



# *The Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 10

JANUARY 1954

NO. 6



The Grand Lodge of Maryland laid the cornerstone of the B. & O. R. R. in Baltimore, Maryland, July 4, 1828.

**NOTE: This image was used for a sheet with an unauthorized stamp of a train issued in Niger in 1998. See Scott Catalog for Niger, page 1519.**

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 10 NO. 6  
JANUARY 1954



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## ● Meetings ●

First Friday of Each Month  
Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

January 8, 1954—Topical Collecting. Still time to let Bro. George Wray know if you like to tell the rest of us about your favorite method of collecting these topics.

February 5, 1954—Past President's Night. Arranged by Arthur I. Helm.

## ● The Cover ●

Masonic Maximum Card sponsored by S. J. Bensen of Caldwell, N. J. Bro. Harry Kinne tells about these cards on another page. While not a true maximum card in a general sense, these cards are of interest to collectors of items pertaining to Masonry and its relation to the stamp.



**New Members**

Robert A. Hanson  
1745 Alameda Street  
San Francisco 31, Calif.  
Durant Lodge #268 Berkeley, Calif.

George H. Harnden  
121 Swan Street  
Scotia 2, N. Y.  
Pulaski Lodge #415 Pulaski, N. Y.

Ray Simmons  
157 Baldwin Street  
Elmira, N. Y.  
Ivy Lodge #397 Elmira, N. Y.

### November 6 Meeting

The freak snow storm of November 6th played havoc with our meeting, although a few hardy ones turned up to hear Bro. Swan who made quite a trip so as not to disappoint us. He is to be congratulated for his grand effort because he also had to come quite some distance to be at the club.

Another note on the meeting was the presence of Bro. Roane's son who came personally to convey the regrets of his father at being unable to attend, due to Bro. Roane's sudden illness, which put him in Beth Israel hospital.

Bro. "Jake" Glascr also called in to say he could not make it, as well as Bro. Konwiser who had every intention of being with us, but due to his leg ailment had to go home before the storm really let go.

### Letters to the Editor

Mountain Lakes, N. J., Nov. 18, 1953  
—(Dear Brother Ellis)—Sometime ago I was asked through the medium of the Masonic Philatelist for answers to the question: "Why Should a Mason Collect Stamps?" One answer came from a very remarkable man.

Brother Sigwald J. Bensen, for 40 years with the post office at Caldwell, N. J., provided this. Although busy at serving as assistant postmaster the past 18 years, he has also served as organist of Caldwell Lodge #59, F. & A. M. for over 33 years and in spare time has built up a Masonic Museum in a room set aside for this purpose in the Caldwell Masonic Temple. He also fostered the establishment of a group called the National Masonic Hobby club.

Mr. Bensen wrote me that if I would call on him, and visit his museum, I would find out the answer to my question. He suggested:

"If you want to start a Museum in your Lodge, ask your Brothers to search their attics." Philatelically, I think this has been pretty well worked out before—ask Harry Konwiser. However, Bro. Jensen found much Masonic material, and it would pay any Mason to visit this collection of Masonic relics. Call him at the Caldwell post office. He will be glad to oblige, and you will find an enthusiast.

Philatelically, he has frames containing covers postmarked with the names of such towns as Mason, Boaz, Jackin, many others; you will be surprised. The stamps on these covers are all portraits of Masons.

He is something of a photographer, and has copied some 48 famous pictures which portray special events in the lives of those Masons who are shown on our stamps. These pictures are on post card size, and leave a place for the stamp at the top. Among these are the 13 Presidents who were Masons.

For example there is a picture of George Washington laying the corner stone of our Capitol building on Sept. 18, 1793. At the top of the card is a place for the National Capital stamp issued in 1950. All of these are arranged in frames and make a wonderful showing.

Strangely, he has neglected covers with Masonic cancellations. This, I brought to his attention.

My visit to Caldwell was time well spent.

Yours very truly,  
Harry L. Kinne,  
80 Hanover Road,  
Mountain Lakes, N. J.

### **In and Around the Club —**

**By Emmanuel Reggel**

690 Fort Washington Avenue,  
New York 33, N. Y.

Although it's rather tardy to report on the meeting which was held on November 6th, I feel it would be amiss if these few words were not said. The weather that evening was treacherous, a real blizzard. New York had three inches of snow and transportation was slowed down and in some parts of the surrounding districts it was even discontinued. To beat it all, the weatherman had not predicted this sort of weather, so we were unprepared. There were only two kinds of people out that night; those who had to be and the crazy ones, excepting those who must have had a great love for the club and stamps. Brother Carl Pelander was on his way to the meeting when he fell down and almost broke his promise (because he said he would be at this meeting). His shirt got dirty and wet but that couldn't deter him! He bought himself a new shirt, put it on and along he came. During the evening his good wife called him at the club and said: "Carl, you'd better not come home tonight as the storm is so bad, transportation out here in Long Island is at a standstill." So Brother Carl stayed at a hotel in the city overnight. (What a man! What a spirit!) No man could have greater love for his brother Masonic Philatelist.

Brother Dr. S. Duffield Swan showed his Masonic cancellations on stamps and we all enjoyed the evening, which was well worth battling the elements for.

Our treasurer, Brother Russell B. Roane had been incapacitated and was in the hospital for several weeks. I'm glad to report he's up and around again and recuperating. He showed up at our meeting of December 4th but left early to get home to get his required rest as prescribed by his doctor. Brother Morris Strauss came to the meeting and is getting along nicely.

Do you know there is a new reference book recently out concerning U. S. Postage Stamps, Envelopes, postal History, etc., etc. and all facts about American Philately? It is called "The New American Stamp Catalog" published by Minkus Publications, Inc. and one of its associated editors is no less a personage than our own learned Brother Harry M. Konwiser.

Brothers, please send some news to the editor, something for publication.

By the time you receive this issue of the Masonic Philatelist it will already be 1954. May I on behalf of the club, and myself wish you each, one and all, A Very Healthful, Happy New Year for this year and for many more years to come.

Bro. William Dabel in a letter to Dr. Yarry writes: "Was to Sir Francis Drake Lodge in South San Francisco last Friday night to hear Bro. Clausen, a new member of our stamp club, give his lecture on Masons on stamps. It was very interesting as he used colored slides on a projection screen. Bro. Clausen is the architect of the new Masonic Temple the lodge is building.

"Am still thinking of coming to New York to be with you for the degree on April 2, but the date is rather early to drive east for. If it were, say, in May, it would give the wife and I better weather. But I guess the weather is unpredictable anyway. So I am still toying with the idea.

"Intend to stop over at many pre-cancel collectors on the way east."

—Dr. Yarry.

First day sale of the Newspaperboys commemorative postage stamp in Philadelphia on October 4, 1952—626,000 covers cancelled—1,500,000 stamps sold.

### YULETIDE GREETINGS TO ALL

The editors take this opportunity to wish all the joys and blessings of a Merry Christmas and the health and happiness of a New Year. May the Supreme Architect of the Universe watch over you and yours.



3¢ Baltimore & Ohio issued Feb. 28, 1952, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the granting of a charter to Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co., first railroad in America to engage in commercial transportation of passengers and freight.

### NOTES

One of the featured articles in the LIFE, December 7, 1953 issue is called "The Day That Man First Flew." Very interesting, tying in with the 50th anniversary of Powered Flight.

Effective December 16, 1953 a special rural post office station will be established to be known as North Pole, N. Y. Send self-addressed envelopes to the Postmaster, bearing postage and send under cover. Just where in New York this post office is, is not at present known to us, must be one of the tourist attractions that we see advertised on car bumpers during the summer.

For special cancellation, send to postmaster at Rushford, Minnesota. 1854 Rushford 1954 Centennial.

Foreign first class postage is now 8¢ per ounce.

The post office no longer charges an extra sum above the face value for a complete roll of coil stamps.

## FROM NEEDHAM'S LINOTYPE

### JAMES A. GARFIELD, A MASON

Depicted on the 5¢ 1882 issue of the United States (Scott's #205) is the likeness of James Abram Garfield, source of design not given or known to this writer. This stamp was printed from Plates #399, #400, #488-9 on hand presses and Plates #K537-41 on steam presses by the American Bank Note Co. For some reason or another, there was considerable dissatisfaction over the design of the Taylor 5¢ stamp so a new design was prepared and issued April 10, 1882. The new stamp had a portrait of the then late lamented President Garfield who was the victim of an assassin. It was stated that it was at first intended that the stamp should be printed in black as a symbol of mourning, but when proofs were submitted to Mrs. Garfield she didn't approve of the stamp in black and suggested that the color be changed to brown. This suggestion was followed and the stamp is found yellow brown, brown, and gray brown.

Brother Garfield, 20th president of the U. S., was born at Orange, Cuyahoga county, Ohio on Nov. 19, 1831. He died by an assassin's bullet in Wash-

ington, D. C. on Sept. 19, 1881 (Mackey); Died July 2, 1881 (Clark); died in Long Branch, N. J. (Webster's new standard dictionary—1943). There seems to be some disagreement as to date and place of his death. There also seems to be some doubts as to exact date he was initiated, one source says Nov. 22, 1861 (**Masonic Eclectic**) and another says Nov. 19, 1861 (**Masonic Histriology—1941**). He was passed on Dec. 3, 1861; both degrees in Magnolia Lodge #20, Columbus, Ohio and raised, by request of that lodge, in Columbus Lodge #30, on Nov. 22, 1864. He dimitted Aug. 1, 1865. Then on Oct. 10, 1866 he affiliated with Garrettsville (O.) Lodge #246—was Chaplain 1868-9—remaining a member until 1870. He was charter member of Pentalpha Lodge #23, Washington, D. C. on May 4, 1869, and so remained until his death. By a special dispensation was admitted to Columbia Chapter #1, R.A.M., Washington, D. C. with the Mark degree on April 4, 1866, Past and Most Excellent degrees on April 14th, and Royal Arch Degree on the 18th, all in the same year.

Brother Garfield received the Red Cross and Templar Order in Columbia Commandery #2 at Washington, May 18, 1866. Received the Select and Most Excellent Architect's degrees, Feb. 2, 1871. Received the 4° and 5° in Mithras Lodge of Perfection #2, A.A.S.R., Washington, D.C. on May 2, 1871; 6° to 13° by communication from Gen. Albert Pike, Grand Commander of Supreme Council, 33°, S.J.; the 14° on Jan. 2, 1872.

Sir Knight Garfield was elected to honorary membership on July 19, 1881 of Hanselmann Commandery #16, K. T., Cincinnati, Ohio.

The remains of President Garfield were escorted from Washington, D. C. to Cleveland, Ohio, by Columbia Commandery #2, K. T., of Washington, D. C. Also the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, Benjamin Dean, nearly all of the officers of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, 14 commanderies of the State, with detachments from a number of others, and eight commanderies from adjacent states, were present at his funeral and participated in the civic and military cortege.

From some of the foregoing, it appears that Brother Garfield only received the Scottish Rite degrees to the 14th inclusive and that his death prevented him from continuing with the work thru the 32°.

### **CUBA HONORS LIBERATION LEADER, MASON**

Cuba has issued a series of seven stamps in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jose Julian Marti (1853-1895), "Apostle of the Independence." Marti set up a liberation junta in New York in 1892, and some of the stamps show episodes in his life at that time.

Born in Havana, January 28, 1853, he early interested himself in Cuban independence. As a result, the Spanish authorities deported him. He returned to his homeland, but was again sent into exile. After some traveling, he settled in New York where he headed the junta set up to arouse interest in the cause of Cuban freedom. When the revolution broke out in 1895, he returned to Cuba. He was a member of a small group which was ambushed by a Spanish force, and the entire contingent met death, May 19, 1895. His sacrifice became a rallying influence and today he ranks as one of the republic's greatest heroes.

Marti is recorded as a Mason. His birthday is commemorated every year by Cuban Freemasonry. Mahi Shrine Temple of Miami, Fla., held its ceremonial in Havana, October 24, 1953, and named it the Jose Marti International Ceremonial. (Also see Vol. 2, page 22).

Salvador issued a six-value series earlier in 1953 in commemoration of Marti's centenary. He is also pictured on other Cuban stamps.

### **AUSTRALIAN GOLD DISCOVERER A MASON**

Chester Smith, editor of the New South Wales Freemason, in the August issue of that magazine, has a comprehensive article on early Masonic temples in his country. From a philatelic standpoint it discloses the interesting information that Edward Hammond Hargraves, shown on the 3d Australian stamp (No. 244) issued in 1951 to commemorate the centenary of the discovery of gold in New South Wales, was an active Mason.

It was Hargraves who proposed in Lodge Leinster Marine (now No. 2) of Sydney, N.S.W., in 1853 that each member take one share in a new Masonic Hall company and to present it to the lodge. Leinster Marine was the first lodge to meet in the new hall when it was opened in January, 1854.

Hargraves was the first discoverer of gold in New South Wales in paying quantities.

### **NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT, A MASON, IS HONORED**

Anastasio Somoza, president of Nicaragua, is shown on a 1.40cr. Brazilian stamp issued on the occasion of his visit to Rio de Janeiro on Sept. 24, 1953. Somoza was raised as a Master Mason in 1939 in Manaqua. During a visit to the United States shortly afterwards he was made an honorary member of the Spanish Lodge, Cervantes No. 5, in New Orleans, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. He also is pictured on several Nicaraguan stamps and on a Guatemala 3c issue of 1938 (C95).—Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

Israel in March issued a 1000 pruta air mail stamp (\$1 in U. S. currency) showing the port at Tel Aviv-Jaffa, known as Joppa back in King Solomon's days. Jaffa serves as a port for Jerusalem, about 40 miles away.

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From Mirt's Back Porch

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## MASONS ON ARGENTINE STAMPS

(Continued)

This is another installment of information on Argentine stamps, supplied to Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps" by Bro. Douglas Murison of Argentina:

**Bartolome Mitre** (1821-1906). Statesman, soldier, historian, poet, journalist; served as Grand Master in 1894 and attained the 33rd degree. By the time he was 30 he had established a brilliant military and journalistic career in Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Chile. He returned to his native land, Argentina, in time to take part in the battle which ended the rule of the tyrant, Rosas, in 1852. He was a member of the 1853 Constitutional Assembly, held various posts and served as President in 1862-65. Through his efforts, a strained relationship between Argentina and Paraguay was settled in 1872. Mitre was a prolific writer and the history of his country is covered in his works. "La Nacion," a newspaper founded by him 84 years ago, stands as a monument to his activities. (Mitre is pictured on 50c issues of 1888 and 1890—Nos. 67 and 81; 12c issues of 1935 and 1939—Nos. 429 and 430, and 2c and 5c—Nos. 284-5—issued in 1921 to commemorate the centenary of his birth).

**Santiago Derqui**—(1809-1867). Served as president of Argentina 1860-62. After the battle of Pavon (see page 3), Derqui resigned his office and retired to private life. He was a member of "Union del Plata" Lodge at the same time as Urquiza, Mitre and Sarmiento—all presidents of the republic. The lodge is the oldest one on the register of the Grand Lodge of Argentina, the first ("Lautaro") ceasing to exist during Rosas' tyranny. (Derqui is shown on a 2c stamp of 1890—No. 76).

**Juan Bautista Alberdi**—(1810-1884). Distinguished jurist and newspaper publisher, noted principally for his "Bases," a treatise on American public right. Hostile to Rosas, he exiled himself to Uruguay where he studied law, later practicing in Chile. On the overthrow of Rosas by Urquiza (see Vol. 3 page 3), he was successively named by the latter as minister to Paris, Madrid, Washington and London. (Shown on 12c stamp—No. 73—of 1888 and 6c—No. 426—of 1935).

**Hipolito Vieytes**—(1762-1815). Defended Buenos Aires against British invaders. Was active during 1810 revo-

lution and served as home secretary and secretary of war. Noted as writer, founded a weekly journal and was staunch advocate of free trade. (Shown with another Mason, Rodriguez Pena, on 1c stamp—No. 161—issued in 1910).

**Nicolas Rodriguez Pena**—(1776-1853). Member of second "Triumvirate" of 1812. Later appointed deputy governor of Oriental Province (Uruguay). On downfall of the "supreme administrator," C. M. de Alvear, also a Mason, he was exiled and spent remainder of his life in Chile. He was a member of "Lautaro" Lodge and "Independencia" Lodge. (Shown with above on No. 161. No. 162 of same series shows a gathering of patriots in his home).

**Francisco Narciso de Laprida**—(1780-1829). This Mason is pictured on five stamps, Nos. 215-219, issued in 1916 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Argentina's declaration of independence from Spain. A view of the congress which made the formal declaration of independence and over which he presided, is shown on Nos. 220-221. The congress, which could not decide between a monarchical or republican form of government, also adopted the blue and white flag created by Belgrano, a Mason (see Vol. 2, page 23). Laprida was murdered in 1829 during a massacre of opponents to the tyrant Rosas.

**Juan Larrea**—(1782-1847). Participated in 1810 revolution and is shown with Belgrano on 30c stamp (No. 170) issued in 1910 to commemorate centennial of that event. He became a member of the first "junta" (see page 3). The following year he was driven out of the country. He returned to Buenos Aires, but was again expatriated in 1815. He later became the Argentine consul in France.

**Domingo Matheu**—(1766-1831). An active promoter of Argentine independence, contributing heavily from his vast fortune. He was a member of the first "junta," eventually presiding over it. He is pictured, together with another Mason, Juan Jose Castelli, on a 20c stamp (No. 168) issued in 1910.

**Juan Jose Castelli**—(1764-1812). A lawyer and politician of indomitable courage. He was a member of the "Lautaro" lodge and took an active part in the struggle for independence. He was a member of the first "junta" and is pictured on No. 168 with the above.

**Dalmacio Velez Sarsfield** — (1793-1872). Jurist and legislator of outstanding merit; eminent writer and orator. Was mediator between the confederation and the province of Buenos Aires in 1860 (Urquiza on the one hand and Mitre on the other—both Masons). Velez Sarsfield was author of the Argentine civil code and co-author of the commercial code. He is pictured on the 20c of 1877 (No. 36) and the 1c of 1888 (No. 69).

**Bartolome Mitre** — (1821-1906). Statesman, soldier, historian, poet, journalist; served as Grand Master in 1894 and attained the 33rd degree. By the time he was 30 he had established a brilliant military and journalistic career in Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Chile. He returned to his native land, Argentina, in time to take part in the battle which ended the rule of the tyrant, Rosas, in 1852. He was a member of the 1853 Constitutional Assembly, held various posts and served as President in 1862-65. Through his efforts, a strained relationship between Argentina and Paraguay was settled in 1872. Mitre was a prolific writer and the history of his country is covered in his works. "La Nacion," a newspaper founded by him 84 years ago, stands as a monument to his activities. (Mitre is pictured on 50c issues of 1888 and 1890—Nos. 67 and 81; 12c issues of 1935 and 1939—Nos. 429 and 430, and 2c and 5c—Nos. 284-5—issued in 1921 to commemorate the centenary of his birth).

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**Carlos Maria de Alvear**—(1789-1853). General who took prominent part, politically and militarily, in Argentine wars of emancipation. In 1814, he was the victorious besieger of Montevideo, Uruguay, and a year later was named "supreme administrator." In 1839, he was appointed minister to the United States, where he died. He was a founder of the "Lautaro" lodge in 1812, along with Gen. San Martin, liberator of the country. (Alvear's likeness is found on a 30c stamp—No. 24—issued in 1867, and a 25c—No. 40—issued in 1877).

**Antonio Gonzalez Balcarce** — (1777-1819). General; participated in 1807 in defense of Montevideo against British. Taken prisoner, he was sent to Europe. In 1810, he returned to his native Argentina to take command of inland troops. He became "supreme administrator" in 1816. Was a member of "Lautaro" lodge. (Shown on 1c stamp—No. 22—of 1867).

**Vincente Lopez y Planes** (1784-1856). Literate and politician; served in many administrative posts; signator of first Argentine constitution; wrote the stirring words of the Argentine National Anthem; member of "Lautaro" lodge. (Shown on 2c stamps of 1877 and 1888—Nos. 38 and 58).

**Mariano Moreno** — (1778-1811). Statesman, jurist, Mason. Wielded pen against Spanish yoke and was named first secretary of 1810 junta; sent following year to England to obtain support and recognition of Argentine's independence; died at sea. (On numerous stamps).

**Juan Jose Paso**—(1757-1833). Member of first junta; had honor of reading Argentine's Declaration of Independence in 1816; member "Lautaro" lodge

and of "Independencia" lodge formed in 1795. (Shown with Moreno on 1 peso stamp of 1910—No. 172).

Gervasio Antonio de Posadas—(1757-1833). "Supreme administrator" in 1814; resigned following year. Member of "Lautaro." (Shown on 60c stamps of 1867 and 1888—Nos. 25 and 82).

### MASONIC SYMBOLISMS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

This is a continuation of symbolisms on postage stamps. The explanations are from Thomas Smith Webb's *THE FREEMASON'S MONITOR*, published in 1858. The stamps listed (Scott numbers) are not necessarily the only one's applicable.

"Truth is a divine attribute, and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true, is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct; hence, whilst influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown amongst us, sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us, and the heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare, and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."—(Truth can be illustrated by the Bible stamps, including U. S. No. 1014 of 1952).

"Justice is that standard, or boundary, of right, which enables us to render to every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil society; and, as justice in a great measure constitutes the real good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof."—(Egypt No. 284 of 1949).

"By operative masonry we allude to a proper application of the useful rules of architecture, whence a structure will derive figure, strength, and beauty, and whence will result a due proportion, and a just correspondence in all its parts. It furnishes us with dwellings, and convenient shelter from the vicissitudes and inclemencies of seasons; and while it displays the effects of human wisdom, as well in the choice, as in the arrangement, of the sundry materials of which an edifice is composed, it demonstrates that a fund of science and industry is implanted in man for the best, most salutary and beneficial purposes."—(Germany No. B61, of 1934).

"From the first formation of society, orders in architecture may be traced.

When the rigors of seasons obliged men to contrive shelter from the inclemency of the weather, we learn that they first planted trees on end, and then laid others across, to support a covering. The bands which connected those trees at top and bottom are said to have given rise to the idea of the base and capital of pillars; and from this simple hint originally proceeded the more improved art of architecture."—(Belgian Congo No. 142, 25c in 1931-37 series).

### FROM MIRT'S BACK PORCH "Famous Filipino" Series

The Philippines on November 30 issued the third stamp in the projected Famous Filipino series, a 1 centavo stamp bearing the portrait of Manuel L. Quezon, first president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in 1918-1919.

It is a high tribute, indeed, that all three stamps issued to date have paid honor to distinguished Masons. In 1952, a 5c stamp (No. 576) pictured Marcelo H. del Pilar, "Father of Philippine Masonry," and a 2 pesos stamp (No. 577) bore the portrait of Graciano Lopez Jaena, one of the founders of "La Solidaridad" lodge in Barcelona, Spain, to which belonged many of the Filipinos who figured in the war of independence against Spanish rule. (A biography of del Pilar was carried in *MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS*, Vol. 1, No. 8).

Quezon (1871-1941) served with Aguinaldo (a Mason) in the revolt against Spain. After the United States took over the Philippines in 1898, Quezon served successively as provincial prosecuting attorney, provincial governor and resident commissioner. He was president of the Philippine Senate in 1916-1935, and was the leading figure in the movement which led to the United States granting gradual independence to the islands. Quezon became the first president of the commonwealth in 1935, and was re-elected in 1941. After the Japanese invasion, he removed to the United States, where he died in 1944.

Following his death, an alleged letter of renunciation of Freemasonry was produced, but this was proved to be a forgery. A similar letter had been produced many years after the death of Jose Rizal, a Mason and national hero, and that, too, turned out to be a fake.