



The Watermark

Canada's Online Masonic Stamp Newsletter



Fumbling On

As you can imagine coming up with interesting articles for the Watermark every month can be a bit of a challenge. But with that said I find myself fumbling through my 24th issue! I cannot believe that I have filled an entire binder with issues of the Watermark and each month more readers ask to be added to the mailing list and others contact me to reproduce

use in other publications around the world. I want to offer a big "Thank You to all of you who actually read my ramblings and I hope I can keep this little publication fresh and interesting. If any of you would like to suggest a topic or submit an article, please do. I could use the help.

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Canadian Mason of the Month – Tim Horton



2002 Scott #1935a

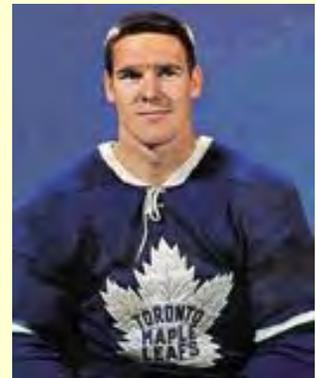
If there is one thing other than hockey that Canadians enjoy, it is got to be doughnuts, and thanks to hockey legend **Miles Gilbert "Tim" Horton** (1930-1974) we have both.

Tim Horton played professional hockey in the National Hockey League (NHL) for 24 years for the Toronto Maple Leafs, New York Rangers, Pittsburgh Penguins and the Buffalo Sabres.

During his hockey career he won four Stanley Cups, was named to All Star Teams six times, and posthumously named to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1977. In 1998 he was ranked number 43 on the Hockey News list of the 100 Greatest Hockey Players.

In addition to a stellar sports career, he was also a successful businessman and co-founder of the restaurant chain that

bears his name. Today there are over 3,000 locations in Canada, and over 556 Tim Hortons Doughnut Shops in the United States. In addition to making “roll up the rim” and “double-double” part of the Canadian lexicon there are now stores in the UK and Ireland. Tim Horton was a member of Kroy Lodge No. 676 in Toronto, Ontario.



Masonic Stamp of the Month - Mexico



1998 Scott #1667

This month's Masonic stamp is the 1990 Mexican stamp that commemorates the 16th annual Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Freemasons. Scottish Rite Masonry in much of the world is not considered to be “regular” but instead a concordant body of Masonry and open to 3rd degree Masons to experience other forms of the Craft in the same way that the Holy Royal Arch and the Shriners require all of their members to be active Freemasons. In much of Latin America the Scottish Rite and its 33 degrees are the regular form of Freemasonry.

In 1806, “**Arquitectura Moral**” became the first Mexican lodge and the creation of the first Grand Lodge of Mexico (Scottish Rite) was founded in 1813. Mexican Freemasonry has built a reputation of having greatly influenced politics to achieve change in areas such as secular education, civil liberties and the assistance of the poor peasantry. Throughout its history it has endured persecution from the church and have been very political with numerous Mexican Presidents having been Freemasons.



The Boys of Summer

Facts and Myths About Freemasonry's Connection to Baseball

I am often mystified and sometimes disturbed by some peoples need to lay a Masonic claim to everything good or impressive, even the origins of modern baseball. Let's be clear, baseball in its various forms is wonderful game and most of us in North America have played a little ball over the years. But just because someone claims that because the baseball diamond layout looks like a S&Q makes the game no more Masonic than searching a city map for streets that can combine to form a S&Q!

For years many folks have tried to claim that the alleged creator of baseball, Abner Doubleday (1819-1893) was a Freemason and that his design of the game of baseball was Masonic because of silliness such as ridiculous statements such as: Three strikes and three outs were used because three is the principle sacred number of Freemasonry and the outfield wall is a semicircle, which a compass draws. Sillier is the attempt to apply someone's interpretation of numerology to come up with outlandish statements such as *"Though eighty-one doesn't occur in baseball, because of the presence of two nines (fielders and innings) it's appropriate to mention the reason eighty-one is so revered: the multiples of nine, 9, 18, 27, 36, 45, 54, 63, 72, 81, and 90 form a mirror image between the numbers 45 and 54. Also, each one of these numbers equal nine when adding the two integers which comprise the number: 18- 1+8 = 9; 27- 2+7 =9; etc. Because of this, nine times nine was deemed a 'high' number. This further explains the near obsession with numbers surrounding baseball averages, home runs, ERA's, etc. It is truly a game for numerologists."*

The fact is, there is no proof whatsoever that Doubleday was a Freemason and he did not, nor did he ever claim to be the creator of baseball. Furthermore all of the mumbo-jumbo about numerology, field design etc. is nothing more than wishful thinking or wild eyed speculation.

There is a clear document Masonic connection to the origins of baseball by a New York area fighter.

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The man was Alexander Joy Cartwright Jr. (1820-1892) who is dubbed the "Father of Modern Baseball" by the Baseball Hall of Fame. Cartwright was a volunteer firefighter in New York and became a merchant sea captain, who moved to San Francisco during the gold rush and then eventually to Hawaii where he was involved in the Honolulu Fire Department and became an advisor to fellow Freemasons King Kamehameha V and King Kalakaua. Bro. Cartwright was raised as a member of *Lodge Le Progress de l'Océanie, Honolulu HI*, in 1850.

In 1842 Cartwright spearheaded the creation of the Knickerbockers Base Ball Club. In 1845 Cartwright and along with members of his club drew up a set of rules to make the game more interesting for adults. Based heavily on the British sport of Rounder's the original 14 rules were somewhat similar to but not identical with three significant exceptions that included a diamond-shape field instead of a square foul out of bound territories were introduced and the practice of hitting a runner with a thrown ball to retiring him was eliminated from the game. According to baseball history the first clearly



documented game between two baseball clubs under Cartwright's rules took place on June 19, 1846, at Elysian Fields in Hoboken New Jersey.

American baseball legends claim that the first recorded game of baseball occurred in 1839 in Cooperstown, NY. Canada claims that a game was played a year earlier in Beachville, Ontario, on 4 June 1838 as part of the celebration marking the government's 1837 victory in the Upper Canada Rebellion.

To bolster that claim Canada Post issued a stamp in 1988 to celebrate the 150th year of Canadian baseball.

Another documented fact regarding the game and philately involves Freemason, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



To honour the opening of the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939 Postmaster General James A. Farley

conducted a nationwide poll of stamp collectors to see if they liked the idea of issuing a stamp to commemorate the event. The voters overwhelmingly hated the idea and voted against it.

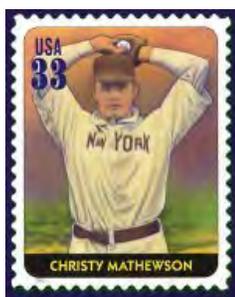
FDR being an avid stamp collector over-ruled them and ordered that a stamp be produced.

He let the nation know his feeling via the nation's sports pages that he wished "every boy in America could get a first-day cover. As a result the post office at Cooperstown was overwhelmed with requests for the cover including thousands of what were dubbed "small boy orders," requests from kid that did not include the required self-addressed envelope and three cents for the stamp. Instead of ignoring the incomplete requests, postmaster Melvin Bundy honored thousands of them at his own expense thereby giving birth to baseball stamp collecting.

Understandably many Freemasons like other citizens have been professional baseball players. Some of them became household names, all-stars and larger than life legends while others worked behind the scenes.

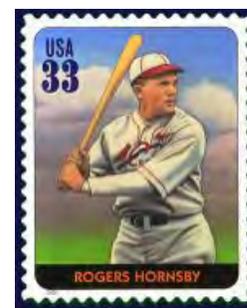


Some professionals connected to Major League baseball who belong to the fraternity include:



- Grover Alexander
- Ethan N. Allen
- Elden Auker
- Richie Ashburn
- Mordecai P.C. Brown
- Larry "L.C." Christenson
- Ty Cobb
- Mickey Cochrane
- Earle B. Combs
- Bobby Doerr
- Paul Erskin
- Bob Feller
- James Emory Foxx
- Tito Francona
- Harry H. Frazee
- Frank Fritch
- John W. Galbreath
- Calvin R. Griffith
- Clark Griffith
- John F. Haussmann
- David W. Hornbeck
- Rogers Hornsby
- Carl Hubbell
- Theodor A. Lyons

- Edwin Lee Matthews
- "Christy" Mathewson
- "Willy" Mays
- William B. McKechnie
- Herbert J. Pennock
- Edward S. Plank
- John "Long John" Reilly
- Branch Rickey
- Eppa Rixey
- Charles H. Root
- Edd J. Roush
- Charles H. "Red" Ruffing
- Ray Schalk
- James M. Sewell
- George H. Sisler
- Tristan E. Speaker
- Carl E. Stolz
- William H. Terry
- Joeseph Bart Tinker
- Harold J. "Pie" Traynor
- Arthur C. "Dizzy" Vance
- William Virdon
- John P. "Honus" Wagner
- "Happy Jack" Wallace
- Paul Waner
- William Henry Walters
- Lloyd J. Waner
- Zachariah D. Wheat
- Lewis R. Wilson



Do Yourself A Favour

There are lots of articles and newsletters related to Freemasonry available on the Internet. Some better, than others. If you are looking for an excellent magazine, than I encourage to check out Lodge Stirling Royal Arch #76 online magazine at

http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/past_issues.htm.

Lodge 76 is situated in the historic City of Stirling in Central Scotland. Their free newsletter is published eight times a year since 2005. If you subscribe, let them know you read about them in the Watermark. It would be interesting to see how many readers took this recommendation to heart.

The True Story Behind the Nurses Masonic Belt Buckle

I try to keep the majority of articles in the Watermark related to postage stamps but once in awhile I am forced to stray a bit. Recently Her Majesty was photographed leaving London's King Edward VII's Hospital accompanied by a nurse. When all of the anti-Masonic wacko's and conspiracy theorists' observed the large belt buckle they went crazy and posted their paranoid theories all over the web. As much as those koo-koo's don't like hearing the truth, I believe it is important for the truth to be told otherwise too many folks will blindly accept wacko conspiracy theories and outright lies about Freemasonry. Had any of these nutters bothered to do some simple research they would have quickly found a page from the United Grand Lodge of England's, Library and Museum with the explanation about the Royal Masonic Hospital and its jewels.



The belt buckle and jewel the nurse is wearing is not proof that the Queen is a Freemason, but instead shows that the nurse was trained at the Royal Masonic Hospital. The concept of a Masonic hospital was initiated in 1911 by the members of Malmesbury Lodge No. 3156 and approved by Grand Lodge in 1913. Fundraising began in 1916 and the hospital was created due in part to the large number of men wounded in WWI and it was initially named the Freemasons War Hospital. (Don't forget the Grand Lodge building was built as a War Memorial!) In 1933 a new facility was built and King George V granted permission for it to be named the Royal Masonic Hospital (RMH). WWII saw the hospital treating over 8600 servicemen at no cost to the government. With the creation of the National Health Service many private hospitals disappeared but the RMH stayed open. In 1948 the RMH created a School of Nursing, which continued until the Grand Lodge closed the RMH in 2002 and it's assets, were acquired by the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust. All schools of nursing have forms of identification that may include, uniforms, jewels etc. The nurses who were trained at the Royal Masonic Hospital all wear the distinctive blue uniform with a belt with the buckle bearing Masonic symbols and a jewel suspended from an enameled bar bearing the image of humanity succoring the sick, with the motto "Aegros Sanat Humanitas" (Kindness Heals the Sick). The jewel is suspended from a five-pointed star with the interlaced letters FH of Freemasons Hospital.



You can find the entire UGLE article here:

<http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/os/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Royal-Masonic-Hospital.pdf>

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