



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 30

APRIL 1974

NO. 8



An autographed post card from Vice President Gerald R. Ford.

Gerald R. Ford, Jr., whose appointment to Vice President of the United States was confirmed in December 1973, was initiated in Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 30, 1949. Past Grand Master of Michigan Masons, Newton S. Bacon, Grand Secretary, says their father, Gerald R. Ford Sr., 33rd degree, presented lambskin aprons to each of the four brothers "in a packed lodgeroom."

Columbia Lodge No. 3, District of

Columbia, conferred the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees as a courtesy to Malta Lodge. He was raised May 18, 1951. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1957 in the Valley of Grand Rapids, was created Sovereign Grand Inspector General Honorary 33rd degree, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in 1962; Member of Saladin Temple; A.A.O.N.M.S., in Grand Rapids, also a member of Royal Court of Jesters No. 11; Honorary DeMolay Legion of Honor.

—Elwing D. Carlsen

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ROBERT A. SMITH

Guest Editor

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization 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

From the Editor —

I wish to thank all those who have helped in making the "Masonic Philatelist" an interesting publication for our members. I have received articles on a regular basis and hope that this will continue in the future.

In the March issue I asked for help on a project of "Masonic Historical Cover Club" cachets, and wish to thank Edward R. Walsh, W. R. Brockman, and Burton S. Goldstein for their valuable contributions to this project. Although it is still not complete, we are well on our way towards completion, thanks to these Brothers.

Remember, any articles can be sent to: Robert A. Smith, P.O. Box 142, Bowling Green Station, New York, NY 10004.

"CLOSED ALBUM"

MILTON TUNICK

Bronx, New York

"May his soul rest in everlasting peace."

NEW MEMBERS

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New York, N.Y.

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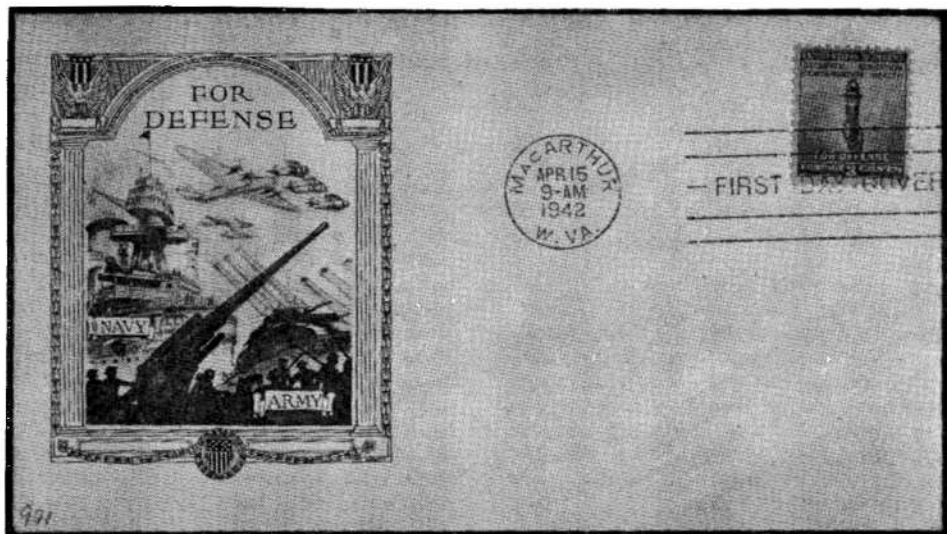
Lodge Dalhousie Bonnyrigg No. 720
Surrey, England

MacArthur, W. Va.

As Masons we are all familiar with the Gen. D. MacArthur stamp that was issued on January 26, 1971 (Scott No. 1424). But did you know that Gen MacArthur was honored on April 15, 1942 in West Virginia? It was on April 15, 1942, that the town of Hollywood, West Virginia became known as MacArthur, West Virginia.

Since General MacArthur was still alive in 1942 and no living person can be honored on a U.S. stamp, it was decided to honor him by renaming a town after him.

The official post office announcement



stated that "in consideration of the significance of this name, a special postmark containing the words 'First Day Cover' in the canceling bars, will be applied to covers on the opening date." According to an article by Jack Harvey in Vol. 18, No. 4 of "First Days", this was the only time that the words 'First Day Cover' was used due to the confusion it caused with First Day of Issue cancels.

All the known covers are franked with one or more of the Defense issue of 1940 (Scott Nos. 899-901).

Although there are very few of these MacArthur covers around today, I have been fortunate to come across one, and it is now mounted with my MacArthur FDC.

Charles Morris,
Treasurer

GEORGE WASHINGTON SENT FIRST AIRMAIL LETTER

The first letter to travel by air in America was written by President Washington. Its purpose was to introduce a daring French airman and his balloon craft to the American public.

That initial piece of airmail correspondence was written by Washington, January 9, 1793, the date that Frenchman Jean-Pierre Blanchard, made his 46 mile balloon flight from Philadelphia to Deptford, New Jersey, in 15 minutes. This unique method of transport for the Washington letter has become an annual commemorative event for residents of New Jersey. Actually, the first mail to travel by airplane occurred on an ex-

perimental basis in 1911 and scheduled airmail service began in 1918.

On that day, however, 181 years ago, Washington watched with hundreds of others on the grounds of the prison yard on Walnut Street, Philadelphia, as the Frenchman's enormous yellow balloon ascended into the skies and then floated towards Delaware. Strong winds caused the balloon's course to shift and it landed in New Jersey rather than Delaware as originally planned.

Since the idea of man in space was so novel at that time, the President felt he should give Blanchard an introduction to American people to prevent any attack on him when his balloon landed.

Further on in his recollections of the balloon flight, Blanchard records that the letter served its intended purpose. "My passport served me instead of an interpreter, since I could not speak English," he wrote when recalling his landing and his first meeting with the Deptford residents to whom he presented the letter.

"In the midst of a profound silence, it was read with a loud and audible voice. How dear the name of Washington is to this people and with what eagerness they gave me all possible assistance in consequence of his recommendation."

Submitted by D. Malcolm Fleming

FRANCISCO BERTRAND

Bertrand was initiated in Lodge Francisco Morazon.

He was President of Honduras in 1913-1915 and 1916-20.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

Fascinating Facts and Intimate Incidents

About

STAMPS and PEOPLE

(Continued from March issue)

In my opinion the next best group of stamps for Americans to collect are those of

British North America

This group comprises British Columbia and Vancouver Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The stamps of this group are undoubtedly a sound investment, as they are not only collected here and in Canada but are equally popular and in demand in Great Britain and the British Colonies.

Following these conventional groups there are several others that are worthwhile subjects for those who desire a smaller field of work and less expense. In this country, especially in the Middle West, we have large settlements of Scandinavians; many of these collect stamps of their native countries and I think that Norway, Sweden and Denmark are well worthy groups to collect.

The British West Indian stamps have much to recommend them. They are always saleable—the early issues of the printings of Perkins, Bacon & Co. are much sought for in Great Britain and the 20th century stamps are, mostly, beautiful works of art. Collectors can collect one or more of the island's stamps according to their means.

For the more ambitious who desire to collect on a serious scale and to do real research work I can recommend such countries as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, China, Japan, Mexico and the major Australian colonies.

Great Find of Early British Stamps

The greatest find of old British stamps of which I have any record was some twenty-five years ago when I was head of the great British firm of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

One morning I had a letter from the Postmaster General asking me to call at the head office in London to advise him as to the value of some old stamps they had found. I went to St. Martins le Grand accompanied by the late Major E. B. Evans and was received by the

Earl of Derby, the then P.M.G. He showed me a roll of some 6,000 Mulready's 1d. and 2d. in sheets of 12 and a sheet each of the first British stamps, 1d. black, 2d. blue and 1d. black V. R.

Upon my asking where these had come from, Lord Derby informed me that the Board of Works had been making some alterations in the Home Office at Dublin. In the course of this work they pulled down some shelves in one of the rooms and behind these shelves found a cupboard in which were the stamps in question. Each of the sheets of the 1d. black, the 2d. blue and the V.R. had from 20 to 50 stamps cut off the bottom rows.

Lord Derby went on to tell me that he had found that early in 1840 sample sheets of the 1d. and 2d. and the V.R. with the Mulreadies were sent to Dublin with instructions that the postmaster should send samples of each, with instructions for their use, to every post office throughout Ireland. He believed that 12 to 20 stamps had been cut from each sheet and sent to local Dublin offices and that the rest had been put in the cupboard and forgotten for some 70 years.

The nominal value of these stamps when issued, was just under \$200.00 — when they were found some 70 years later their catalogue value was a little over \$50,000.00.

The U.S. 24¢ Rose and Blue Air Post Stamp with Aeroplane Inverted

The only known sheet of 100 stamps was bought by a clerk in Rigg's Bank, Washington, for \$24.00.

He sold this to Eugene Klein, and two friends, of Philadelphia for \$15,000.00 and Klein sold the sheet to Col. E. H. R. Green for \$20,000.00. Col. Green kept twenty stamps, the block of eight with the plate number, the center line block and two arrow blocks. The rest were sold through Klein at \$250.00 each, then at \$350.00, later on at \$500.00 and finally at \$600.00 per stamp. In the Hind Sale last November I sold a block of four

for \$12,100.00.

Edward Stanley Gibbons

In the very year that I was born (1863), Mr. Stanley Gibbons made the best purchase of his life, and one upon which he based his future success.

At this time young Gibbons was an assistant to his father, who was a well known pharmaceutical chemist at 13 Treville St., Plymouth. E. S. Gibbons was allowed to use one portion of the window to show samples, and one morning two sailors passing the shop saw them, and went in to ask if anyone there bought stamps. Next day the men turned up, one of them with a large kitbag over his shoulder.

They were asked into the back parlor, and turned out the contents of the bag onto a large round table. The stamps were all triangular Cape of Good Hope—thousands and thousands of them—many in large blocks, woodblocks and Perkins, Bacon printings all mixed up. Gibbons asked the men how they had got a sackful of triangular Capes, and one of them replied:

"When our boat got to Cape Town we had leave, and some of us went on shore for a spree, and me and my mate here happened to go in a show we found folks crowding into, and found a bazaar going on. Some ladies persuaded me to take a shilling ticket in a raffle, and we won this here bag of stamps which the ladies had begged all around Cape Town for the bazaar."

Well, the men were very pleased to get \$25.00 for the sack of Capes, and I should fancy Gibbons was equally pleased with his purchase.

It may interest you to know the rates at which Gibbons sold Capes in those early days. The figures I quote are authentic as I found Mr. Gibbons' letter-book for March to June, 1864. On March 16, 1864, he wrote to A. Rosenberg: "I can supply you in quantity 1d., 4d. and 6d. Cape of Good Hope, twenty cents a dozen, genuine old woodblock, 75c a dozen." Next month prices were up, as he sent Mount Brown three dozen woodblocks at \$2.50 a dozen. About the same time he sent J. Pauwels of Torquay, some 1/- Capes at 35 cents a dozen, and quoted him \$1.00 each for 1d. blue and 4d. red woodblock errors. By June 1864, the prices of Cape errors had enormously increased, as he was

then offering them at \$3.75 each!!!

In the same year Gibbons wrote to his agent in Cape Town, and ordered some of the new rectangular 1d. and 6d. stamps, and at the end of the letter said, "Please do not send me 1d. triangular, unused, as they are no good to me."

People often ask me, "Why do men of great affairs take up stamp collecting as their hobby?" I can only reply that, as the years roll by and life becomes more and more strenuous, some restful and interesting spare-time occupation is increasingly necessary. The old saying that "A change of work is as good as a recreation" has been carried further by modern physicians, who insist that merely to cease work is not the ideal form of rest. To leave his office at night will not clear a man's mind of business. He needs some equally absorbing interest to drive away all worries, to exercise his mind in different channels and to lift him out of the ruts of habit. Not only is this change of occupation necessary during the period of business life, but it is needed more than ever when business is finally put on one side.

I am often asked, "Will stamp collecting continue?" In reply to this I shall quote the answer to this question made to me in Leipzig, Germany, by the head of one of the largest publishing houses in that city. He said, "In my opinion, stamps will be collected as long as we make books to put them in and babies grow up and become collectors, and in Germany we make plenty of both."

In conclusion, I would like to quote the saying of Lord Burnham, the owner of that great London paper, The Daily Telegraph. He said in May, 1923: "The postage stamp is the common currency of human affection."

JAMES BROOKE

Sir James Brooke was made a Mason in Singapore at a special meeting of Lodge Zetland-in-the-East #508, E. C. on June 24, 1848.

During the reign of the Rajahs Broke, al secret societies, including Freemasonry, had been rigorously prohibited throughout Sarawak. The first Lodge in Sarawak was consecrated on January 25, 1951. It is Lodge Sarawak #1452 in Kuching, with a Scottish charter.

WASHINGTON'S LODGES

The Philalethes



George Washington's connection with the Craft is a source of pride to every American Freemason who can thus call the Father of his Country a brother. Some English writers assert that Washington was made a Mason during the old French War in a Military Lodge attached to the 46th Regiment. It is claimed that the Bible upon which he took his oath is still in existence at Halifax, Nova Scotia, although the Lodge itself has been dissolved. However, it was in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F.&A.M., Virginia, that he was initiated on November 4, 1752; passed on March 3, 1753; and raised August 4, 1753.

It is further known that the first recorded meeting of a Royal Arch Chapter was held in this same lodge on December 22, 1753, only a few months after Washington was raised. While it is not known for sure that Washington was ever exalted to the Royal Arch, the Masonic Apron which was made for Washington by Madame LaFayette, and which is owned by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, contains the initials arranged in a circle that are associated with that body.

It was our good fortune recently to be able to borrow a copy of "The History of Fredericksburg, Va.," by S. J. Quinn. Brother Quinn, past master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, had previously written a "History of Fredericksburg Lodge," published in 1890, eighteen years previously. From that book we quote some interesting things, for "The records of the town reach back to the close of the Revolutionary War." There was history before that but nobody set

it down on paper, or if they did, it has been lost. At any rate, by 1674, it was found to be expedient to establish "one effort or place of defense at or near the falls of the Rappahannock . . . furnished with four hundred and eighty pounds of powder and fourteen hundred and forty three pounds of Shott." That is where the town of Fredericksburg grew up and became one of the important towns of Virginia, which differently from most of the other colonies, had no large city to dominate its trade, learning and politics.

"Next in importance to the churches," writes Brother Quinn, "dedicated to the service of God . . . some of the charitable and benevolent societies . . . the oldest of these . . . is the Masonic Institution, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, (as later numbered) . . . was organized on the first day of September, 1752. Under what authority it was organized is not positively known . . . A claim is made that the Masons in the community organized themselves into a lodge and continued (thus) until a charter was obtained" . . . It is further reported that "in the year 1758 Daniel Campbell, for several years master of the lodge, visited Scotland, and at the request of the lodge applied for and obtained a charter for the Lodge from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, which was dated July 21, 1758 . . ." Just why a charter from the Lodge of Scotland was obtained rather than one from the Grand Lodge of England is not known. Provincial Grand Masters had been appointed and many lodges then in existence were chartered by them or by the mother Grand Lodge in England.

"In the years 1798 and 1799 the town was the seat of frequent and heated political discussions . . . bitter feeling was shared in the entire town . . . during this excitement . . . a number of members . . . withdrew . . . and organized Fredericksburg American Lodge . . ." given the number 63." It continued . . . until the breaking out of the Civil War, when it became extinct . . . In the bombardment . . . of December, 1862 . . . all of the records of the Masonic Lodge were destroyed or carried away except those from 1752 to 1771 . . ."

George Washington's family lived nearby and his mother lived in the city until the time of her death. As noted the Lodge did not obtain a charter until six years after Washington was made a Mason, presumably, therefore, it was an "immemorial rights Lodge," such as that of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, of which Ben Franklin was a member

and Master. According to this "landmark" any group of Masons could, under certain regulations, form themselves into a Lodge and "Make Masons." This was one of the first things that the new Grand Lodge did away with when it was formed in 1717 in London; for making Masons had become quite a racket and was giving the Masonic Craft a bad name.

"On the 27th day of November, 1824, General Lafayette visited the town . . . a splendid mounted guard of honor was organized . . . he and his party, his son, George Washington, and Colonel LaVasseur—were escorted to town . . . with martial music. A public reception was held . . . The next day being Sunday, he visited the Masonic Lodge . . . enrolled his name as an honorary member . . ."

General Andrew Jackson, a Mason and the "Hero of New Orleans" came on the 7th of May, 1883. The occasion was the laying of the cornerstone of the Mary Washington monument (mother of Washington). General Nathaniel Green (a noted Revolutionary War army officer) had been tendered the hospitality of the town in 1783. John Paul Jones, another national hero of the period, was a native of the Fredericksburg countryside and while it is not known that he was a member of Lodge No. 4, he was a member of the Lodge of "The Nine Sisters" in Paris of which Ben Franklin was an active member at one time, and "was a regular attendant."

On the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of a monument "To the Confederate Dead," on June 4, 1874, the Lodge took an active part as it did also in the dedication of a second monument to Washington's mother in 1889. On that occasion, President Cleveland, Vice President Stevenson, Justice Harlan, and others were present. Washington remained a member of Fredericksburg Lodge until his death. In the meantime, however, he had been a member and Master of Alexandria Lodge, formerly No. 39, chartered by Pennsylvania in 1783. This lodge is still active. When the Grand Lodge of Virginia was formed in 1778, it withdrew from "Pennsylvania obedience," and received a Virginia charter, under date of April 28, 1778. "George Washington (with his personal consent) was named Master in the Virginia charter" and was later reelected to that station. While it is sometimes stated that he held this position when he died, he was rather Past Master at that time.

In 1804, says Coil, "Grand Lodge approved the change of name to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, conditioned on surrender of the 1788 charter . . . the Lodge objected, not desiring to lose its original Virginia charter in which Washington was named Master." This was arranged for in a resolution in 1805, permitting the change of name with the retention of the old charter. This territory for a time was part of the District of Columbia, but later was receded to Virginia since it was thought that much territory would never be needed for the Capital City. For a time, however, another lodge known as Alexandria Brooke Lodge No. 2, existed under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. This later became Lodge No. 47, District of Columbia, whereas Alexandria-Washington Lodge reverted to Virginia in 1846 when the territory was restored to that state.

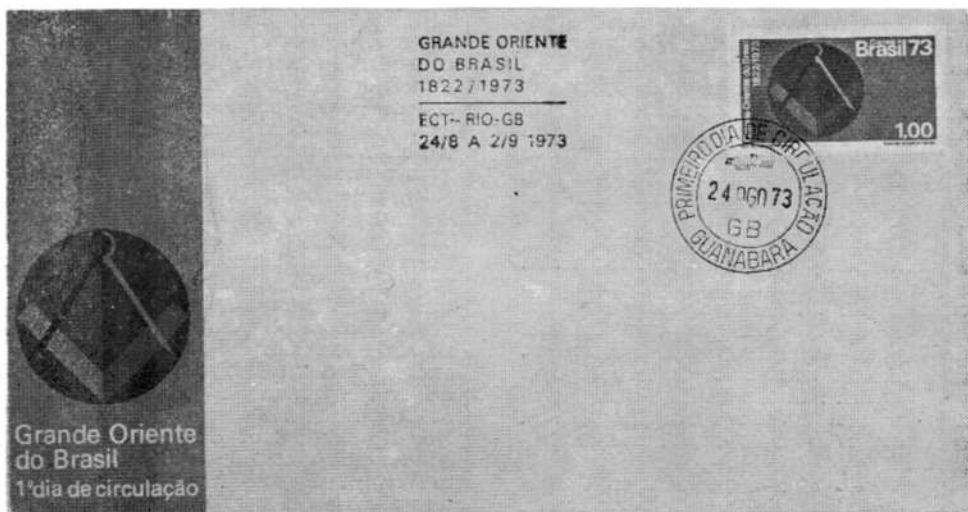
CHARLES A. LINDBERGH

Where are you going in such a rush, my Brother? Oh, you're hurrying to Kennedy Airport to catch a plane for Frankfurt, London, Paris, Rome, or beyond. Well, don't forget that to make such a flight possible a young airman, Capt. Charles A. Lindbergh, landed his plane, "The Spirit of St. Louis" at Le Bourget airport near Paris on the night of May 21, 1927, concluding his historic solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The newspaper vendors screamed through the streets of Paris "Bonnes Nouvelles", the American has arrived. L'Intransigeant, the important Parisian newspaper, called him "A man with the heart of steel in the body of a bird." He was the first to cross the Atlantic alone.

Today the 707's and the 747's leave our airports with great precision, and many fly halfway around the world, with Europe being only six and seven hours away. But it was Lindbergh who started it all, and it was written about him that he was more generous than Christopher Columbus: He has delivered to us the Continent of the Sky.

On his return to the United States he was welcomed by President Coolidge, who was not a Mason. But Mrs. Coolidge was a member of Eastern Star, and their son, John, became a member of Wyllis Lodge No. 99 in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Lindbergh made an air tour of 75 American cities to promote aviation under the auspices of the Guggenheim Foundation. On invitation from the President of Mexico he made a non-stop flight from Washington, D.C. to



BRAZILIAN MASONIC STAMP

August 24, 1973, Brazil issued a 1cr. stamp marking the role played by Masonry in the country's history. It also marked the 151st anniversary of the Grande Oriente Do Brasil.

Robert A. Smith

Mexico City, a distance of 2,100 miles, in 27 hours and continued the goodwill mission to Central and South America. In 1935 Lindbergh went to England but returned in 1939 at the outbreak of World War II. In April of 1941 he resigned from the Air Force when President Roosevelt criticized his opposition to U.S. intervention in World War II prior to our entry in the war. However, on December 10, 1941, he immediately volunteered his services to his country.

Masonically speaking, Lindbergh received his three degrees in Keystone Lodge No. 243 in St. Louis, Missouri between June 9th and December 15th of 1926. As an officer in the U.S. Air Service he belonged to the National Sojourners, a Masonic organization. On his history making flight from New York he wore the square and compasses for good luck; his plane bore a Masonic Tag from his Lodge and his Masonic Passport was nailed to the outside.

He received many medals and citations, not only from governments, but also from Grand Lodges throughout the world. Many of these are now on display at the Jefferson Memorial in St. Louis. Charles A. Lindbergh is a Brother Mason we should not forget.

The United States stamp issued in

1927 (Scott's #C10) shows Lindbergh's airplane "Spirit of St. Louis".

—Walter A. Marshall

ETHAN ALLEN

Like many others who lived in the days before the American Grand Lodges were organized—and at a time when a group of Masons considered it their right to initiate others and confer degrees—Ethan Allen's Masonic history has left little record.

In a historical address at Rutland in 1879 by Henry Clark, his name is included among a group of men who were initiated as Entered Apprentices on July 7, 1777, at a meeting of Masons who were among those assembled for the convention which formed the Constitution of the State of Vermont. This was one of the first Masonic meetings in Vermont.

One writer states that he received only one degree at Windsor, Vermont on July 7, 1777. His brother, Ira, was a member of Vermont Lodge No. 1.

Allen was a major general in the Revolution. He gained fame at a colonel commanding the 'Green Mountain Boys' who, with Benedict Arnold, seized Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775.

—Elwing D. Carlsen