

Grand Orient of Uruguay Masonic Stamp – 2015

MSCNY Article No. 58



Receipt of *The Philatelic Freemason* (Nov.–Dec. 2015) from Bro. Domingue brought my attention to the new Gran Oriente de Uruguay Masonic stamp (August 2015). The stamp commemorates the 25th Anniversary of this Grand Lodge.

The stamp design presents both interesting and amusing facts, which I will present in point form:

1. The background of the stamp shows a “star-decked heaven.”
2. The three columns are the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian (Wisdom, Strength and Beauty).
3. The young male figure is a candidate in the Third Degree. At this point, he would have received his obligation, but has not yet “traveled.” He is holding a stone mason’s mallet, which is “used to break the corners off rough stones,” and he is figuratively looking to the future and the construction of his personal Temporal Building.
4. The “floor” of the stamp is a Mosaic pavement (checkered with good and evil).
5. The seal on the right side of the stamp has in its center compasses and a square, but the square does not exceed the legs of the compasses. When this is done, we get the letter “A” which stands for “Alpha,” a reference to God, or the Supreme Architect of the Universe.”

6. The compasses and square are in a triangle, which is a Masonic symbol of the Deity.

7. The lettering bordering the triangle show Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

8. The chain that borders the central design is a symbol of common brotherhood.

While Grand Orient Freemasonry does not insist on members believing in a Supreme Being, it is plain to see that the design of this stamp is totally based on Ancient Freemasonry in which such belief is essential. Generally speaking, it is impossible to make Freemasonry compatible with the idea or concept of atheism. All symbols in Freemasonry lead directly or indirectly to the concept of Hope in a life hereafter. What Grand Orient Freemasonry says to candidates is, “Here is our philosophy, but you don’t have to believe it to be one of us.”

Although the concept of “non-intelligent design” (no God) is feasible, such cannot be considered when it comes to Freemasonry as we know it to be. The entire Masonic system would need to be restructured to accommodate “non-belief.” A Freemason may be either a creationist or evolutionist when it comes to human beings; however the nature of the Order demands that when it comes to the universe itself one needs to be a creationist (belief in a supreme entity).

Christopher L. Murphy, BF