

# THE WATERMARK

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## Spring Is In The Air

Oh happy day's! Spring is in the air and the snow is gone. All nature seems to be waking up. For many of us the Masonic year of meetings is month than half over. For others it's a time for renewal with installations of officers and hopefully a plan for an exciting year ahead. Hopefully many Lodges who are on life-support and do nothing other that read the minutes etc. and then go home will take spring as a time of rebirth and face up to the challenges that are killing their Lodge. These are challenging times for many Lodges who refuse to adapt and make changes that will keep new members participating fully in the life of the Lodge!

## The High Priest's Breastplate



In June of 2012 the State of Israel released a series of twelve stamps and a souvenir sheet depicting the breastplate of the high priest with the twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. This beautiful set of stamps is a must for any Masonic collection. Although there is no reference to this item in Craft Freemasonry, it is of significance in the Holy Royal Arch. The High Priest regalia were meant to be "for glory and for beauty" and were based on the instructions given to Moses by God, and it could only be made certain special people. *"And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise-hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him that he may minister unto me in the priest's office"*.

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1983 Scott #888

## Masonic Stamp of the Month

"Comprising of the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, that it shares Haiti; the Dominican Republic issued their third Masonic stamp in 1983. The stamps recognizes the 125th anniversary of Freemasonry in that country. This "4-peso" stamp was very similar in design to the two previous stamps issued in 1970 (#'s 672, 673) for 8th Inter-American Masonic Conference except this one was in full colour, whereas the previous were in brown and green. The Dominican Republic has been producing it's own stamps since achieving independence from Spain in 1865. I must confess I

cannot understand why this stamp is being offered for sale online at prices exceeding US \$30, when its catalogue price is less than one-dollar? Call me kooky and slap me with a fish, but I for one think that kind of pricing is outrageous. This is one stamp that I won't be getting for awhile. What do you think, is that kind of pricing fair or not? I would love to hear some feedback.

## A New Pope – A New Relationship With the Roman Catholic Church?

Last month the world witnessed history with the election of a new Pope. This was a historical event in many aspects; it was the first time in 600 years that a Pope resigned, it was the second time a man born outside of Europe became Pope

Jorge Clavero;

*PalermOnLine Noticias. Ciudad de Buenos Aires 13 marzo, 2013*

Rough English translation:



and it is the first time a Jesuit has become Pope. Ironically it also marks a dark day in the history of the Roman Catholic church and its relationship with Freemasonry because was exactly 187 years since Pope Leo XII issued the *Quo Graviora* Papal Bull a document in which he decreed the prohibition of membership in Freemasonry in perpetuity.

The former Archbishop of Buenos Aires Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis I, has already got the anti-Masonic nuts' & anti-Catholics wound up and the Internet is abuzz (just Google Pope Francis – Freemasonry) with wild eye claims of “the black pope” being a freemason and using Masonic signs, blah, blah!

I for one have hope that this new Pope who despite his conservatism is greatly admired for his personal humility, and a commitment to social justice will be willing to build a better relationship between Catholicism and Freemasonry. I echo the comments of the Grand master of The Grand Lodge of Argentina Ángel

*The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Argentina, an institution rooted with our country since 1857, salutes the designation of the compatriot Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio as Pope Francis I.*

*A man of austere life and consecrated to his devotions, the designation of the new pontiff of the Catholic Church suggests a high recognition for the Argentine Nation. In Argentine Masonry, sustained in the principles of tolerance, profound respect to intimate convictions (beliefs), liberty, equality, and fraternity, militant brothers who profess or adhere to this religious faith together with those who belong to other creeds, are agnostics, or lack faith. In the name of all, the Grand Lodge of Argentina salutes the compatriot cardinal who achieved such a high worldly distinction.*

Ángel Jorge Clavero  
Grand Master

We can only hope that hundreds of years of unwarranted persecution against Freemasons at the hand of the Roman Catholic Church will cease.



## Breastplate cont...

**"Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually"**

Aaron was the brother of Moses and the Israelites first high priest and after his death his descendants fulfilled the role of High Priest and they were known as the "sons of Aaron".

The explanation for the creation of the breastplate is found in "Exodus 28.29" where God commanded "And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart when he goeth in unto the holy place for a memorial before the Lord continually" The breastplate as well was designed by God and His directions on how it was to be made were given to Moses (*Exodus xxviii. 15, 20.*)

But the term "breastplate" is actually not correct, for when it was translated from Hebrew to become breastplate for the King James version (1749), it lost some of its meaning. Where as in the Septuagint ("Greek Old Testament circa 2nd century BCE. ") the Greek word used was "logeion," which means a speaking-place. With this meaning the breastplate becomes an oracle or means by which God spoke to his people through the wearer, the High Priest.

Today the breastplate is depicted as being made of gold with twelve precious stones attached, but according to scripture the original was made of woven fabric that consisted of threads of gold and blue, purple and scarlet linen threads. The number of the threads and the order of the colors were, according to the "Targums"

(Aramaic translations or paraphrasing of parts of the Old Testament often with interpretive comments added) included one of gold, six of blue, six of purple, and six of scarlet. It was made of two pieces, that formed a bag, in which was kept the two sacred stones, "Urim" (representing light and excellence)

and the "Thummim" (representing perfection and completion).

The front of the breastplate included four rows of three precious stones, and upon them was engraved the names of the twelve tribes.

The bible tells us: "And thou

*shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row.*

*And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper; they shall be set in gold in their enclosings.*

*And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings on a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes....*



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**Breastplate cont...**

The noted Jewish historian Josephus (37-100) stated that the tribes were listed "in the order of their birth, but neither he nor anyone else explained which stone was accorded to each tribe. As a result this issue has been debated for over 2000 years. The general acceptance of the tribes, stones and colours are:

|                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Judah</i>   | <i>Issachar</i> | <i>Zebulon</i>  |
| Sardius        | Topaz           | Carbuncle       |
| Red            | Pale green      | Deep Red        |
| <i>Reuben</i>  | <i>Simeon</i>   | <i>Gad</i>      |
| Emerald        | Sapphire        | Diamond         |
| Green          | Deep Blue       | Transparent     |
| <i>Ephraim</i> | <i>Manasseh</i> | <i>Benjamin</i> |
| Ligure         | Agate           | Amethyst        |
| Dull Red       | Gray            | Purple          |
| <i>Dan</i>     | <i>Asher</i>    | <i>Naphtali</i> |
| Beryl          | Onyx            | Jasper          |
| Bluish Green   | Bluish White    | Green           |

The "Holy garments" of the High Priest consisted of a blue robe under which was a fine linen tunic. On his head is the white fine linen turban. Round the base of the turban is the crown of gold, with the inscription "HOLY TO THE LORD". Over the robe he wore an apron-like covering called the Ephod. On top of the Ephod was the breastplate, with its twelve precious stones. On the shoulder-pieces of the Ephod was a precious stone each bearing six names combining to name all twelve tribes of Israel.

Every time the high priest went before God at the Altar, he bore the names of all the people of God upon his shoulders.



Upon the death of the High Priest, the regalia were passed on to his successor.



My thanks to the article "The Breastplate of the High Priest" written by H. Meij H.P. Tokyo Chapter #1, R.A.M. Additional articles can be found at:

<http://cointrade.awardspace.com/MasonicKnowledge/index.htm>

## Canadian Freemason of the Month – Robert Pim Butchart



1991 Scott #1311



2001 Scott #1903a

If you are one of the millions of tourists to visit Victoria British Columbia you may have had the chance to visit the nearby world famous Butchart Gardens.

Attracted by large deposits of limestone, Robert Pim Butchart (1856-1943) was an early pioneer in the cement industry and "moved from his

hometown of Owen Sound, Ontario to British Columbia in 1904 and opened a quarry at Todd Inlet and expanded into several other shipping businesses. Eventually all of the limestone had been removed from the quarry leaving a bleak looking pit around the home.

His wife, Jennie, decided that something had to be done so she ordered tons of topsoil, and used it to line the floor of the abandoned quarry. Little by little the abandoned quarry blossomed into a 55-acre spectacular Sunken Garden with gardens and exotic birds. By the 1920's

more than fifty thousand people a year visited came each year to see her creation, and by 2005, 50 million people had visited. Since then it has become one of the most famous botanical gardens in the world. Every year in excess of 1,000,000 bedding plants comprising over 700 varieties are used throughout the Gardens to ensure uninterrupted bloom from March through October which are viewed by with over one million visitors a year.

Butchart Gardens have been featured on two Canadian stamps. The 1917-18 edition of *Who's Who and Why*, lists Robert Pim Butchart as a Freemason, but to date no record of his lodge has been identified.



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