The Pythagoras Issue of Greece

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

A commemorative issue of four stamps depicting the mathematical theorem of the hypothenuse where the square is equal to the sum of two squares, namely: 5^2 equals 25 equals $4^2 + 3^2$ (16 + 9) is depicted on the 3.50 drachmae. These stamps bear Masonic significance which should be included in its entirety.

Pythagoras (C582-500 B.C) founder of Pythagoran philospohy, made a deep impression and lasting influence upon ancient science, philosophy and religion from Socrates and Plato, together with Masonry and theology. He was born in Samos C. 582 B.C. and was influenced by the Ionic and Egyptian philosophers during his travels and founded when he was about 30 years of age, a moral and religious school in Samos, which adhered to very strict rules for admission, with obedience, silence, abstinence and simplicity of dress and food.

The science of mathematics received the most intensive investigation and developed such a mysterious significance in their research that they regarded all natural laws and behavior as completely dependent upon this numerical scheme. The many mathematical discoveries gave rise to geometry, the study of the earth and stars and pre-determined a harmonious arrangement and order. They attained such great political power that it endangered the basis of the Greek hierarchy and many were banished but Pythagoras managed to escape to Crotona where he continued his teachings but was forced again to flee for his life. The Pythagoran cult lasted only a short period after 500 B.C, the probable date of his death.

The theorems and studies of Pythagoras have true Masonic connotations which would take many pages to explain; but all those willing to follow up this mere introduction can fill up many a page with references to Pythagoras as one of the pillars of our craft. Philatelically these four stamps speak for themselves.

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