

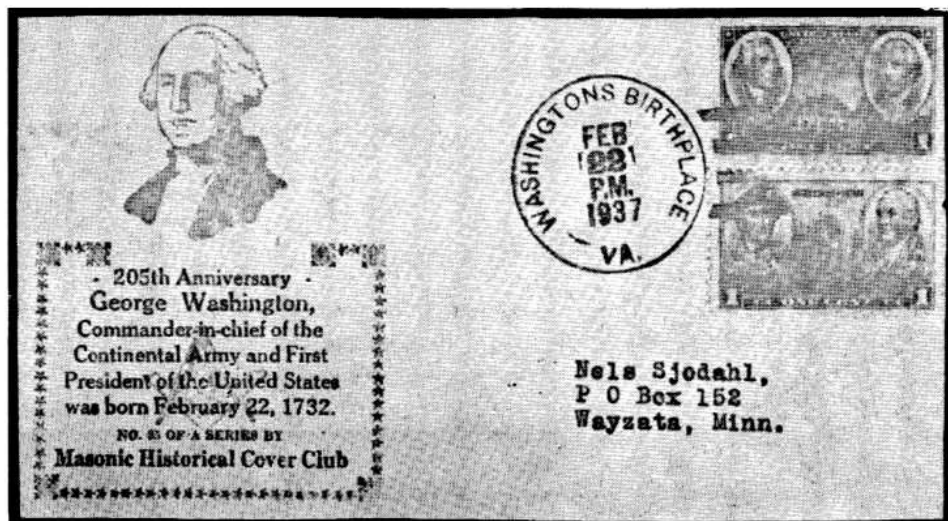


The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 31

SEPTEMBER 1974

NO. 1



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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

By the Sign of the Gavel

Dear Brothers:

We hope your summer was pleasant. The Masonic Stamp Club has recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. It was a most memorable evening. Among our own Brethren and Wives, we had the honor of the presence of R.W. Brother Wendel Walker, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The speaker of the evening was the very prominent Mr. Ernest Kehr.

I deem it an honor and privilege to be President of the Club. We are the oldest and largest Masonic Stamp Club in the world today. We issue a few cachets each year and try to help our Brothers with their Masonic collection. During the year, I have received many letters from our Brothers. In due time, I will respond to all.

To my Officers and Board of Directors, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks for your fine cooperation this year. Our program for the next two years will be in line with the Bicentennial of our country. The usual program card will be included in the next edition of the Philatelist. If any Brother has an idea for the good of the Club, it will be greatly appreciated. Do not hesitate to write to me.

Fraternally yours,

LOUIS BERNSTEIN, President

NEW MEMBER

Thomas Christensen, Brooklyn, New York. Midwood Lodge No. 310, Brooklyn, New York.

For A Price List
of Available

MASONIC COVERS PAST AND PRESENT

Write to

MASONIC CACHETS
451 WEST 46th STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

ARMY IS REVIEWING CHARGES AGAINST BENEDICT ARNOLD

The following article is reprinted from the New York Times of Saturday, June 9, 1973.

Benedict Arnold was a member of the Masonic Fraternity and affiliated with Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Conn. on April 10, 1765.

The following stamps can be used in connection with Arnold:

5¢ West Point 1937
3¢ Ticonderoga 1955

By ISRAEL SHENKER

Benedict Arnold will probably always be considered a traitor to this country, for having tried to surrender West Point to the British in 1780. But the tides of revisionist history may yet wash an earlier blot or two from his escutcheon.

Dr. Vincent A. Lindner of Scotch Plains, N.J., a history lecturer and newscaster, has taken the Arnold case in hand and petitioned the army to set the record straight.

And the Army has decided to investigate.

Francis X. Foley, a supervising examiner in the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, has called for the archival records, and will carefully examine what the archivists turn up.

'Less of a Devil'

"The issue before the board is not to make an angel out of Arnold, but perhaps less of a devil," Mr. Foley said in an interview yesterday. "Arnold was a contentious person, but he was probably the best divisional commander the Army had."

What exercises Dr. Lindner is the belief that Arnold's conviction on two of eight charges—dating to a period before the West Point fiasco—was not only trumped-up but also crucial in leading this Colonial general into the pit of treason.

Dr. Lindner picked up the lance for Arnold in a perfectly conventional way—after reading the books of Kenneth Roberts, whose gift was for making history readable, popular and stirring. Instead of leaving things where Roberts did, Dr. Lindner determined to play a role in changing the record.

Arnold's court-martial took place in Morristown, N. J., and Dr. Lindner feels patriotic about his state. "I'm anxious to get people interested in our past," he said.

From start to dismal finish, the way histories read how Arnold's saga went: Born in Connecticut in 1741, Arnold ran off to a life of adventure. When the Revolution came he was commissioned a colonel, joined Ethan Allen, and—while Allen got credit for capturing Ticonderoga—it was Arnold who was probably greater still.

Arnold fought brilliantly in Canada,

was wounded in the leg, and then promoted to brigadier general for his courage. He was also accused of nefarious conduct during the occupation of Montreal, but exonerated.

Since Arnold was a friend of George Washington, he was attacked by Washington's enemies. But when Connecticut was invaded in 1777, Arnold rode into battle and had two horses shot out from under him. A grateful Congress made him major general.

Arnold reciprocated by defeating Britain's General Burgoyne (suffering another wound, with his leg). In June, 1778, he was given command of Philadelphia. He lived well—perhaps, even well beyond his means—and was charged with extortion and misappropriation of public money.

A committee of Congress recommended his acquittal of all charges, including the two that had been proved: that he had issued a pass for a ship's departure without fulfilling all the requirements and that he had pressed idle public wagons into service to save private property from the enemy.

Feeling vindicated, Arnold resigned his Philadelphia command. But his enemy, Joseph Reed, president of Pennsylvania's Executive Council, got the charges reviewed by a court-martial. The court-martial confirmed the Congressional findings, but recommended a reprimand from George Washington. Convinced that Arnold was being persecuted, Washington phrased the reprimand in terms amounting to a eulogy, and then offered Arnold command of the Northern army.

Too embittered to seek solace in loyalty, Arnold took refuge in treachery; he plotted to put the British in control of the Hudson. Foiled in this grand design, he sold his services to the enemy for a brigadier's rank and a handful of silver.

Before the Army can render a new verdict on the old court-martial, it must assure itself that the request for investigation comes from a relative of the deceased.

Through a news item, Dr. Lindner, who works for WPAT, found a 19-year-old Skidmore College sophomore, Mary P. Carroll of Ridgewood, N.J., who indeed appears to be an Arnold descendant.

"She claims to be a great-great-great—I think there are 12 greats—grand-cousin of Benedict Arnold," said Mr. Foley of the Army board. "We'll have to go into her genealogy before we examine the application. But we'll do them collaterally, since I don't want to delay this investigation."

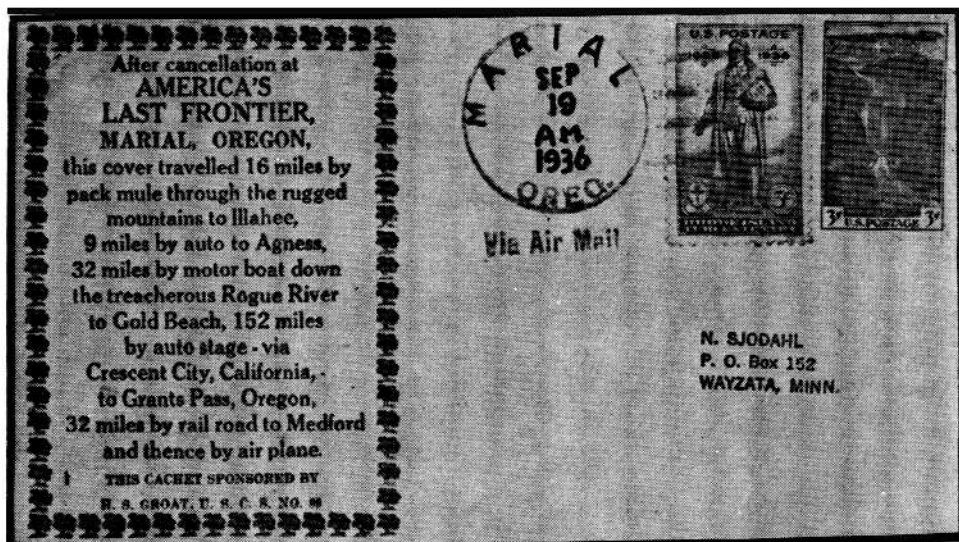
MASONIC HISTORICAL COVER CLUB 1934 - 1940

#	DATE	CANCELLATION	BORDER	TEXT	SQ. & COMPASS	MASON(S)
1.	2 10-34	Savannah, Ga.	Red	Blue	Purple	Jas. Oglethorpe
	Autographed by W.M. of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia.					
2.	5-20-34	Seattle, Wash.	Black	Purple	Yellow	Marquis de Lafayette
	Bust of Lafayette in blue; Autographed by W.M. of Lafayette Lodge No. 241, Seattle, Wash.					
3.	5-9-35	Hingham, Mass.	Black	Blue	Red	Benj. Lincoln
	Autographed by W.M. of Lincoln Lodge No. 137, Lincoln, N. C.					
4.	6-6-35	So. Coventry, Conn.	Green	Purple	Yellow	Nathan Hale
	Autographed by W.M. of Nathan Hale Lodge No. 1006, New York City.					
SC-11-9	5	Boston, Mass.	Black	Green	Blue	Joseph Warren
	Autographed by W.M. of Joseph Warren Lodge, Boston, Mass.					
6.	8-14-35	Portsmouth, N. H.	Black	Purple	Yellow	David Glasgow Farragut
7.	8-19-35	Camden, S. C.	Black	Black	Black	Baron Johann de Kalb
8.	8-23-35	Kingston, R. I.	Red	Blue	Red	Oliver Hazard Perry
	Autographed by W.M. of O. H. Perry Lodge No. 341, Port Clinton, Ohio.					
9.	9-25-35	Midland, Va.	Purple	Black	Orange	John Marshall
	Should have been cancelled on 9-24-35; Cachet commemorated the 180th anniversary of the birth of John Marshall, September 24, 1755.					
10.	10-22-35	Philadelphia, Pa.	Black	Blue	Green	Peyton Randolph
11.	11-2-36	Charlotte, N. C.	Orange	Green	Purple	Jas. Knox Polk
	Should have been cancelled on 11-2-35; Cachet commemorated the 140th anniversary of the birth of James Knox Polk, November 2, 1795.					
12.	11-9-35	Williamsburg, Va.	Purple	Blue	Red	James Monroe
13.	11-27-35	Gig Harbor, Wash.	Red	Green	Blue	John Paul Jones
	Bust of Jones printed in orange over text; Autographed by W.M. of John Paul Jones Lodge No. 271, Gig Harbor, Washington.					
14.	11-28-35	Portsmouth, N. H.	Black	Blue	Red	William Whipple
15.	1-17-36	Boston, Mass.	Red	Green	Blue	Benjamin Franklin
16.	1-23-36	Charleston, S. C.	Black	Blue		John Mitchell
	No Square & Compass, but A.A.S.R. Double Eagle in red.					
17.	1-29-36	Montross, Va.	Blue	Purple	Green	Henry Lee
18.	3-11-36	Boston, Mass.	Green	Purple	Purple	Robert Treat Paine
19.	3-13-36	Boston, Mass.	Purple	Green	Green	Otho H. Williams
20.	3-26-36	Halifax, N. C.	Black	Purple	Purple	Joseph Montfort
	Should have been cancelled on 3-25-36; Cachet commemorates the 160th anniversary of the death of Montfort, March 25, 1776.					
21.	4-19-36	Newton, Mass.	Red	Blue	Blue	Roger Sherman
22.	6-4-36	Providence, R. I.	Dark Blue	Green	Green	Abraham Whipple
23.	6-20-36	Canton, Mass.	Black	Brown	Brown	Richard Gridley
24.	7-4-36	USS Detroit & USS Northampton	Red	Blue	Yellow	George Washington John Paul Jones Benjamin Franklin and General Lafayette
	Shield depicting an eagle and wreath printed over the text in brown.					
25.	8-15-36	Portland, Maine	Blue	Green	Brown	Edward Preble
26.	8-22-36	Marietta, Ohio	Red	Purple	Green	Rufus Putnam
	Cachet is known having a white and yellow envelope.					
27.	9-14-36	Buffalo, N. Y.	Black	Blue	Red	William McKinley
	Cachet is known having a white and yellow envelope.					
28.	9-19-36	Long Branch, N. J.	Black	Green	Blue	James A. Garfield
29.	10-21-36	Thomaston, Maine	Black	Green	Red	Henry Knox
31.	12-3-36	Richmond, Va.	Red	Green	Blue	Edmund Randolph
31.	12-3-36	Montgomery City, Mo.	Red	Purple	Yellow	Richard Montgomery
32.	12-15-36	Erie, Pa.	Black	Blue	Yellow	Anthony Wayne
33.	1-11-37	Hamilton, Wash.	Green	Blue	Red	Alexander Hamilton
34.	1-23-37	Quincy, Mass.	Purple	Green	Green	John Hancock
35.	2-22-49	Bergenfield, N. J.	Green	Blue	Orange	George Washington
	Should have been cancelled on 2-22-37. Cachet commemorates the 205th anniversary of Washington's birth, February 22, 1732. A bust of Washington is printed in orange.					
36.	3-15-37	Waxhaw, N. C.	Red	Purple	Red	Andrew Jackson
37.	4-12-37	Hanover, Va.	Orange	Blue	Blue	Henry Clay
38.	9-6-37	Seattle, Wash.	Purple	Green		Marquis de Lafayette
	Bust of Lafayette printed in purple. Autographed by W.M. of Lafayette Lodge No. 241, Seattle, Wash.					
39.	Unknown					
40.	Unknown					
41.	Unknown					
42.	Unknown					
43.	Unknown					
44.	8-1-40	Bowling Green, Va.	Red	Purple	Purple	William Clark

Addenda —

#8. Known also without autograph of W.M.

35. Correct cancellation known as 2-22-37, Washington's birthplace, Virginia.



Thanks to Bro. W. F. Brockman, P. O. Box 457, Ellsworth, Wis. 54011, we are able to find out who the organizer and mainstay of the Masonic Historical Cover Club was. H. S. Groat seems to be the mainspring of the club and the following is introduced as evidence of this:

CACHET NOTICE

Colored printed cachets in commemoration of Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock, Washington, Lafayette, Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson and other notables of early American history will be included in the 1937 series, starting in early January, sponsored by the Masonic Historical Cover Club, 110 Madison Street, Seattle, Wash. Send 10 stamped, addressed, standard 6¾ size covers with 1¢ forwarding charge for each cover. Covers should be un-stuffed and unsealed. Commemorative stamps on wrappers will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,
H. S. Groat, Sec'y,

110 Madison Street, Seattle, Washington

The above is a copy of a stuffer which came out of No. 35.

Mr. Groat was also very active in the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, where he held a very low number (#89). He sponsored a variety of covers which bear ship cancels, during the same period of time.

—Robert A. Smith

CACHET ANNOUNCEMENTS

AIR MAIL: A cachet from AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIER will be printed on AIR MAIL COVERS ONLY early in August. After cancellation these covers will travel approximately 16 miles by pack mule in the rugged mountains, 32 miles by motor boat down one of America's most treacherous rivers, 140 miles by auto truck, 250 miles by train and then by airplane to destination. Covers must be franked with full 6¢ postage and must be UNSEALED and UNSTUFFED and should be standard 6¾ size, preferably 28 lb. weight. Forwarding charges of 1¢ per cover. Commemorative stamps on wrappers will be appreciated.

MASONIC HISTORICAL COVER CLUB will continue its series of printed cachets covering early American history particularly of the Revolutionary War period. Send 10 prepared covers UNSEALED and UNSTUFFED, standard 6¾ size. Forwarding charge 1¢ per cover — commems. on wrappers appreciated.

Send covers NOW to H. S. Groat, 110 Madison Street, Seattle, Wash.

JULY 4, 1776 - A PRELUDE

Walter M. Callaway, Jr. 32°



The great American Opus of July 4, 1776 was rendered in Philadelphia when the chimes of the Liberty Bell proclaimed to the inhabitants of the American Colonies that a new Nation, conceived in liberty, had been born.

But this, the magnum opus of American freedom, was not without its prelude. Like Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci", the main performance had its prologue which set the stage.

One of the most important preludes to the Declaration of Independence was rendered in 1742, thirty-four years earlier, in the coastal salt marshes of faraway Georgia, in what is now Glynn County. Georgia was at that time, and remained so for many decades, the southern and southwestern frontier of British America. The territory originally granted to the Trustees of Georgia included the land which is now Alabama and Mississippi. To the south lay the hostile Spanish; to the southwest were the French; in between were Indians.

The first English settlement of Georgia began on the west bank of the Savannah River when James Edward Oglethorpe and his little band of colonists pitched their tents on Yamacraw Bluff on February 12, 1733. The original movement in England to settle this land was founded on Masonic principles of char-

ity and benevolence. Many of the Trustees were Freemasons. Oglethorpe was the Founder of Georgia and, traditionally, the Father of Freemasonry in the Province.

The Grand Lodge of England, in its Quarterly Communication at The Devil Tavern in London, December 13, 1733, ten months after Oglethorpe's landing, adopted a resolution recommending that the Lodges "make a generous collection amongst all their Members" to "collect the Charity of this Society towards enabling the Trustees to send distressed Brethren to Georgia, where they may be comfortably provided for." A little more than three months later, February 21, 1734, a Lodge of Freemasons was organized in Savannah and was entered on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England in 1735 under the name of the Lodge at Savannah in Ye Province of Georgia. By or before 1770 it took the name of Solomon's, and has enjoyed continuous existence since its organization. Strong tradition indicates James Oglethorpe was its first Worshipful Master. Thus, it is seen that a strong Masonic influence was prevalent in establishing Georgia.

During the years following 1733 Oglethorpe had to deal with many problems: the Trustees, the British Government, discontented settlers, the belligerent

Spanish to the south. With the local Indians he had no difficulties; the Yamacraws, an outcast tribe of the Creeks, loved Oglethorpe and held him in high esteem.

It was a time when there were wars and rumors of war in Europe, wars which spilled over to the shores of America. Britain, France and Spain were all vying for world power. Spain had already protested to England about the settlement in Georgia. The territory south of the Altamaha River and the Spanish border at Florida was an area of debate.

At the end of Queen Anne's War the British had secured from Spain through the Treaty of Utrecht the right to sell annually 500 tons of merchandise in Spanish ports in the New World. The agreement, like so many others, was broken as circumstances rendered expedient. An English smuggler, one Thomas Jenkins, was caught red-handed by the Spanish just off the Florida coast. Contrary to their usual custom, the Spanish did not execute him, but they cut off his ears and told him if he didn't like what they had done that he could go to London and show his scars to his King. Jenkins did appear before Parliament to demonstrate the cruelty of the Spaniards. In October 1739 the war between England and Spain was called the War of Jenkins' Ear, the land war being primarily on Georgia's southern frontier and the sea war being fought in the Caribbean. The next few years was mostly a case of advance and retreat, fire and fall back. No conclusive battle was fought until 1742.

General Oglethorpe, a member of Parliament, was not only a humanitarian and statesman but a skilled and seasoned soldier, having seen many years of active service under Prince Eugene in the European wars. During the difficult years of settlement and survival of the infant colony, Oglethorpe had not neglected his duties in securing the southern flank of British America. He personally familiarized himself with the land. He built roads, and established a town and fort on the Frederica River, as well as other redoubts between Savannah and the Spanish outposts. By this time Oglethorpe had been named commander-in-chief of all British land forces in Georgia and South Carolina.

The Spanish Government, exasperated with the problems with the Georgians, organized a great offensive force at their New World headquarters at Havana, and moved on to St. Augustine, Florida,

for final preparations for the great invasion and conquest of Georgia.

When the Spanish invading forces arrived off Frederica from the sea, Oglethorpe, facing odds of more than four-to-one against him, made every one of his men count. The survival of Georgia, and more, was at stake. Every Briton knew of the historical cruelty to prisoners practiced by Spanish soldiers and their priests. There was an axiom among the British at that time that when British soldiers or seamen were faced with the choice of death or surrender to Spaniards it was "better to fall into the hands of God than into the claws of Spain." The militant priests who always accompanied Spanish troops or war vessels were even more barbaric than the warriors. The faggot and stake were their principal weapons in burning "heretics" for the "good of their souls." In 1742 the papal bull interdicting Freemasons was only four years old.

Oglethorpe and his little band, including a detachment of Scottish Highlanders, defeated the Spanish detail and drove it back, broken and demoralized, to Spanish Florida. The Battle of Bloody Marsh, as it came to be known, settled once and for all the menace of Spain to British America. How many Freemasons participated in that critical affray is not known. It is known, however, that, other than Oglethorpe himself, there was a young captain by the name of Noble Jones — like Oglethorpe, a native of England—who was the first Initiate of the Lodge at Savannah in 1734. Brother Jones became quite prominent in Georgia in the following years. In 1770 he was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Georgia, a Masonic office he held until his death in 1775, a Loyalist to the end.

While Georgia was engaged in mortal combat with the enemy the other Colonies to the east and north, older and far more prosperous than Georgia, looked on with great anxiety to the outcome. None of them showed any desire to get involved in the struggle. It was Georgia's war and they were content to have Georgia fighting it out alone. Most of the governors, however, when the results became known, sighed with relief and wrote congratulatory letters to Oglethorpe.

Nothing begets success like success. Who is there to say that had the Spanish defeated Oglethorpe at Bloody Marsh and conquered Georgia, that they would not have fanned out with their armada and troops and marched into

the Carolinas, Virginia and other colonies along the coast?

Had the Spanish forces at Bloody Marsh gone up against a less competent and gallant commander than Oglethorpe and brushed aside the Georgians, it is not beyond the bounds of reasonable speculation to think of the possibility that the Spanish might have swept through the whole of British America. The vast bulk of colonial settlers in America were of Anglo-Saxon stock and took seriously their rights as free-born Britons. Spain, on the other hand, never had a Magna Charta and its people had never known civil or religious liberty. It is not difficult to perceive what the fate of the people of the colonies might have been had it not been for Bloody Marsh. Had the Georgians failed there, all of the colonies might have fallen into the "claws of Spain," their rights and liberties crushed as ruthlessly by the Spanish as had been those of other captive people in the Americas.

The Declaration of American Independence at Philadelphia on July 4, 1776 was the magnum opus of the Republic.

Bloody Marsh was its prelude.

The grand finale was played at Yorktown in Virginia on October 19, 1781.

The article and cover was sent in by Bro. T. Hal Smith, Bostic, N.C.

"A WELL KEPT SECRET"

Hjalmar Schacht, a genius in financial affairs during the Hitler war years, was generally disliked by the Nazis because he was a Freemason. After the war years he was acquitted as a war criminal at the Nuremberg trials. Schacht was a member of "Zur Freundschaft" Lodge and as early as World War I had published articles on the obligation of a Mason in his heart and spirit to the people with whom he lived.

General Werner Von Blomberg was minister of war in the Hitler Cabinet from 1933 to 1938 and Schacht wished to honor him on one of his birthdays. In 1933 Freemasonry was dissolved in Germany, the Lodges taken over and their contents confiscated. Among these articles was a very fine painting of Gebhard Lebrecht von Blucher, General Field Marshal in the Prussian Army. Blucher was a very ardent Mason and after the battle of Katzbach in 1813 he declared "Masonry is holy to me and it will be so until I am called to the Eternal East and any Brother is near and dear to my heart."

The oil painting of Blucher was made during the years 1802-1806 at the time that he was the Master of his Lodge "Zu den 3 Balken" in Muenster, Germany. The painting depicts the Marshal in uniform with all of his military orders and decorations, and you can also see around his neck a large blue ribbon with a square on the end. He is seated in a chair wearing his Master's Apron and one can distinctly see the different Masonic insignia.

Schacht found that this painting was available for a very low price and bought it. It would have been extremely dangerous to give Von Blomberg this painting since he was a strong Nazi so Schacht found an artist who painted over parts of the picture so that it would be impossible to see the apron. But the artist was unaware that the jewel around his neck also indicated Freemasonry and left that part untouched.

On one of his birthdays Von Blomberg received the painting from Bro. Schacht and felt very honored that Schacht had compared him to the famous Marshal Blucher and placed it in one of the largest rooms of his villa for all to see. It has to be said to the honor of all Masons that they recognized the picture belonging to a Lodge in Muenster but not one gave the secret away. To the end of the Hitler regime it remained a well kept secret, and at the same time became a source of hearty laughter in the circle of our Brothers.

FLORENTINE AMEGHINO

Initiated in Jujan Lodge and later transferred to Luman Lodge in the vicinity of Moreno.

Argentine Masonry rendered him an imposing recognition, when, on August 7, 1921, ceremonies were held on the anniversary of his death in 1911.

He was one of the most eminent scientists of the Argentine Republic. He is famous for his profound geological-zoological and paleontological studies that he gave to the world in a total of 179 works and an innumerable number of conferences.

He was a professor in the National University, a director of the National Museum of Science and also of a number of other academies.

He was an indefatigable worker and of clear intelligence. He may be said to have been a thinker of intense depth, a philosopher endowed with distinct originality.

--Elwing D. Carlsen