

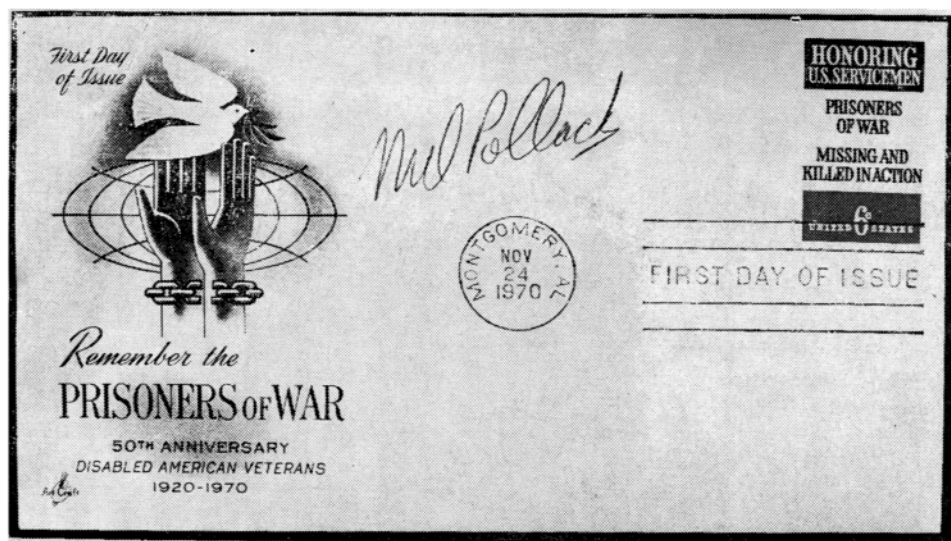


The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 29

JUNE 1973

NO 10



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ROBERT A. SMITH, Editor

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was
organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging
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establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons
who are stamp collectors. The need for the or-
ganization has proved itself through the years
with its ever-increasing membership and the
formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the
United States.

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING
22 East 35th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

By the Sign of the Gavel

As this is my last message as your
President, I would like to thank all
those who have helped me and the club
in putting forth a bit stormy but suc-
cessful year. Without mentioning any
names, I would like to thank all my
committees who labored so hard in the
quarries to help make the success. It
has been a most interesting and cher-
ished experience to have served you all.

On behalf of the Officers and the
Board of Directors, we wish you a won-
derful and healthy summer, and look
forward to your continued support for
another successful year under a new
administration.



Hope Lodge No. 244, F. & A. M.

WELCOME HOME
BROTHER CAPT. MEL POLLACK
U.S.A.F.

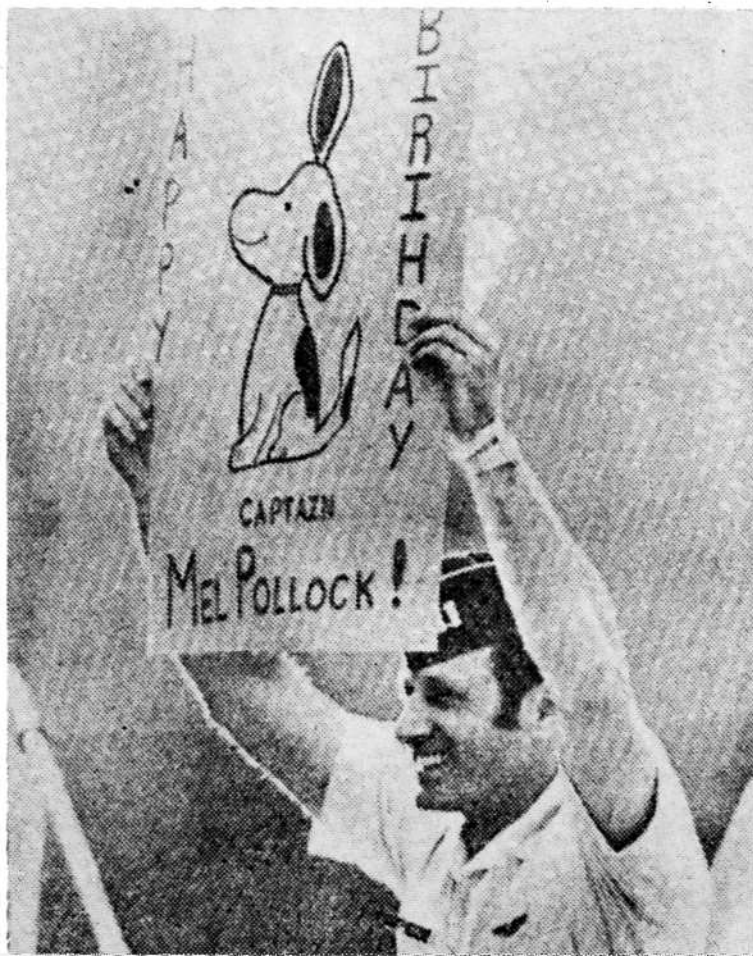
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1973

AMERICAN ROOM, 8:00 p.m.

REMEMBER THE PRISONERS OF WAR

On April 5, 1973, at Hope Lodge No.
244, F.&A.M., New York City, your
President was at the Welcome Home
celebration of one of its favorite Bro-
thers. Brother Capt. Melvin Pollack,
United States Air Force, was welcomed
back to his mother lodge after being
away from it since 1966. Brother Pol-
lack was one of the many who gave
so much for our great land. After 78
combat missions he was shot down over
North Viet Nam, and remained in the
Hanoi Hilton for close to six years be-
fore being released.

The ceremony was attended by many
distinguished members of the frater-



Capt. Melvin Pollack, whose parents live in Long Beach, hold up birthday card in Philippines.

nity as well as the purple, among whom was the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Arthur Markewich. It was indeed thrilling to see in attendance Brother Pollack's father, grandfather, and two uncles who are Past District Deputy Grand Masters.

After the ceremony I approached Brother Pollack and asked him to autograph the First Day cover that appears on the cover of this issue. During our brief conversation, he explained that during the time he was a prisoner of war, there were many fellow comrades who were also members of our great fraternity that he lived with.

He also stated that he had collected

stamps some time in the past, and that makes it that much closer to our beloved hobby. We thank God for his safe return and for the return of all who have given so much.

—Robert A. Smith

A report in the "Masonic Journal of South Africa," telling of the installation of officers of Libertas Lodge No. 74, Krugersdorp, Transvaal, said that one of the "toasts" proposed was "to Queen Juliana of Holland, Protectress of the Craft." The queen is pictured on numerous Netherlands stamps issued since her investiture on September 6, 1948.

Masonry in Belgium

by Wessel M. Lans — The Netherlands



Georges Hubin

Georges Hubin was born March 3, 1863 in Vierset near Huy in Belgium as a son of a simple stonecutter. At the age of 11, Georges acquainted himself with the hard life in the quarries and in this way he earned a dozen francs a fortnight for working twelve hours a day. As he was attracted by study, he developed himself step by step in his spare time, so that in the end he could put his enormous cultural education in the service of his brothers, the laborers. His influence reached far beyond his surroundings and made him, by his great intellectual and moral qualities an appreciated leader in the then-rising labor movement.

In 1895 the Socialist Party at Vierset-Barse secured a majority in the common council and Hubin was successively alderman for Public Works and Education. In 1898 he was chosen Member of the House of Representatives, in which he served uninterruptedly until 1946. In 1945 his exceptional merits were honored by his nomination as Minister of State, the highest distinction in Belgium. Until his death he fought for the rights of the laborers in his country. At the outbreak of World War I, he enlisted as a volunteer in the Belgian army and at the age of 77 years he took an active part in the resistance in 1940 in France.

During the German occupation of Belgium in World War I, three Belgian Lodges in exile went on working, viz. "La Belgique" in Le Havre (France), "Albert de Belgique" in London and "Je Maintiendrai" in The Hague. In the Lodge in Le Havre Georges Hubin was initiated. The Lodge "Les Amis de la Parfaite Intelligence" in Huy still keeps the jewel of the Apprentice which he

received at his initiation in the Lodge "La Belgique".

In 1919 Hubin's hopes were very disappointing as the Lodge in Huy proved not open to the ideas of socialism. The town was governed by a few rich families and the Lodge looked for new members only among the adherents of the Liberal Party. It was self-evident that Hubin could not reconcile himself to this attitude with regard to the party he had created. Disappointed, he turned away from Masonry and no more visited the Lodge in Huy.

July 29, 1947, Georges Hubin undertook his last voyage to the Eternal Orient. Among the many flowers, one piece especially attracted attention—a large triangle of red gladioli and carnations. It was a token of esteem and admiration of the Lodge in Huy. Farther away in the procession, the blue Lodge banner contrasted clearly against the background of red party flags. It was a rather late homage masonic to a great man who might have been an ornament of Freemasonry.

The date for this article I owe to the Brethren René and André Furnémont, father and son, the first of whom have given an impressive biography in his book: "Georges Hubin, apostle of Socialism". Stamp: Belgium 1971.

Germany



Karl August, Fürst von Hardenberg

Von Hardenberg was born May 31, 1750 in Essenrode near Hannover (Germany). In 1791 he became a Prussian public servant and was characterized as an excellent statesman in the spirit of the French Enlightenment.

Together with Haugwitz and later with Vom Stein (both Masons), he played a prominent part in the Prussian politics of those days, first as a

friend of France, later, after the battle of Jena, as Napoleon's great adversary.

In 1807 Von Hardenberg incurred Napoleon's displeasure and had to be discharged according to the emperor's wish. In 1810, however, he was appointed Prime Minister and he continued the work of reformation begun by Vom Stein, which aimed at raising the Prussian nation.

He dissolved the guilds, abolished the statute labor of the farmers and gave the Jews civil rights. In the field of finance he carried important reforms. By all these things Von Hardenberg became the pioneer of the liberalism of the 19th century. Through all this, he was opposed by the great adversary of liberalism, the Austrian statesman K. L. W. von Metternich. When the latter at the Congress of Verona in 1822 aimed at a general interdiction of Masonry, it was Von Hardenberg who could prevent this, supported by Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia.

On his way back to his fatherland after the Congress, Von Hardenberg died in Genoa, November 26, 1822.

Bro. Von Hardenberg was a member of the Lodge "Zum weissen Pferd" in Hannover. He was Master of this Lodge from 1778-1781.

Stamp: Germany 1972.

India



Swami Vivekananda 1863-1902

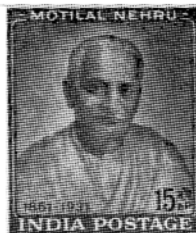
Narendranath Datta was born in Calcutta in 1863. In 1880 he met Ramakrishna and he became his disciple. He retired from all worldly and political activities and went into retreat in the Himalayas. Under his religious name, Vivekananda, he became well known after that.

In 1893 he was sent to a religious congress in Chicago where he made a great impression by his oratorical talents. For a long time he lived in Amer-

ica and Europe. He left behind an important series of writings, based on the Vedanta and with the intention of founding a universal church. He died in Calcutta in 1902.

Vivekananda was initiated in the "Anchor and Hope Lodge" No. 1 in Calcutta on February 9, 1884, passed April 15, 1884 and raised May 28, 1884.

India commemorated his 100th anniversary by issuing a stamp in 1963.



Pandit Motilal Nehru 1861-1931

Pandit Motilal Nehru set up as a lawyer after having finished his studies and played an important part in the political life of his country as a brother-in-arms of Ghandi. During a number of years he was a member of the United Provinces Legislative Council. In 1919 he founded the "Independent", an aggressive and nationalistic paper.

In 1921 he was imprisoned for six months for breaking the law against seditious assemblies. In 1925 he became president of the All-India Swaraj Party which, under his leadership, entered into a merger with the National Congress Party the next year.

Pandit Motilal Nehru was a member of "Unity Lodge" No. 29 in Allahabad of which Lodge he was Worthy Master. His son, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, was not a Mason. India commemorated him on a stamp in 1961 on the centennial of his birth.

Source: "Newsletter of the Grand Lodge of India", November 1971.

ANTONIO GONZALES BALCARCE

Antonio Gonzales Balcarce was a member of Lautaro Lodge.

Balcarce was an Argentine patriot and general. He participated in the 1802 defense of Montevideo, Uruguay against the British. Taken prisoner, he was sent to Europe. In 1810 he returned to his native Argentina to take command of the inland troops.

He became Supreme Administrator in 1816.

ALGERIAN HERO AND MASON HONORED

In the March 1874 issue of **NEW ENGLAND FREEMASON** I came across a biography in connection with the death of a fabulous character—Abd-el-Kader, ex-sultan of the Arabs of Algeria, a Mason. The following information is gleaned from that account.

Born in May 1807, Abd-el-Kader demonstrated his tremendous mental powers by his knowledge of religions, the sciences and arts, and medicine. At the same time, he developed strength and agility, and was a skilled horseman.

In 1831, after the French had taken possession of Algiers, the Arabs entreated Abd-el-Kader's father to be their sultan. A deeply religious man of peace, he accepted and abdicated immediately in favor of his son. The younger, at the head of 9,000 troops, marched toward Oran to drive out the French. The fighting was bitter, but the French remained in possession of the city. However, counter efforts of the French to advance into the country were repulsed. A treaty was made, but this was short-lived. In the next 10 years, French troops under the command of numerous distinguished generals attempted to defeat the Arab's leader, but without avail. In 1848, Marshal Thomas R. Bugeaud was sent from France to head a reinforced army of 120,000 men. The sultan was forced to surrender under these tremendous odds.

Abd-el-Kader was imprisoned for five years. After his release, he went to Broussa and later to Damascus. In 1860, he was active in defending the Christians against the murderous attacks of the Druses, and, in doing so, saved thousands of lives. His services were appreciated throughout the Christian world and he received decorations and presents from nearly every country.

His whole time was occupied in public devotions, religious instruction and practical charity. As a crowning act of sacred duty, he spent sufficient time in Mecca to entitle him to the privilege of being a "Fellow of the Prophet." He went to Alexandria in June 1864. A biography published in London in 1867 records this interesting episode:

"Abd-el-Kader has just succeeded in achieving, after much toil and self-abnegation, the highest distinction to be attained in a religious profession, pre-eminently dogmatic and exclusive. By a singular contrast he now wished to wear the badge of a society based and established on the principle of universal brotherhood. The Masonic

body in Alexandria hastened to welcome the illustrious neophyte. The Lodge of the Pyramids was specially convoked for the occasion on the evening of the 18th of June. Abd-el-Kader was initiated into the mysteries, and to the privileges of being a "Fellow of the Prophet" added the more time-honored privilege of being a 'Free and Accepted Mason.'"

He died in Damascus in 1873, lamented by the community as a devout Muslim and a practical Christian.

(Abd-el-Kader and Bugeaud are shown on an Algerian 40f plus 10f stamp of 1950—No. B61—issued on the occasion of the unveiling of a monument to the Emir at Cacheron.)

CORREGIDOR STAMP A NOTABLE ITEM

In 1944, the postoffice department issued a 3c stamp (No. 925) which represents a dark page in American history. It paid homage to the gallant men and women who resisted an overwhelming Japanese army to the very last, surrendering only when the odds were such that further defense was foolhardy. The central subject of the stamp is Corregidor, where the final stand was made, with connecting islands in the background.

Two Masons played leading roles in that historic event. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, 33° (see Vol. 1, page 38 for Masonic records) was in command of the forces in the Pacific when the Japanese attacked the Philippine Islands. He led the resistance until he was ordered to Australia, which he reached in the face of heavy odds.

Maj. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, 32°, was in command of the Northern Army in Bataan when the Japanese attacked. He was left in charge of the troops when Gen. MacArthur moved out. Gen. Wainwright fought a delaying battle but eventually had to surrender. He, along with his men, were taken prisoners. For more than three years, he suffered great privations with them. When released, he was a skeleton of his former self.

Gen. Wainwright is a graduate of West Point, 1906. He served against the Moros in the Philippines, and was on the general staff of the 82nd Division and 3rd Army in Europe during World War I. He is a member of Union Lodge No. 7, Junction City, Kan., and of the Scottish Rite Bodies of Salina, Kan. He was invested with the K.C.C.H. by the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, in 1947. In 1948, he was presented the Grand Lodge of New York's Masonic Achievement Medal.

The Corregidor stamp, therefore, should occupy a prominent position in any Masonic collection.

Excellent companion pieces to that stamp are several issued in the Philippines while under Japanese occupation. The American forces surrendered on May 7, 1942. Eleven days later, the Japanese authorities issued what is catalogued as No. N8. The 4c stamp of 1935 (No. 384) was used and given an overprint: "Congratulations. Fall of Bataan and Corregidor 1942." The "United States of America" on the original stamp was blacked out.

A year later, two stamps, a 2c and 5c (Nos. N26-27) were issued by the Japanese authorities to commemorate the first anniversary of their victory. The second anniversary was observed by the issuance of two more overprint stamps, 5c and 12c (Nos. N35-36).

MacArthur's return and recovery of the islands changed the status. He is pictured on three stamps (Nos. 519-21) issued in 1948.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, LONDON

St. Paul's Cathedral in London is of Masonic interest. It was designed and built by Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) after the third St. Paul's had suffered severe damage in the great fire of London in 1666. The cathedral is considered the finest work of the great architect and mathematician.

While it is practically certain that Wren never became a Freemason, he was for many years Grand Master of Operative Masons and he is known to have admitted prominent men outside the profession. His period, therefore, can be considered that of transition from Operative to Speculative Masonry. During his lifetime (1717), the first Grand Lodge of Speculative Freemasonry was formed in London.

(St. Paul's Cathedral is shown on a New Zealand 1½d stamp—No. 249—issued in 1946.)

FREDERIC A. BARTHOLDI

Frederic A. Bartholdi was a member of the Lodge Alsace-Lorraine. This Lodge was organized September 8, 1872 by many prominent intellectuals, writers and government representatives.

When his famous statue, called "Liberty Enlightening the World", was achieved, Bartholdi convened his Lodge to review it, even before the statue was shown to the United States committee.

On June 19, 1884, the Lodge, as if on a pilgrimage, went in a body to review his masterpiece and on November 13, 1884, Bartholdi delivered a lecture

and gave the Lodge a report on the history and various methods used in the execution of his statue. Again the Lodge witnessed his emotions when he came back from his visit to the United States in 1887, and told the Lodge of his ardent welcome and of the wide enthusiasm created by his work.

At least 18 countries have depicted this most famous work of Bartholdi. This seems a little strange when it is probably the greatest symbol of freedom in the world. The statue was presented as a gift to America by popular French subscription in 1876.

The first stamp issued showing the Statue of Liberty was in 1919.

—Elwing D. Carlsen

KING EDWARD VIII

By Richard D. Basile

King of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperor of India from January 20 to December 11, 1936.

In 1921 while he was Prince of Wales he was installed as Worshipful Master of Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614. That year he was also admitted into Royal Arch Masonry and the Scottish Rite Bodies. That same year his younger brother, George, was Worshipful Master of Navy Lodge No. 2612. He was installed as Senior Grand Warden of the United Lodge of England on October 25, 1922, at a special meeting of the Grand Lodge of England, Wales, its colonies and dependencies. After a reign of 327 days, Edward abdicated, before being crowned, to marry an American divorcee.

Upon Edward's abdication, his brother, George, became King George VI, and his first official act was to make his brother, Edward, Duke of Windsor. His short reign produced few postage stamps, as compared to other British monarchs.

ROALD AMUNDSEN

Roald Amundsen is referred to by many as a Freemason, but no Lodge or other specific information is ever specified.

He was a Norwegian Antarctic explorer. He is credited with being the discoverer of the South Pole in 1911. In 1903-1906 he navigated the Northwest Passage and fixed the position of the North Magnetic Pole. In 1926 he flew across the North Pole with Lincoln Ellsworth.

In June of 1928 he disappeared on a flight to rescue Nobile who was lost returning from the North Pole.

—Elwing D. Carlsen

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