Guard's historical reference date. An act of Congress approved on July 31, 1789, provided for government vessels to guard coastal waters. On August 4, 1790, first secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, requested the construction of "ten boats" to assist in the collection of customs and tonnage dues. A new agency was created for the boats and was named the United States Revenue Cutter Service. One hundred and twenty-five (125) years later (1915), the United States Life Saving Service was merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the United States Coast Guard. An obvious question related to the illustrated stamp design is what have landing craft got to do with the Coast Guard? The answer is that during World War II, Coast Guard officers and men saw action in every major theater of operation. They did so in their own vessels or in army and navy craft. Still, we might ponder that the Coast Guard should be honored with a stamp that shows one of its own vessels. (USA #936)



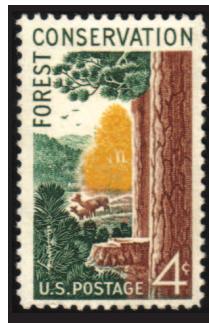
## COMBAT CONFUSION

One's first impression of this stamp is that it shows two soldiers (Confederate and Union) in combat. This message is not intended. A very close examination of the stamp will reveal that the left hand side shows a Confederate soldier against a gray background; the right hand side shows a Union soldier against a blue background. The message is simply "Blue and Gray at Gettysburg." The two soldiers are just in opposing positions, not combat. The official stamp description does not say anything about combat or fighting. We might note that if the soldiers were in combat, their relative positions would be absurd unless both soldiers had missed with their bayonets. The design of the stamp is based on the winning entry in a nation wide competition among professional artists, the first contest of this nature ever sponsored by the United States Postal Service. (USA #1180)



## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Forest conservation is the theme of this stamp. Upon close examination, however, one will notice a tree stump as the central foreground object. The stump has the typical “two-step” cut marks so familiar in freshly logged areas. To justify the stump, we must rationalize that the tree was removed for conservation reasons. If that explanation is not accepted, then we have to say the stump is there to symbolize what we must avoid—excessive forest depletion. Other than these somewhat weak attempts to explain the stamp design, your author is “stumped.” (USA #1122)



## CRAZY HORSE DISCOURSE

Chief Crazy Horse (1849?–1877), Chief of the Oglala Sioux Indians, is honored on this stamp. The fearless Chief and his warriors defeated Lieutenant Colonel George Custer and his forces at the Battle of the Little Big Horn (South Dakota) in 1877. Crazy Horse was later forced to surrender and was captured. He was killed by a guard (bayoneted) when he tried to escape custody. The battle resulted because the United States Army forced the Indians to relinquish their South Dakota land to gold-seekers. The territory had been ceded to the Indians in the treaty of 1868. It was their holy land onto which Custer personally trespassed and found gold. When he broadcasted the news, hostilities between gold-seekers and the Indians began. Chief Crazy Horse and other Natives would not stand for the invasion, which led to an all-out Indian war. There is apparently one other thing Chief Crazy Horse would not stand for—a camera. Surprisingly, there are no known photographs of the Chief, nor does there appear to be any known drawings or paintings showing his image. The stamp designer, Brad Holland, created the image we see on the stamp from a possible likeness of Chief Crazy Horse created by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski (1908–1982).



Extensive research was performed by Ziolkowski on the Chief’s facial features prior to commencement of work on his Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The following information emailed to your author on November 12, 1999, by Janeen

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

Melmer, librarian of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, provides the details.

Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski did extensive research prior to beginning his work on the Crazy Horse memorial, and he could find no evidence to support that Crazy Horse had never allowed himself to be photographed. However, the Lakota elders who requested Korczak to carve the monument and who were Crazy Horse's contemporaries, firmly maintained that no pictures of Crazy Horse had ever been taken as, "he did not want to lose his shadow." Korczak created the model of Crazy Horse largely through descriptions that were given to him by the elders. He also determined that the carving would be a memorial to the spirit of Crazy Horse and to his people rather than a linear likeness.

Over the years, at least six photographs have been published purporting to be Crazy Horse, but there is little or no evidence to support the authenticity of these pictures. Several historians have conducted thorough research in an effort to determine whether or not Crazy Horse was ever photographed. Based on the information Korczak received from Crazy Horse's contemporaries and the research conducted by the various historians, we are extremely skeptical about the existence of an authentic photograph.

Howard Red Bear (1871–1968) was a young boy when Crazy Horse was killed. He described Crazy Horse's appearance in an interview that is recorded in the book, *To Kill an Eagle: Indian Views of the Last Days of Crazy Horse*, by Edward and Mabell Kadlecuk. "This man Crazy Horse was not big—he was medium sized—with light hair and light complexion."

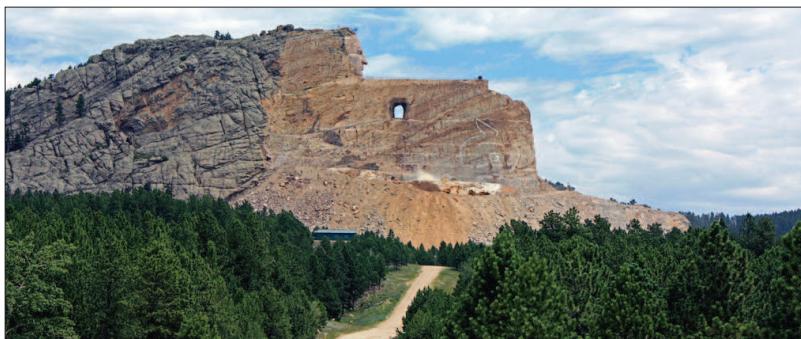
Joseph Black Elk (1895–1977) described the appearance of Crazy Horse in an interview that was also recorded in *To Kill and Eagle*. "The personal appearance of warrior Chief Crazy Horse was light complexion, brown eyes, dark hair, weight about one hundred fifty pounds, height five feet, five inches; thirty-three years of age at the time he was killed."

The U.S. Postal Department used Korczak's design when they issued the 13-cent regular issue stamp with the image of Crazy Horse as part of the Great American Series.

After Korczak Ziolkowski's death on October 20, 1982, work on the monument was continued by his children. When completed, the Crazy Horse Monument will appear as the model shown in the

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

first photograph below. The actual carving (under construction) can be seen in the background. The second photograph shows just the carving. The model is one mile away from the carving. It shows Crazy Horse pointing to the distant lands. The theme reflects the Chief's own words, "My lands are where my dead lie buried." It is also noted that Crazy Horse once told his people, "I will return to you in stone." Whatever Chief Crazy Horse actually looked like, millions of postage stamps and a gigantic monument, right or wrong, now attest to his likeness. Even if something turns up to dispute his likeness, it will be near impossible to correct the situation. Certainly, a new stamp could be issued, but as to changing the monument, well... it's carved in stone. (USA #1855)



CREDIT EDIT

A pastel portrait of George Washington by William J. Williams was used for the design of this stamp, one in a series showing Washington. The original portrait shows Washington wearing Masonic regalia (a Masonic collar, sash and apron) as shown below. The collar was omitted in the stamp design so as not to credit or recognize Washington's Masonic membership. The story of how the stamp came to be issued was provided in *The Masonic Philatelist* (Vol. 1, No. 10, February 1945) in an article by F. L. Ellis. An excerpt is provided here. This information has just come to light for me in the process of scanning our Club's publications issued since 1944.



On December 11, 1930, Peter Gouled wrote to Postmaster-General Walter F. Brown suggesting that a portrait depicting Washington as a Mason, a painting by William Williams be included in the series. He received an answer that owing to certain rules no individual could be shown on the postage stamps of the U.S. in a fraternal capacity. Mr. Gouled, on receiving this answer from the office of the 3rd Assistant Postmaster-General, Frederic A. Tilton, again in February of 1931, wrote that the portrait could be used in such a way that the regalia could be omitted and that Washington would appear as he did in his later years. With this letter he also sent a photograph of the portrait with the lodge jewel removed, this portrait then met the Postmaster-General's approval and on March 13, 1931, the Third Assistant-Postmaster General Tilton notified Mr. Gouled that his suggestion would be adopted.

Washington was a very prominent Freemason, and he was very proud of his membership in the Order. He was initiated into a lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1752 and later became a member and Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia. It is a shame the first president was not allowed Masonic expression in the stamp design. (USA #714)



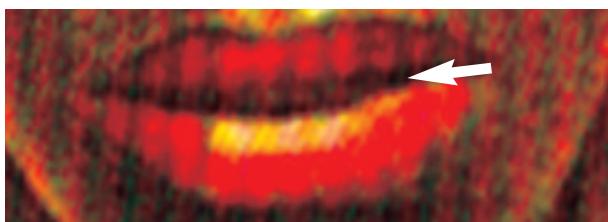
The full painting by W. J. Williams. We can see that Washington was in full Masonic regalia when he sat for the portrait. The author of the article mentions that Williams "painted Washington as he was, not a flattering portrait."

## CROP CROPPING

When one examines this stamp very closely, he or she might feel just a little uncomfortable with Robert Johnson's mouth—it's not quite right. The truth of the matter is that in the actual photograph from which the stamp design was taken, Johnson has a cigarette in his mouth.



The evil crop was cropped-out in the on-going battle to eliminate giving tobacco even a hint of glory. A very close examination of the stamp will reveal where the cigarette probably resided between Johnson's lips. (USA #1994)



Nevertheless, I am sure many great men shown on stamps were smokers. I leave the reader to determine in whose fingers rest the cigarette holder in the following US stamp detail.



## CHERUB CONTROVERSY

The little cherub figures used for the design of the stamps shown here were, to say the least, very bad choices.

Research has revealed that the figures are a type of death angel (they are not cherubs) and are therefore very inappropriate for the stamps. Joseph Scafetta Jr., an Italian Renaissance specialist, has pointed out that the angels are actually “putti,” or guardian death angels who escort the recently deceased to Heaven or Hell. He states that the angles’ black and red wings are a dead give-away in this regard.

The figures were taken from a painting by Raphael entitled *Sistine Madonna*, which is shown on the following page.

In the painting, the little angels are leaning on something and they both appear to be very bored. What they are leaning on, according to Scafetta, is the coffin of Pope Julius II. The deceased pontiff’s tiara (three-tiered hat) is resting on the coffin at the left of the painting. The angels appear to be bored and, in fact, are so because they are listening to a long funeral oration for the deceased Pope being delivered by St. Sixtus to the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. St. Barbara, on the right, gazes at the coffin (or perhaps at the angels to discipline them). After St. Sixtus has completed his speech, then a judgment will be made by the Christ Child as to where the Pope is to be delivered—Heaven or Hell. The little angels are waiting for their orders in this regard. (USA #2957, 2958)

**Side Note:** The little “angels” were used on five U.S. stamps, all with the message of “love,” and have also been used on greeting cards and so forth, again with the same theme. I recently saw a very large mural of the images at a restaurant that caters to children. I rate this story among the best with regard to postage stamp oddities—another gold medal for US stamp designers.





*Sistine Madonna*, by Raphael.

## A Brother Behind the Scenes

When we study the American Revolution, we might tend to overlook the many individuals who were “behind the scenes.” In other words, those who worked in the shadows to provide information, armaments, provisions, and the other necessities of guiding and maintaining a fighting force.

One such brother was Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais (1732–1799). He was a French playwright, watchmaker, inventor, musician, diplomat, spy, publisher, horticulturist, arms dealer, satirist, financier, and revolutionary (both French and American Revolutions). Because he was so multi-talented he was able to function effectively in various disciplines. Wikipedia summarizes his life as follows:

Born a provincial watchmaker's son, Beaumarchais rose in French society and became influential in the court of Louis XV as an inventor and music teacher. He made a number of important business and social contacts, played various roles as a diplomat and spy, and had earned a considerable fortune before a series of costly court battles jeopardized his reputation.

An early French supporter of American independence, Beaumarchais lobbied the French government on behalf of the American rebels during the American War of Independence. He oversaw covert aid from the French and Spanish governments to supply arms and financial assistance to the rebels in the years before France's formal entry into the war in 1778. He later struggled to recover money he had personally invested in the scheme. Beaumarchais was also a participant in the early stages of the French Revolution. He is probably best known, however, for his theatrical works, especially the three Figaro plays.

Wolfgang Mozart (a highly noted Mason) based an opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, on a play by Beaumarchais, and here there is a reference that he was “another Freemason.” He would have interacted with many Freemasons in America, so his membership in the Order is very likely. (France #405)



## Bro. Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin A Most Unusual Masonic-related Stamp

In reviewing the stamps of Comoro Islands, I ran across a “remarkable” stamp honoring Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin (1738–1814), after whom is named the execution device, “guillotine.” However, he did not invent the device. It was invented by Dr. Antoine Louis, together with German engineer, Tobias Schmidt, and had been previously used in Italy, Germany and England prior to its association with Dr. Guillotin. He simply proposed the use of the device to carry out death penalties in France as a less painful method of execution. As a result, he became incorrectly considered its inventor.

The connection with the so named “guillotine” so embarrassed Dr. Guillotin’s family that they petitioned the French government to rename it; when the government refused, they changed their family name. Contrary to popular belief, Dr. Guillotin was not later executed with the device; he died of natural causes. Another doctor with the same surname was executed, and thus the confusion.



of the Tennis Court.” The French stamp showing the painting is provided here on the left. The good Doctor was one of the founders of the Grand Orient of France. He was Worshipful Master of Lodge La Concordia, and also a member of Lodge Les Neuf Soeurs. He knew and worked with Benjamin Franklin. (Reference: “A Remarkable Stamp and a Remarkable Lodge,” by Bro. Wessel M. Lens, MP Vol. 26, No. 6, May 1970, page 6.)

A highly dedicated professional, Dr. Guillotin became one of the first French doctors to support Edward Jenner’s discovery of vaccination, and in 1805 was the President of the Committee for Vaccination in Paris. He also founded one of the precursors of the National Academy of Medicine. Obviously the Comoro Islands stamp designers were not aware of the man’s history or they would not have designed a stamp of that “troublesome” nature—especially giving the subject a ghoulish smile. (*Comoro Islands #713, France #390*)



Dr. Guillotin is also identified as part of the crowd on a number of other stamps that show the painting (or part thereof) by Jacques David, entitled (English) “Oath

## The “Sleeping Giant”and the Stamp that Never Was

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto is said to have stated: “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

A stamp issued by Japan, shown here, has an actual photograph of the attack taken by one of their pilots. It was issued on December 8, 1942. The lettering states, “1st Anniversary of the Great East Asia War.”

For certain, the quotation (whoever said it) was very prophetic. The devastation at Pearl Harbor forced President Franklin Roosevelt to enter World War II, and would later cause President Harry Truman to usher in the atomic age.

Both Germany and Japan had embarked on a movement of unacceptable and despicable ideology with complete disregard for human rights. Within four years, both countries were destroyed, with repercussions that would continue for many more years.

The tragedy of war is the unavoidable deaths of innocent people. By far, most people want to live in harmony and cooperation, but by coercion and corruption what can only be termed as “mad men” can amass terrible forces of evil.

During World War I, Germany introduced a new “mind-set” in modern warfare—one simply destroys everything and everybody in the enemy country. In this way, the population is demoralized, which naturally affects the abilities of the country’s fighting forces. Consequently, World War II essentially emerged as a “no holds barred” war.



The use of atomic bombs by the “Sleeping Giant” to end the conflict with Japan continues to be a controversial issue. However, there is absolutely no doubt that both Germany and Japan would have used them if they could have made them. Their use by the USA did, however, involve a measure of restraint. Smaller cities were targeted to act as a warning. Although the devastation was horrific, it could have been worse.

The last great conflict over the bombs came about as the result of a postage stamp. The US Postal Service designed a stamp to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II (1995), and on it they depicted an atomic bomb exploding (first image, below). Another design was submitted, this time with a plane (Enola Gay) in the upper left and a different caption (second image below). Japan objected to the stamp, and to maintain good US relations, the issue was cancelled.



In July 2014, the last surviving crew member of the Enola Gay, Theodore Van Kirk, died. He was a member of Eureka Lodge No. 404, Northumberland, Pennsylvania. (*Japan #B7*)

## Long May They Reign

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

The bald eagle or American eagle as commonly known in the USA has adorned numerous postage stamps. A good friend and Brother, Barry Blount, who lives in Chilliwack, BC (about 60 miles from my place) has a hobby of photographing these great rulers of the sky, which are quite numerous throughout the province. He sent me this image which he formatted into a greeting card.

Fortunately the bald eagle population in BC is actually increasing. Counts are done on a regular basis by a local society. The counts are done with the naked eye. Recently, an enterprising individual took a high-resolution digital photograph of an area where the birds regularly gather—essentially sand bars on a river with forest in the background. When the image was enlarged, hundreds of eagles not seen with the naked eye could be identified in background trees. The society people were astounded. Their count was far less than what the photograph revealed.

Much has been learned about eagles by using video recorders trained on their nests, an on going project undertaken by the Hancock Wildlife Foundation. Every effort is made to preserve their nesting sites. Some nests are in tall trees right in the city of Vancouver on well-traveled roads, and also in public parks. On the ground under the trees,



© Blount Photo 2014

parts of ducks, rodents and fish are seen, as a result of “cleaning house.”

Most bald eagle populations in the USA fell prey to the chemical DDT in the 1950s (egg shells collapsed). Eagles from Canada were sent to the US and the bird is once again getting a talon hold in the country where its symbol accompanies the President on the Great Seal. It was Freemasons, by the way, who selected this bird (although Brother Benjamin Franklin was rather fond of the wild turkey). *Continued*



The first time an eagle was shown on a US stamp was in April 1869 (first image shown above). One month later (May) the same basic design was used,, but this time with flags each side of the shield, and red, white, and blue coloring (second image above). Really, this is just two colors because white does not need to be printed if the paper is white. At that time, it appears only two colors could be used, and that is why the eagle is red (although perhaps blue might have been better). The flags on either side of the shield are a little odd. Obviously, they did not include red stripes for some reason (I really don't see why not). However, note that an illusion was created with blue lines so that we think we can see many flags.

**(Note:** I realize our magazine is not in color, however, this material is in color on our website.)

The next time we see the eagle on a regular issue (non-air post or special deliverer) stamp is in 1942, when the bird was pressed into service to help win the war as

seen with this stamp (below). It's important to note that in this case the eagle is clutching arrows rather than an olive branch—in other words, "We mean business." There are only 13 stars around the eagle, which stand for the 13 original states (same as the stripes on the US flag). This is a reference to the "Spirit of 1776." It should also be noted that the eagles wings and body form a "V", for Victory.

*Continued*



This discussion might lead one to wonder if any eagle in US history has ever performed some great patriotic service to truly earn its lofty place in American symbolism. Surprisingly, one particular eagle has.

Just prior to the beginning of the American Civil War, an Indian by the name of Blue Sky chopped down a tree in which there was an eagle's nest. An eaglet tumbled out of the nest and Blue Sky caught the little bird. He fed and cared for it and in time it grew and became very tame. Blue Sky sold the bird to a white man for five bushels of corn.

When the Civil War began, the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers (Union Force) came up with the idea of an eagle mascot. Some soldiers happened across the white man who had Blue Sky's eagle and they bought the bird for \$2.50. The eagle strutted about the army camp much like a puppy and for some reason selected a soldier by the name of Jimmie McGinnis for his master. The bird would not allow anyone to feed him except McGinnis.

In time, McGinnis made for the mascot a shield-shaped perch with stars and strips. He tethered one of the bird's legs with a long cord and paraded him on his perch when the regiment marched. Crowds cheered and waved at the spectacle when the regiment marched through the towns. On a march through the state capital, the eagle was given the name Old Abe in honor of President Abraham Lincoln. By this time, Old Abe had reached maturity. He weighed 10.5 pounds and had a wing span of 6.5 feet.

While Old Abe did not like children or



dogs, he appeared to love marching soldiers, cheering crowds and music. When the regiment band played, he flapped his wings and made a whistling sound. For some parades, he was placed "on review." He was stationed on an officer's horse to watch the soldiers as they thundered by. Old Abe's military rank was apparently very high; the officers on parade would salute him as they passed.

The first time Old Abe went into battle, he was a little shaken. Upon hearing a cannon shot, he broke his tether and flew away. The soldiers thought he had gone forever, but as the battle progressed, they could hear his screams amid the canon shots and rifle fire. When the battle ended and the smoke cleared, Old Abe was seen circling far above the battlefield. A little while later, he swooped down and landed on his perch. From that time on, he was not tethered. He would often leave to go fishing or hunting but always returned. Sometimes he soared aloft over the marching regiment. Old Abe went through the entire Civil War, serving in 22 battles. Stray bullets often hit his perch and sometimes tore his feathers, but he was never badly hurt.

When the war ended, Old Abe was

given to the State of Wisconsin and he lived in the State House at Madison for the next 15 years. In 1875, Jimmie McGinnis took him to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Thousands of admiring visitors listened to McGinnis tell stories of Old Abe's battle service. In 1881, Old Abe died of old age. His body was mounted and put on display in Madison. He was one of the city's attractions until the State House burned down. The illustrated stamps show an eagle clutching a shield—a highly appropriate unofficial tribute to Old Abe. (USA #116, 121, 905, #C23)



### Crayons Of All Things, But...

Some of us might be a little disappointed with the subjects of current postage stamps. We are accustomed to seeing great people, artwork, noteworthy events and so forth as subjects. We are now seeing mundane products, such as the crayons shown here. When I first laid eyes on this stamp, my reaction was, What Next? However, when I studied it for a while, I recalled with fond memories using those crayons when I was about 6 years old—wishing there were more colors, how I peeled back the paper, and how the crayons eventually broke and pushing all the pieces back in the box. I now kind of like the stamp. Obviously what we have here is nostalgia. The image invoked



a favorable reaction, so the USPS might be a little smarter than we think by using material of this nature. I certainly don't think I'm alone. (USA #3182d)

# *The Masonic Philatelist*

## **Additional Masonic Musicians**

(Thanks to the Netherlands Masonic Group and Bro. Domingue.)

**Nikolaos Halikiopoulos Mantzaros** (1795–1872). Greek composer born in Corfu and the major representative of the Ionian School of music. He was of mixed Greek and Italian noble descent, coming from one of the most important and wealthy families of the “Libro d’Oro di Corfu” and therefore he never considered himself a “professional composer.” Recent research and performances have led to a re-evaluation of Mantzaros as a significant composer and music theorist. He was initiated into Freemasonry in 1818 in a lodge in Kerkyra, Greece, where he lived. The lodge in that city now is Phoenix Lodge, No.1. It is not certain that this was the name of the lodge he originally joined. (*Shown on right –Greece #601*)



**Raffaele Attilio Amedeo Schipa**, known as Tito Schipa (1888–1965). Italian tenor. He is considered one of the finest tenore di grazia (lyric tenors) in operatic history. He was endowed with a natural, sensuous voice which he deployed with great intelligence and taste. He was born in Lecce. He studied in Milan and made his operatic debut at age 21 in 1910 at Vercelli. He subsequently appeared throughout Italy and in Buenos Aires. In 1917, he created the role of Ruggiero in Puccini’s *La Rondine*. Espartana Lodge No. 300, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (*Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe; Scott number not available yet.*)



**Pablo Martín Melitón de Sarasate y Navascués** (1844–1908). Spanish violinist and composer of the Romantic period. Over the course of his career, he toured many parts of the world, performing in Europe, North America, and South America. His artistic pre-eminence was due principally to the purity of his tone, which was free from any tendency towards the sentimental or rhapsodic, and to that impressive facility of execution that made him a virtuoso. Lodge La Ruche Philosophique, Paris, France. (*Spain #2028*)



**João Domingos Bomtempo** also Buontempo (1775–1842). Portuguese classical pianist, composer and pedagogue. He composed a vast amount of concertos, sonatas, variations and fantasies for the piano. His two known symphonies are the first to be produced by a Portuguese composer. Bomtempo’s masterpiece is his Requiem in memory of Luís de Camões. (*Portugal #1227*)



## The Royal Yacht that Followed a King to a Grave

This stamp showing the Royal racing yacht *Britannia* is considered one of the most beautiful stamps—and to many yacht enthusiasts one of the most nostalgic.

The yacht was built in 1893 for Commodore Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII. By the end of her first year of racing, *Britannia* had scored 33 wins from 43 starts. In her second season, she won all 7 races for the first class yachts on the French Riviera, and then beat the 1893 America's Cup defender *Vigilant* in home waters. She went on to win numerous other races.

Edward passed the yacht to his son, George VI, who continued racing the vessel with continued success. In her later years, she was re-fitted, but was unable to reclaim her former glory. During her entire racing career *Britannia* had won 231 races and took another 129 flags.

George VI became very attached to his legendary racing cutter, and like a jealous lover, did not want anyone else to hold her. His dying wish was for his beloved yacht was to follow him to the grave. Accordingly, on July 10, 1936, after *Britannia* had been stripped of her spars and fittings, her hull was towed out to St Catherine's Deep near the Isle of Wight, and she was sunk by *HMS Winchester*, commanded by Captain W.N.T. Beckett of the Royal Navy.

King Edward VII was a very high-profile and active Freemason. During his time Masonic participation flourished on every continent, in virtually every nation. The Order certainly “won the day” in earlier times, but has now come up against very stiff competition. Perhaps a “re-fit” in this case would help. Unlike *Britannia*, the Order does not have to



Edward VII in his Masonic regalia.

battle the elements. The time has definitely come to when we need to put the old “Craft” on the table and look for ways to up-date it. Edward VII was a member of Apollo University Lodge No. 357, Oxford, England, and also Prince of Wales Lodge No. 250, London, England. (CDN #216)

# Milestone for Philatelic Freemasonry

Walter P. Benesch, President  
George Washington Masonic Stamp Club

The date Friday, January 30, 2015; the place, Reston, Virginia—a date and place to be recognized as a great day in Masonic Philately. One of the most exclusive invitational bodies in Freemasonry, The Society of Blue Friars, accepted into its ranks one of our own, Robert (Bob) Domingue, the long time editor and driving force of *The Philatelic Freemason: Journal of the Masonic Study Unit*. It is important to realize that there are only a little over 100 Masons who have ever been invited to the ranks of the Blue Friars which include: Arturo de Hoyos, Brent Morris, Allen Roberts and many other noted Masonic writers and authors. Only a single Mason is invited to this prestigious organization each year, given there is a vacancy. The newly chosen member then delivers the keynote address; an address that attracts Masons from the international scene who represent some of the most rarefied Masonic organizations not only in the United States but around the world.

Bro. Bob, now Blue Friar Domingue, delivered a splendiferous paper on stamp collecting, outlining his personal experience and the history of philately in general and Masonic Philately in particular. To fully understand how important this presentation was to non-attendees, a brief review of the points brought out by Bro. Bob is presented.

Bro. Bob informed the audience of the origins of postage stamps which



Bro. Robert Domingue, proclaimed a Blue Friar in January 2015. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes.

started in Great Britain in 1840. Then the issuing of the five cent Ben Franklin and ten cent George Washington stamps in 1847 commenced the issuance of United States stamps. Bob noted that over the remainder of 19th Century 16 other individuals were displayed on stamps, nine of whom were Masons.

The first Masonic covers were produced in the 1920s, commemorating special events. These early covers included the dedication of the AASR Temple in Indianapolis in 1929, and the dedication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, which occurred on

## *The Masonic Philatelist*

May 12, 1932. The latter also had a special rubber stamp used for cancellation of the covers issued and which was applied to all mail out of the Alexandria post office on that date.

Bro. Harrison Groat began to issue covers postmarked at various locations with a cachet on the envelope describing an event of special importance associated with the date of the cancellation. This started with the issuance of the 200th commemoration (200th anniversary) of Solomon Lodge No. 1, Georgia, on February 12, 1934. Bro. Groat continued to issue approximately 40 covers over the next six years which may be considered the true beginning of Masonic Philately in the United States.

Of course Bro. Bob noted January 13, 1934 as an important date for The Masonic Stamp Club of New York. It was on that date when a number of Masons met at the New York Grand Lodge Library and Museum and formed their famous Club. He noted that membership included many famous Masons including the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The Club's first cover was issued in February of 1935 with the recognition of the George Washington Shrine in Tappan, New York. Our beloved and recently departed Brother, Dr. Allan Boudreau, and the current editor of the Club's quarterly magazine (*The Masonic Philatelist*) Christopher Murphy were singled out as just a few of the guiding lights of the Club. The Master of Philately Degree was noted, which Bob received in 1964.

The creation of Chapter No. 1 of the Masonic Stamp Club of NY occurred in 1956. The name was later changed to the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club (GWMSC), of which the author is the current president. This Club has two meetings a year;

one at BALPEX (Baltimore Philatelic Exposition) and the other at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia (Sunday on or after February 22nd). It was noted that the GWMSC continues to issue a George Washington Birthday cachet with a Mt. Vernon cancellation at the Club's annual meeting in February. Past president and long time cachet developer Bro. Stanley R. Longencker was singled out for his outstanding contributions in producing Masonic covers over many years.

Bro. Bob cited the many other Masonic stamp clubs which largely lived and died with their founders and driving force. These included the Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee, The Philadelphia Masonic Stamp Club, The Denver Masonic Stamp Club, the Louisiana Masonic Stamp Club, and the Masonic Stamp Club of Missouri.

He noted the Masonic Stamp Club of New York's quarterly publication, *The Masonic Philatelist*, which effectively started in 1944 with a simple one-page newsletter. Other newsletters issued by the various clubs over the years were singled out with their creators and editors. *The Philatelic Freemason* is one of the surviving newsletters that continues to be published—of course under Bro. Bob's guidance. The American Topical Association (ATA) started up a country-wide Masonic Stamp Newsletter which was the first associated with the ATA—of which *The Philatelic Freemason* continues to be published.

Bro. Bob mentioned the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain which was created in 1977, but had a break when the Grand Lodge of England attempted to limit the Club's members to members of the Grand Lodge only. The Grand Lodge later relented

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providing the Club members would be limited to recognized lodge members. This expanded the existence of Masonic stamp clubs in a number of countries and many publishing a variety of newsletters and magazines. Key to success is an extensive Masonic reference library, in particular Bro. Denslow's *10,000 Famous Freemasons*. Brothers Chris Murphy (well known to readers of this publication), Brothers Emiel Crab of the Netherlands, and Jean-Claude Vilespy of France were noted as major contributors to Masonic philately research.

What was interesting in the talk was the pointing out of "Masonic" stamps with scenes associated with places named after Masons. One example was the depiction of the Thatcher Ferry Bridge (Panama stamp), named after Bro. Maurice Thatcher, and the traffic light (Italian stamp), invented by Bro. Lester F. Wire. Both of these examples show the extent of good investigation and verification of Masonic associations.

As to the Masonic emblem shown on stamps, this can be misleading. In some cases the emblem is used with the image of an individual who was clearly not a Mason.

Bro. Bob recommends that for those wishing to create a Masonic collection it is best to do your own individual research and limit the collection to personal preferences, be it stamps associated with Freemasonry, first day covers, special Masonic cachets, or even anti-Masons and associations (some Vatican stamps fall under this category).

One highly interesting category of Masonic philately is what is called the "Government issues." These are stamps that specifically honor the Masonic Order. Bro. Bob cited several stamps from such diverse countries as Cuba, El Salvador, Romania, and Mexico. Those fortunate to obtain a hard

copy of Bro. Bob's talk were provided with some of the most outstanding examples.

The pride and joy of his personal collection are those Masonic covers which he had autographed by those who were the subject of the cachet. Bro. Bob noted he has been able to collect signatures from Brothers Harry Truman, the Duke of Windsor, J. Edgar Hoover, Chief Justice Earl Warren, President Miguel Aleman of Mexico, President Tubman of Liberia, and perhaps the most impressive all, the astronauts who were Masons: "They form an impressive collection just by themselves."

Bro. Bob also discussed Masonic devices used to cancel stamps. Back in the 1900s the individual post masters were able to create their own devices made of cork, rubber or other material. They carved various designs (symbols of various types) which left a "cancellation" impression on the stamp. Some Freemasons carved the square and compasses and other Masonic symbols. Such stamps became known as "Masonic cancellations."

The US Postal Service soon banned such cancellations, but in the 1930s a few post-masters went back to the old ways, and there are to be found some excellent Masonic cancels (both old and new, as it were). It might be noted here that the GW Masonic Stamp Club is permitted to use special Mt. Vernon cancellations, one of which is the square and compasses, used for the George Washington Birthday covers.

When asked from the audience if he thought philately would turn around and prices begin to increase, Bro. Bob was quite frank in his answer— no. The hobby of stamp collecting is not passing on to enough of the next generation and the collections of many philatelists who have had their cachets canceled are coming into the

market with few buyers. This can be related by personal experience where rare GWMSC covers costing \$30 in the early 1990s, have been available for as little as \$0.50 at some philatelic expositions in the past few years.

There can be little doubt the Bro. Bob's presentation to The Blue Friars was perhaps the most outstanding talk on Masonic philately in recent history. It was a truly a fantastic day for Bro. Bob, but also a tremendous day for Masonic philately.

## BALPEX SCHEDULE

**George Washington Masonic Stamp Club  
Summer Meeting  
BALPEX  
Baltimore Philatelic Exposition  
Sunday, September 6, 2015  
Salon & Time TBD**

Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, Wyndham Affiliate 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031, I-83 at Shawan Road,  
Exit 20 East  
Free Parking

Program: "Jean Sibelius: Composer, Mason."

The talk includes a slide show of Sibelius' life and career, including philatelic items related to the composer. Of course there will be examples of his music. The talk will be presented by the President of the Club.

Door prizes for all attending the meeting.

This will be an open meeting where Masonic philatelists and the public are more than welcome.

***We look forward to seeing you!***

You are welcome to join us in  
exploring the fascinating world  
of Freemasonry on postage  
stamps from around the world.

<http://www.mscnewyork.net/>

