



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 20

NOVEMBER, 1963

NO. 3

Masons On Stamps: Leroy G. Cooper, Jr.



Paraguay issued on August 22, 1963 a set of three airmail stamps, as illustrated above, honoring Brother Gordon Cooper for his May 15-16 orbital flight. See article within—"When Gordon Cooper blasted off."

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 20 NO. 3
NOVEMBER, 1963

★ ★ ★ ★

Published by
The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl
PUBLICATION FUND
of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York
22 East 35th St., New York 16, N. Y.

★ ★ ★ ★

OFFICERS

President and Editor Norman H. Sehlmeier
1616 East 10th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11223
1st Vice-Pres. and Secretary Stanley A. Salomon
1200 Fifth Avenue, New York 29, N. Y.
2nd Vice-Pres. and Treasurer Joseph Munk
1010 Sherman Avenue, Bronx 56, N. Y.
Curator of Archives Shelton W. Osterlund
3 Admiral Drive, Tuckerton, N. J.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

E. Milnor Peck 3 Years
Eliot M. Nordheim 2 Years
Jose Rueff 1 Year

TREASURER EMERITUS

Fred Wendel

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Sam Brooks, Dr. S. Duffield Swan, Dr. Irwin Yarry

★ ★ ★ ★

Membership Peter I. Lee
1235 Grand Concourse
Bronx 52, New York
Publicity Herbert C. Walton
49 Kenwood Avenue
Verona, New Jersey

Copyright 1963—The Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.

By the sign of the Gavel

At our November 1, 1963 meeting, we hope to consummate a number of the legal steps to make the recent incorporation of our Club completely effective. The By-laws Committee will submit the proposed new By-laws and these will be considered and voted upon paragraph by paragraph. The slate of officers and directors, as set forth in letter-notice previously mailed to you, will also be voted upon.

December 6th will be Past President's Night - come out to see these veterans show and explain some of their choice material.

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th Street, N. Y. C.

Third meeting - November 1, 1963
First Membership Meeting of the
newly incorporated Club - adopt By-
Laws; elect officers and directors.

Also hope to greet as many of you
as possible at the A.S.D.A. Show, Nov-
ember 22-24.

If any of you has failed to pay his
dues, our Treasurer Bro. Joseph Munk
would be very glad to hear from you.
Have a happy Thanksgiving Day!

—Norman H. Sehlmeier

A.S.D.A. SHOW

Our Club will again have a lounge
at the forthcoming A.S.D.A. National
Postage Stamp Show.

Place: 71st Infantry Regiment Ar-
mory, Park Avenue and 34th
Street, New York City

Time: Friday — November 22 - 10
A.M. to 10 P. M.

Saturday — November 23 - 10
A.M. to 10 P.M.

Sunday — November 24 - 2
P.M. to 8 P.M.

Last year our participation was an
outstanding success, as we greeted
members and other Masons from far and
near. A number of local members who
for one reason or another are unable
to attend our regular meetings, found
that this schedule for the Show gave
them the opportunity of participating
in a Club activity and meeting their
fellow members. Last year's event
resulted in our adding a number of
new members to our roster.

Volunteers are of course always wel-
come to help man the lounge. Contact
any of the officers in order that we
may add your name to the schedule.
See you at the Show!

MERIWETHER LEWIS. THE FREEMASON



This stamp (Scott No. 1063) was first placed on sale at Sioux City, Iowa July 28, 1954, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The central design of the stamp portrays the landing of Lewis and Clark on the banks of the Missouri River preparatory to going into the expedition's winter quarters. The main figures, Meriwether Lewis in the foreground, and William Clark directly behind him, are drawn from the Lewis and Clark Monument in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Behind them stands the Shoshone Indian girl Sacajawea, taken from the statue in the State Capitol grounds in Bismark, North Dakota. The Indian heroine accompanied Lewis and Clark on the expedition, and the Bird Woman, as she was known, is remembered chiefly for her aid in securing the friendship of the Shoshone Indians and in guiding the expedition over the Great Divide.

When Sacajawea reached the Great Divide she was reunited with the Shoshones from whom she had been kidnapped previously. It was through her efforts that Lewis and Clark were able to get ponies from the Shoshones to continue their overland journey to Oregon.

For those who do not get the Masonic Review, I quote parts of an address by P.G.M. and Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Idaho, Wade W. Wilson.

Many articles have been written of the famous expedition known as "Corps Discovery". The two leaders were Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark who had equal rank in this successful expedition. Capt. Lewis at the time was a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 111, while Capt. Clark was not a Mason in this Lodge until two years after his return from the West.

We have received a copy of the diploma (original in the Library of Con-

gress) dated 1799 which constitutes the earliest Royal Arch Mason record of the Louisiana Purchase. We are happy to award the palm of being the first Royal Arch Mason to that sturdy pioneer (Lewis) whose explorations opened up the great west for settlement.

When kind hands prepared his body for burial, they removed from the inside of his breast pocket the silk and linen Masonic apron which testified to the great love he bore for the fraternity. And as in return for that love, the apron is soiled only by the life blood of the owner.

Albermarle County, Virginia, is the home county of President Jefferson; also the home of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, whose first known record is dated April 1795. It was in this ancient Lodge that Meriwether Lewis, when a young man, applied for admission December 31, 1796. The records of that Lodge show (January 28, 1797) that he was elected and that on the same evening was initiated and E. A. Laws were different than now. On the following evening (January 29, 1797) he was passed to F. C., and on the same date was raised a M. M. Whether an emergency demanded the rapid conferring of the degrees is not known; he was 23 years old and had just returned from western Pennsylvania, where he had assisted in suppressing an insurrection. During that period he was a Lieutenant, and was promoted to Captain in 1797.

On April 2, 1797 at a special meeting the degree of Past Master was conferred upon him; also on two other distinguished Virginians, Peter and Samuel Carr, nephews of Jefferson. Gov. Randolph, who married Jefferson's daughter, was also a member of Door to Virtue Lodge, and because of the close relationship to Jefferson, historians base belief of Jefferson's membership.

In 1801 Lewis was made private secretary to Jefferson and continued in that capacity until 1803. On July 4th of that year Lewis received his instructions from Jefferson as to his journey of exploration. The expedition returned to St. Louis on September 23, 1806, and Lewis went to Washington to discuss his travels with Jefferson, arriving in February 1807. Shortly afterwards he received his commission as Governor of Upper Louisiana.

On August 2, 1808 Masonic brethren, residents of St. Louis, made application to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a warrant of dispensation. The name of Lewis required no further

Continued on Page 6

Rutland, Vermont, Masonic Cancellations

By Dr. S. Duffield Swan



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

A few months ago I reported on my accumulation of Nashua, New Hampshire, Masonic cancellations. In those cancellers, the Postmaster, Bro. Swain, apparently endeavored to reproduce a single design type. At Rutland, Vermont, Postmaster and Brother John B. Kilburn did just the opposite. He made a special effort to get ideas referring to degree work, and to-date I have only seen one square and compasses. Also the cancellers' usage was spread over many years, from the 1861 issue (Scott's #65) through the 1883 issue (Scott's #210). The eight herein illustrated may only be a part of those carved. Charles Gramm told me, years ago, that there were eleven, but until

recently I had only seen six.

Gramm, Sidney Barrett and I have separately ascertained that Postmaster John B. Kilburn was a member of the Fraternity, - he received a Masonic funeral.

The illustrations are:-

Canceller	Scott
1. The Bible	65-94
2. Six-pointed star with letter "G"	65
3. Six-pointed star with square and compasses	63 and 65
4. Six-pointed star - intertwined	65
5. Blazing "G"	
6. Mark Token	210
7. Lodge Labyrinth	34
8. Bee Hive	34

WHEN GORDON COOPER BLASTED OFF

(Courtesy of "The Royal Arch Mason")

When Companion Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr. blasted off the launching pad at Cape Canaveral in May 1963 in his space capsule Faith 7 for a record of 22 orbits of the earth, he became America's No. 1 hero.

Cooper's unprecedented trip also "blasted" into outer space four Masonic myths that have been prevalent for the past decade.

Myth 1. Young men are not attracted to our fraternity.

Myth 2. Freemasonry, once strong, no longer interests the important men of our modern society.

Myth 3. Busy men have no time for Masonry.

Myth 4. Blue Lodge Masons are not interested in receiving more Masonic knowledge through the logical progression of the York Rite.

Gordon Cooper received his Blue Lodge degrees in Carbondale, Lodge, No. 82, Carbondale, Colorado in 1956. This was the Lodge of his father, the late Air Force Colonel Leroy Gordon Cooper, Sr. Carbondale Lodge conducted the funeral services of the senior Cooper in 1960. Obviously no one asked Astronaut Cooper to become a Freemason. The same held true with his York Rite advancement! "Gordo" informed a fellow member of the Space Administration, Capt. Edward May, that he wanted to become a member of the York Rite. May, present commander of the commandery in Cocoa, Florida, arranged a date. The countdown - in days - had already begun for Cooper's orbital trip in May. He had but one day available - January 26th. It was a long day, but Astronaut Cooper became a member of Indian River Chapter No. 27, R.A.M., Hiram Council No. 13, R. & S. M. and Brevard Commandery No. 24, K. T.

All the world loves a hero, particularly when he is young, athletic, personable and God-fearing. Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr. has won the acclaim of millions and become the ideal of many American Freemasons and their fam-

Since Brother Cooper's record orbital flight into outer space, Masonic organizations throughout the country have stood in line to honor him. At least two organizations made him an honorary member while he was still in flight on May 16, 1963. They were Aleppo Shrine Temple, Boston, Massachusetts and the Shawnee Shrine Club of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Next came the York Rite bodies of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Comp. Cooper graciously accepted honorary membership in Sioux Falls Chapter No. 2 R. A. M., Alpha Council No. 1, R. & S. M. and Cyrene Commandery No. 2, K. T.

When Astronaut Cooper attended the homecoming at Shawnee, Oklahoma, on June 29th (the area in which he was born and spent his earliest years), three uniformed commanderies of Knights Templar participated in the parade and the grand officers rode in two convertibles at the head of the marching units. There were also 21 white Cadillac convertibles from India Shrine Temple of Oklahoma City and the Shawnee Shrine Club.

To top it off, Brother Cooper wrote to the Masonic Temple Topics of Chicago, Illinois on June 24th that he had not only carried a Masonic coin, which they had furnished him, but two Masonic flags on his record orbital trip.

As our readers undoubtedly know, it is the policy of the U. S. Post Office not to issue any new commemorative stamp bearing the picture of a living person. Probably a number of foreign countries will issue stamps honoring Cooper. As illustrated on our cover page, Paraguay issued three airmail stamps on August 22, 1963 picturing Gordon Cooper. This is an attractive set and belongs in every Masonic Collection, as well as every aerospace collection.

Masonic Cachets, Pleasantville, New York, has available as part of Group No. 7 of Masonic Covers, a beautiful color cachet of Astronaut Cooper, bearing the U. S. Project Mercury stamp and the 1¢ Jackson stamp, cancelled at Cape Canaveral on May 16, 1963, just about the time Cooper descended from outer space and made his sensational landing.

FIRST DAY COVERS OF THE NEW COLORFUL AUDUBON STAMP

The Post Office Department will issue the 5-cent stamp in its "Famous American Artist" commemorative series, first day of issue November 29, 1963, from Henderson, Kentucky, where Audubon lived and worked for a number of years.

We are pleased to learn that Bro. E. Milnor Peck's organization, The Fleetwood Cover Service of Pleasantville, New York, was selected by the Nat-

ional Audubon Society to design and produce the Society's Official First Day Cover envelope. "It honors Audubon" the naturalist as well as artist. The cachet shows his Great Blue Heron in full color. The new stamp, in full color reproduces his "Columbia Jays."

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of these covers will go to support Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Society's research and educational programs.

The reproductions on the stamp and cachet of two of John James Audubon's best paintings make a striking cover or souvenir. A special card giving the history and some interesting facts about Audubon will be inserted in each cover.

MERIWETHER LEWIS

Continued from Page 3

guarantee, and they nominated him as their first Master. Shortly after he finished his administration, he left on a voyage to Philadelphia and Washington.

In compliance with a request, Jefferson wrote the biography of Lewis. It was dated at Monticello August 18, 1813, four years after Lewis' death.

The Expedition:- Congress voted \$2,500 to finance the expedition. Lewis was to superintend the manufacture of arms and ammunition at Harpers Ferry. Desiring to share the responsibilities, Lewis selected William Clark whom he had known since boyhood.

In order that the voyage would be adequately financed, Jefferson issued a letter of credit to Lewis the like of which has never been since. In part, - "I hereby authorize you to draw on the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, War and the Navy of the United States according as you may find your draughts will be most negotiable, for the purpose of obtaining money or necessities for yourself and your men; and I solemnly pledge the faith of the United States that these draughts shall be paid punctually at the date they are made payable."

The objects of the expedition:- "To explore the Missouri River and such principal streams of it as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river, may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across the continent for the purpose of commerce."

The expedition left St. Louis May 14, 1804. It consisted of a keel-boat 55 feet in length; two pirogues; Lewis and

Clark, the two officers commanding; nine woodsmen from Kentucky; 14 U.S. soldiers who had volunteered; two French watermen; an interpreter and hunter and the black servant of Clark. In addition there were a corporal and six soldiers and nine watermen and ten horses to go as far as the Mandan nation. There were 33 as listed in the diary of Lewis. One, George Shannon, a relative of Gov. Shannon of Kentucky, who later became an attorney, circuit judge, and for a short time a Senator and U. S. attorney, is thought to have been a Mason.

—Walter R. Harbeson.

OUR OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting opened at 8:00 P. M. on October 4, 1963; Bro. Sam Brooks giving the invocation. Visitors present were welcomed, Bro. A. Warren Scheller of Azure Lodge #129, Bro. Kutner, Veritas Lodge, and Bro. Fuerst of Johnathan Lodge.

Bro. Yarry reported that Bro. Harold Matters had passed away.

Bro. Sam Brooks reported that he had spoken to Bro. George Camnitzer the last time the latter had visited New York, and that George had expressed regrets that he would not be in town at the time of our meeting. Bro. Yarry reported that Bro. Jacob Glaser is progressing well and expects to be present at a meeting in the near future. Bro. Reggel supervised a drawing for two catalogs which had been donated by the Philatelic Foundation. Bros. Brooks and Salomon were the lucky winners.

Bro. Reggel reported on the visitation on October 3 of himself and Bros. Shoup, Donner and Salomon to Independent Royal Arch Lodge #2 to honor Grand Secretary, Rt. Wor. Wendell K. Walker.

Bro. Donner displayed a cup emblazoned with Masonic symbols, which had been given to members of his Lodge (Keyston) on its 150th anniversary. He suggested that something similar would be a most worthwhile souvenir for our forthcoming 30th anniversary dinner.

Bro. Yarry reported on the program of the Club's plans for participation in the New York World's Fair next year. He also pointed out that April 30, 1964 will be the 175th anniversary of Bro. George Washington's inaugural at Federal Hall in New York City. He made a motion, which was unanimously carried, that the Masonic Stamp Club of New York should advocate the issuance of a stamp to commemorate the event.

He suggested that the idea be nurtured through the Federation of Stamp Clubs.

Bro. Sehlmeier announced that the Club will participate in the coming ASDA Show to be held November 22-24 at the 71st Regiment Armory in New York City.

Bro. Swan reported that the stamp display at the New York Grand Lodge Library is lacking a number of items. He suggested that we endeavor to fill in the gaps. To this end, a want list will be printed in a subsequent issue of The Masonic Philatelist, and members possessing a duplicate of any missing item will be asked to donate the same for this worthy purpose.

Bro. Phil Rosenbaum, Chairman of the event, invited all Club members to the Annual Coin Show at the Henry Hudson Hotel to be held Nov. 29, 30 and December 1.

Bro. Salomon introduced the speaker of the evening, Bro. Charles Brooks, who showed many of his U. S. Classics, including regularly issued stamps, color proofs and essays. His talk was very comprehensive and was well documented. The Postmaster provisionals and early issues were well represented, and he also showed some of the early department issues.

—Stanley A Salomon

WENDELL K. WALKER

A number of our members attended at Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 on October 3, 1963, the occasion being a reception for Rt. Wor. Wendell K. Walker, who had been elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York at the last annual meeting. Bro. Walker has been an invaluable friend of our Club, has attended and spoken at many of our functions and has always placed at our disposal the files and records of the Grand Lodge Library. The following sketch should therefore be of interest to our membership.

Bro. Walker was born January 9, 1908 in Battle Creek, Michigan. He was raised in Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 in April 1932 as a courtier to A. T. Metcalf Lodge #419, Battle Creek. In the 175th anniversary year, 1937, of the former Lodge he became a dual member by affiliation. He was appointed to the line in 1938 and has served his Lodge in various capacities ever since. During his absence on U. S. Army duty in World War II, after service with the Seventh Regiment, New York Guard, he was repeatedly re-elected Senior Warden. He was Chair-

man of the 200th Anniversary Committee in 1960. Master of his Lodge in 1947, he has also been Master of The American Lodge of Research; Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Argentina, 1951-1954; and District Deputy Grand Master of the First Manhattan District 1955-56.

Among many activities in other branches of Masonry, he is a Trustee of Coeur de Lion Commandery 23, Knights Templar, a member of the Orient Chapter 138, Royal Arch Masons, and of the Columbian Council 1, Royal and Select Masters, and a Past Most Wise Master of the New York City Chapter of Rose Croix, and honorary member of the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo (1930) and the School of Library Service, Columbia University (1947), Bro. Walker's professional life has been spent in our Grand Lodge Library and Museum. He was recalled in the Korean emergency and afterward completed his service in the U. S. Army Reserve. He is married to the former Marjorie Knapp Balch of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and resides in Manhattan.

Our best wishes go to Bro. Walker for a most successful administration in his new capacity as Grand Secretary.

NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

UNITED STATES

- Jan. 9—5¢** American Flag regular postage stamp, Washington, D.C. Unlimited printing (red and blue on white).
- Feb. 15—6¢** Precancelled Airmail Postal Card (Bald Eagle), Maitland, Florida. Unlimited printing (red)
- Mar. 22—1¢** Andrew Jackson regular postage stamp, New York 1, New York. Unlimited printing (green) (5¢ each cover).
- April 6—5¢**, 300th anniversary of the granting of the Carolina Charter, Edenton, N.C.
- May 3—15¢** Montgomery Blair, Silver Spring, Md.
- May 31—1¢** Jackson stamp coils, Chicago 7, Illinois. Unlimited printing (green) (5¢ each cover).
- June 4—5¢** Food for Peace, Washington, D. C.
- June 20—5¢** West Virginia statehood, Wheeling, West. Va.
- July 1—5¢** Battle of Gettysburg "Civil War Centennial" commemorative stamp, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

July 12—6¢ Airmail stamp (Bald Eagle)
Boston 9, Mass.
July 24—8¢ Amelia Earhart commemorative airmail stamp, Atchison, Kansas.
Aug. 16—5¢ Emancipation Proclamation, Chicago, Ill.
Aug. 17—Alliance with Central American issue.
Aug. 30—7¢ international postal card, New York, N. Y. Double card (for reply also) 14¢.
Oct. 5—5¢ Cordell Hull, Carthage, Tenn.

Oct. 11—5¢ Eleanor Roosevelt.
Oct. 14—5¢ Science, Washington, D.C.
Oct. 26—5¢ Letter Carriers, Washington, D.C.
Oct. 29—5¢ Red Cross centenary, Washington, D.C.
Nov. 1—5¢ Christmas Stamp, S. Claus, Ind.
Nov. 29—5¢ Bluejays (Audubon), Henderson, Ky.
Dec. 13—5¢ Sam Houston centennial, Houston, Texas.

Masonic Cachets



In reply to many inquiries we are now glad to announce that three more Masonic cachets, bearing designs approved by the Board of Governors of our club, have been released for distribution. Masonic Cachets, Pleasantville, New York, has sent a brochure from which we quote for the benefit of any who may not be on their mailing list: "We are very proud of these covers Group #7.

Brother Senator Norris:- A great Senator, a gentleman of the highest caliber and who was always fighting for what he believed was for the good of all Americans.

General of the Armies: - 'Black Jack' Brother John J. Pershing, who led our nation to a great victory in World War I.

Astronaut Brother Leroy Gordon Cooper, who astonished the World with his historical flight into Outer Space. Went around the World 22 times in a little more than that many hours - no

words can describe such a fantastic feat, and then landed 'on target'. We had these covers cancelled at Cape Canaveral at just about the time he descended from 'Outer Space' and made his sensational landing.

This was a new milestone in world history and opened up new vistas of more astounding wonders for the future. All Masons are indeed proud of what this Brother did for our Craft and all Americans.

It is our guess that this Cover will be the proudest possession in your collection. Almost forgot to tell you - this Cover is in two colors, and is most dynamic.

The price is \$2.00 for the Group, three Covers. Our supply is limited. These Covers have not been advertised. This circular is being sent only to our Masonic Cachet mailing list. Don't want to pressure anyone - but get your order in now if you are really interested. Orders will be filled as received. Thank you.