

THE WATERMARK



Love Is in the Air?

You could be forgiven if outside the realm of close friends and family there wasn't much brotherly love to found in the world during this



month of love. Cupid may be propelling his arrows at starry-eyed lovers but as usual much of the world is embroiled in propelling rocks, bottles bullets and bombs at those they hate. Often when we think of the antithesis

of love we think of hate but as Freemasons we should also consider neglect. For though we all talk about charity and brotherly love our actions at times fail to reflect those high moral claims. As I write this I have just learned of the passing of an old friend and brother who for the past five years has been a bit of a shut-in because of failing health. He was 'just' an ordinary Master Mason and never had the desire and some would say the ability to seek Solomon's chair but he was a regular at Lodge and every other

concordant body until he lost his drivers license and his independence. A hero off WWII surviving being badly burned in a tank in Italy, recovering and then participating in the liberation of Holland. He served in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, raised a family and tinkered with pocket watches. Alas he was not one of the "popular" past masters and as such wasn't looked out for. My wife and I continued to visit him after we moved far away but nobody from the Lodge bothered to. When he died the Lodge was sure to mention his passing and let everyone know that we had lost another member and even had a wake! How sad.

In this, the month of Love let's take a moment to ask ourselves are we trying to hard to practice charity for others at the expense of caring for our own? Every Lodge in the world has members who are shut-ins, why not give them a call, or visit them in person or at least send them a Valentines card instead of a sympathy card to their family.



Buyer Beware: All Is Not What It Seems!

In previous editions of the Watermark I have written about junk stamps and bogus claims about stamps being Masonic when they are not. Recently I found this beauty listed on eBay claiming to be a Masonic First Day Cover (FDC). At first glance one would assume that it is a FDC because it bears the Masonic stamp issued by Uruguay in 2006. But this is not a Masonic FDC. The envelope bears the insignia of "AMORC" The Ancient and Mystical Order Rosæ Crucis more commonly known as the Rosicrucian Order, www.rosicrucian.org that was founded in 1915 in New York and is often confused with Freemasonry. The "AMORC" is one of several organizations that claim to be the heir to the original Rose-Croix order established in Egypt during the joint reign of Pharaoh Thutmose III and Hatshepsut, about 1500 BCE.



The mystery here is why a Masonic stamp issued on August 15th 2006 is on a Rosicrucian FDC envelope postmarked October 17, 2007!



Guest Article: Scouting in Freemasonry

by W.Bro. Michael T. Harrington LGR

I have been a Scout Leader for over 47 years, and was a committee member of the Scout and Guide Stamps Club for many years. About twenty years ago I was invited to become a Freemason, and joined the Perfect Ashlar Lodge No. 1178. I soon found many similarities between the two organizations such as brotherly love, helping others, the worldwide aspect of the organizations etc.



On the 27th April 1992, Tanzania issued a set of three stamps honouring Robert Baden-Powell. On the right hand corner of each stamp was a square and compass with the 'G' in the centre. This stamp makes it appear that



Baden-Powell was a freemason. Many people thought that he was a freemason, but I have since found out that there is no information that he *was* connected with Freemasonry at all.

Now one man who had a connection with the craft was Rudyard Kipling. He was a friend of Baden-Powell and became a Scout Commissioner. When B-P founded the Wolf Cubs he based it on Kipling's "The *Jungle Book*", using the names of Akela as the leader, who protects her young, and Baloo, Bagheera, Kaa etc., for all the assistant leaders. Kipling also wrote a book

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A NEW FIND, ALMOST!

I was feeling pretty smug for a couple of minutes thinking I had identified a new Masonic Stamp, but as usual I was wrong! My hopes were dashed when I contacted my old friend and Past GM Bob McSween. He advised me that the Canadian stamp depicting the main street of the old gold mining town of Barkerville would have included the oldest Masonic hall in British Columbia had the photographer stepped back a couple of feet. It would have been the first building you would see on the right had side of the street! Even though my hopes were dashed there is an interesting story here.

Ten years ago my teenaged son and I went on a canoeing trip on the spectacular Bowron Lakes and afterwards we with we took some time to tour the the historic national park period town of Barkerville, British Columbia (BC), and I peeked in the window of the Masonic Hall. Unfortunately I never got to attend an annual Barkerville Masonic Lodge meeting. The present Barkerville Lodge Hall is still the oldest Masonic Hall in British Columbia, even though it is not the original. The present building is the replacement of an earlier structure destroyed by fire in 1868.

At one time Barkerville (named after the miner Billy Barker one of the originals who discovered gold in the area) had the largest population in BC peaking at 30,000 in 1863. In those days there was no Grand Lodge in BC and the three Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland all claimed jurisdiction to the British colony. Gold seekers had flocked to the area from all over the world, many of whom were from the USA and considered the Grand Lodge of Washington State to be the legitimate grand jurisdiction. The local miners who were Freemasons believed that Barkerville would continue to thrive and become a

permanent community and decided they needed a regular Lodge and initially petitioned Vancouver Lodge #421 SC to endorse opening a lodge in the area under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory! After being advised that the brethren should apply to Scotland or England for a charter the men decided that in order to obtain a charter they would have to build a proper building for the proposed lodge to meet in. They calculated that

the minimal cost to build the least expensive building would cost a minimum of \$3,300 and the cost was shared by each of the 33 members at \$100 each, a very tidy sum in those days! Many of the members could only afford to pay 50 cents to \$1 per week but

the required funds were raised and the building was built by June 1887. Eventually a charter was obtained from the Grand Lodge of Scotland instead of England, which may seem odd but when the nationalities of the members is reviewed the rational is obvious. None of the original members were from England (14 Ontario, 2 Quebec, 3 California, 3 Scotland, 1 Wales, 1 Washington, 1 Minnesota Territory, 1 unknown) so it is not surprising that they had applied to Scotland for their charter. On September 2, 1867 Cariboo Lodge #469 received official dispensation from



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the Grand Lodge of Scotland to open and commence business. When the official charter was received at a later date the members noted that nobody had told the Grand Lodge of Scotland that though the application had been sent from Victoria that the Cariboo was located not on "Vancouver's Island" but was instead in a different British Colony on the mainland.



On September 16, 1868 a fire wiped out the entire town of Barkerville leaving only one house standing. A new hall was built but it too was burned to the ground on December 28th 1936. The brethren persisted and built a third building; the present Masonic Hall, which was first, used in September 1937. Barkerville Lodge has a number of unique features, legends and traditions. One such legend is the fact that the two times the lodge hall was destroyed by fire there had been only 13 members at lodge. To this day they will not hold a meeting if there are only 13 members present, someone must leave the lodge or the meeting will not occur.



Another unique feature of the lodge room was the use of the "Silent Tyler." Legend claims that in order to keep the wild mining men and equally wild saloon girls out, they built a door at the top of the stairs that was hinged from the top. The door could be raised by means of a wheel in the Tylers room thereby cutting off all access from the lower floor and the Tyler in turn performed the duties of the inner guard. The lifting staircase survived until 1937 when the Parks Branch restored the building to its 1869 appearance in the summer of 1966.

Should you ever have the opportunity to visit the Cariboo region of British Columbia I encourage you to take a drive to this historic national park and see for yourself how life was lived during the hey days of the 19th century gold rush. The lodge meets on the 2nd Saturday from March to December. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Barkerville and you can participate in the annual Cariboo Lodge Masonic annual Reunion and Barbeque where brethren from all over North America and other continents come to Barkerville for a weekend of fellowship from August 10 to 12, 2012.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

I am always trying to find ways that we can interact with young people and get them interested in stamp collecting. Recently I came across the US National Postal Museum web site and discovered a wealth of information and ideas. The page that intrigued me most was on creating Stamp Mosaics.

<http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/educators/smm/index.html>

The page provides ideas examples and lesson plans on how to use cancelled stamps to make artistic mosaic projects. Not only is this a great idea for kids it would be fun for us adults to do as well!



Photos courtesy of the National Postal Museum

Scouting & Freemasonry continued...

especially for the Boy Scouts called "Land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides" in 1923.



Kipling can be found on a Swedish stamp depicting Nobel Prize winners, which was awarded in 1907, the same year as Scouting started with the experimental camp on Brownsea Island.

After being in Freemasonry for a couple of years, I found that there were many Scouting Lodges. A friend took me along to the Torch Lodge No. 7236. I felt that I was at a Scout Meeting here, but without the Scouts. I found out that there are about 38 lodges in England that come under the umbrella of the K.L.A. (Kindred Lodges Association). To be a member of one of these lodges the general rule is that you must be associated with a youth movement, the majority being with Scouting and Boys Brigade. I was then asked if I wished to become an associate member, I of course said yes, wondering in the back of my mind how much this would cost me, the form was handed to me and I saw that it was going to cost me 5 every leap year. This was a great relief on my pocket.

Being an associate member of the K.L.A. allows you to attend the spring and autumn meetings. One being held in the north of England and one in the south. These are usually large meetings of between 100 to 200 brethren, who wear the uniform of their movement. Very colourful compared to the usual dark suits. I have even seen members in khaki shorts attend; this does look strange when conjoined with the Masonic apron. Although the uniform short trousers were dispensed with in 1966, along with many of the older ideas, a breakaway movement was created called the B-P Scouts, and some of their

members have attended the KLA meetings. At one of our meetings while we were donning our aprons and gloves, I was chatting to my friend, who is also an associate member of the K.L.A., about the K.L.A., when a visiting brother nearby said that he was a member of the Red Scarf Lodge. Now anyone not in Scouting may be forgiven for thinking this has something to do with cowboys, Indians or outlaws, but we knew better. The Red Scarf with the distinctive gold G.S. on the back is worn by Scouts who have appeared in a 'Gang Show'. This is a show of sketches, songs and dances originally started by Ralph

Reader in 1932. He was a theatrical producer and Rover Scout whom B-P asked to organize a



show in London, this continued for forty-two years with a slight interruption during the war. During the '60s it was often screened on the BBC TV at Christmas. Many local shows started and when they had reached a high standard Ralph awarded them the 'Red Scarf'. As our meeting in the lodge was about to start we did not find out the visitors name until the end of the meeting when we were asked to welcome a Grand Officer by the name of Robert Corp-Reader. He turned out to be the son of Ralph and was good enough to invite us both to his lodge at Butcher's Hall. Here we learnt a little about the history of the Lodge. During the performances of the 'London Gang Shows', in late 1960's, it was discovered that a number of members of the cast shared the same *Kindred Spirit*. It then became a tradition, that during the run of the show, those members would assemble in the Managers Office for a 'drink'. He too being as they say 'one of them'. During one of these meetings it was suggested that they form their own lodge. This was the birth of Red Scarf Lodge No 8448 on 7th September 1972.

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Masonic Stamp of the Month



This month's Masonic stamp comes from Brazil and is one of eleven Masonic stamps released by that nation. Released in 1988, Scott number 2131 features José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva (1763-1838). Andrada was a noted Brazilian statesman, professor, poet and naturalist and considered by many to be the most important man in the struggle for independence from Portugal. His beliefs considered radical at the time included the concepts of public education and abolition of slavery. His efforts in gaining independence eventually lead to him urging Dom Pedro I to resist the recall of the Lisbon Court and when independence was achieved he was made minister of the interior and of foreign affairs. After his relationship with Pedro deteriorated he joined the opposition in 1823 he was then dismissed from the Constituent

Assembly because of his support of democratic principles. After being dismissed he was arrested and exiled to France where he lived until allowed to return to Brazil in 1829. In 1833 he was arrested again and tried for being traitor, but he was eventually pardoned and spent the rest of his days in retirement. In 1821 Brother Andrada became the first Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Brazil.

Scouting & Freemasonry continued...

Although there were fourteen founder members, Ralph is symbolically regarded as their 'Founder', and since Ralph's entry to the Grand Lodge above in 1982, a moment's silence is held at the Festive Board prior to 'Grace' being said, to his memory. Without Ralph none of the comradeship that they all shared would have come to pass.

To conclude, one last connection between the Craft and Scouting is that our Grand Master, the Duke of Kent, is also President of the Scout Association.



*The postage stamp is a flimsy thing
No thicker than a beetle's wing
And yet it will roam the world for you
Exactly where you tell it to -*

EV Lucas

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