

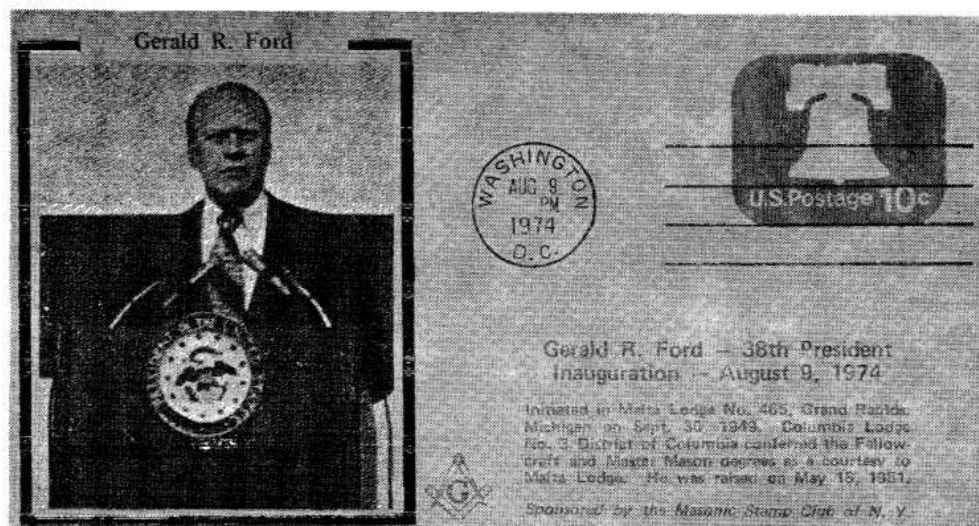


The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 31

OCTOBER 1974

NO. 2



GERALD R. FORD INAUGURATION COVER

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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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 Brother:

It was very gratifying to see so many members down to our opening meeting of the season. Some of our Brothers showed their stamps and covers they acquired during vacation time.

The treasurer rendered a report of the finances for the year which was well accepted.

The July 4th Continental Congress cover issued by the club went on sale that night. The President Ford Inauguration cover is now ready.

The enclosed program is for the coming year. The Degree of Master of Philately will be conferred at the April meeting. If you wish to receive the degree, please notify our secretary.

Past President Robert Smith wrote an article in the September issue of the Journal of the American First Day Cover Society about our club and covers issued since its inception. It is very informative. Try and get a copy and read it.

I will have a new list of covers available shortly. If you wish a copy, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Masonic Cachets, 451 West 46th Street, New York City, NY 10036.

How about proposing a new member. There is always room for a few more.

Fraternally yours,
Louis Bernstein,
President

NEW MEMBERS

Lawrence K. Connell, Jr.
Narbeth, Pa.
Philo Lodge No. 444 F.&A.M., Pa.
James N. Haydon
Lexington, Mass.
Simon W. Robinson Lodge,
A.F.&A.M., Mass.

DECEASED CLOSED ALBUMS

David G. Jaeger, Olmsted Falls, OH.
George E. Virden, Princeton, IL.
Hermon N. George, Youngstown, OH.
Clifford McGilvray, Lakewood, NJ.
Daniel F. Pomeroy, Jr., Troy, PA.
Edgar W. Wheeler, Los Angeles, CA.
Reid M. Graybill, East Petersburg, PA.

From the Editor —

I wish to thank the many loyal members who have helped me by sending articles for the Philatelist. In our September issue the article entitled "A Well Kept Secret" was written by Walter C. Marshall. Please accept my apologies for omitting the author. But it is not such a well kept secret that Brother Marshall was appointed Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. My heartiest congratulations.



R. W. C. WALTER C. MARSHALL

GRAND STEWARD
of the Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted Masons
of the
State of New York

III. Thomas C. Peterson, 33°, has been given the great honor bestowed on him by the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33° S. J. as Deputy of the Supreme Council in the Canal Zone. We wish you the best of health for your duties during the ensuing year.

Bro. Henry Weidemann of Canaan, Conn. just received the 50-year pin from the Grand Lodge of New York where he is a member of St. Albans-Long Island Lodge No. 56. May the Good Lord bless and keep you in the best of health, and we all hear about the 60-year palm.

BICENTENNIAL 1974-1976 PROGRAM FOR THE 1974-75 YEAR

1974

- SEPT. 6 Get-Together
OCT. 4 Bicentennial Program
NOV. 1 Swap Night (place to be determined)
NOV. 22-24 ASDA Show
Madison Square Garden
DEC. 6 Past Presidents Night

1975

- JAN. 3 Masonic Slide Program
FEB. 7 Bicentennial Program
MAR. 7 Annual Competition
APRIL 4 Master of Philately
Conferred
MAY 2 Annual Dinner
JUNE 6 Annual Election and Installation of Officers

BAZENOV, VASILIJ Inanovic

In a country where through the ages freedom has been practically unknown, Freemasonry has nevertheless enjoyed a period of prosperity and had a short period of influence on the religious life of Russia during the early 19th Century.

Both Emperors Paul I and Alexander I were Masons, thus the toleration shown to the Fraternity.

Bazenov was a member of the Lodge Latone in St. Petersburg and Lodge Ducalion in Moscow.

He was an architect having studied at the University of Moscow. In 1758 he became a student of the plastic arts in St. Petersburg.

Served as a member of the cabinet under Empress Catherine II. He designed several important structures among which was the Imperial Palace of the Kremlin.

For A Price List
of Available

MASONIC COVERS PAST AND PRESENT

Write to

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

"THE GREAT ANTI-MASONIC EXHIBITION"

In 1942 the Nazis opened an Anti-Masonic exhibition in Nuernberg. Gauleiter Striecher ordered sufficient numbers of people to attend, and thus the show was a great success. It moved on to Yugoslavia, and the government, under German control, issued four postage stamps showing Anti-Masonic actions. The most significant of these showed a Serbian farmers standing between two columns marked B & J and breaking them as did Samson in ancient history when he broke the pillars of the Temple.

Paris was the next stop and the exhibition was shown in the Grand Palais. Two men were sent independently to the Grand Palais and they were to report in their own way and in their own words what they saw and how they felt and what their opinions were.

The first man was a Mason and he sneaked in from the unoccupied zone, it taking two days for him to get in. When he returned he reported that this exhibition was the greatest joke he had ever seen. It was true that there were more Masonic objects displayed than he had ever seen in one place before. They exposed the skeleton with an apron not knowing that an apron can never be tied to a dead body. The skull used before initiation had a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite cap on it. Swords were sticking through the Bible to show our anti-religious feeling. The jewels and aprons had very nasty inscriptions on them, and were far off the use to which we put them. The coffin used in some rites supposedly was left open from an incident when we killed someone and got away with it. But his main impression was that everything was being exposed without the slightest knowledge or understanding of what belonged together.

As we listened to the report of the second man who was not a Mason and to whom everything was strange and unfamiliar we saw him smile and heard him remark that Freemasonry must be a very happy society; that the members must have a lot of fun using the swords, gavel and other tools that he had seen. It made him look closer at the Bible, and in his opinion there was no connection between the swords and the Bible. He found the caps of the high Degree very interesting, the gloves and the aprons amusing, the altar and the columns very impressive and he formed his opinion that there was nothing wrong with Freemasonry with one ex-

ception; he could not make out what we did with all the things he saw, and why it should be forbidden to belong to an organization like Masonry. He had seen nothing that displeased him, and he said that there were very few people attending the exhibition. The last we heard was that the show had closed long before its appointed time, and to my knowledge it never appeared thereafter in any other town.

—Walter C. Marshall

BOSTON TEA PARTY

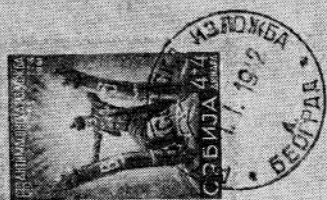
The American colonists, being of English descent, were as fond of their tea as the English were. But, as England was to learn, they were even more attached to their principles, which included an objection to being taxed by the mother country when they were not represented in its Parliament.

After the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766, other attempts to tax them were made. When these failed because they would not buy the taxed goods, the British government dropped all but the tax on tea; that was continued because King George III was determined to assert the mother country's right to tax its colonies. The tax was small, but the colonists, like the king, looked upon it as a matter of principle, so while the colonial women brewed substitutes for tea from bark and herbs, the men met with a rallying cry of "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

Late in November, 1773, three ships from England, laden with tea, arrived in Boston Harbor. For a fortnight the people steadily refused to let them unload their cargo; on the other hand, Governor Hutchinson refused to send them back to England. The result of this deadlock was the famous Boston Tea Party. A band of colonists, disguised as Mohawk Indians, "painted, feathered, and frightful", boarded the ships and emptied some 300 chests of tea worth about \$90,000 into the harbor. In spite of the hatchets and war whoops, the work had been planned and was done systematically, not by a mob but by responsible citizens. As punishment, Great Britain ordered the port of Boston closed until the value of the tea should be paid, and set a military governor over the colony. Resentment throughout the colonies resulted in the meeting of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774.

—Joseph Levinsohn

АНТИМАСОНСКА ИЗЛОЖБА
БЕОГРАД — Гарашевинов бр. 8



Letter to the Editor —

1 Hillfield Court,
732 Essenwood Road
DURBAN,
4001,
South Africa.

9th July, 1974

Robert A. Smith,
P.O. Box 142,
Bowling Green Station,
NEW YORK,
10004,
United States of America

Dear Brother Smith,

As a member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, I read the Masonic Philatelist with considerable interest. In your issue for April you describe the honoring of General MacArthur by renaming a town after him and also show a photograph of a "First Day Cover."

I have enclosed a photograph of a cover which I recently added to my collection. It is signed by General MacArthur, and a photograph of the letter authenticating this is also enclosed, as they may well be of interest to your readers.

In addition to the above information perhaps the following pieces of information may be of use to you in your magazine.

A 15f French Red Cross stamp issued in 1957 depicting the "Blind Man and the Beggar" (After Callot), calls to

mind that the white cane or walking stick used by the blind was introduced by Robert C. Haven, a member of Beta Lodge No. 647, Welkinsberg, Philadelphia, U.S.A., who nine years ago received his 50 year membership award from his lodge.

Nowadays blind persons are admitted into lodges in Scotland and braille rituals have been specially produced for them.

**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

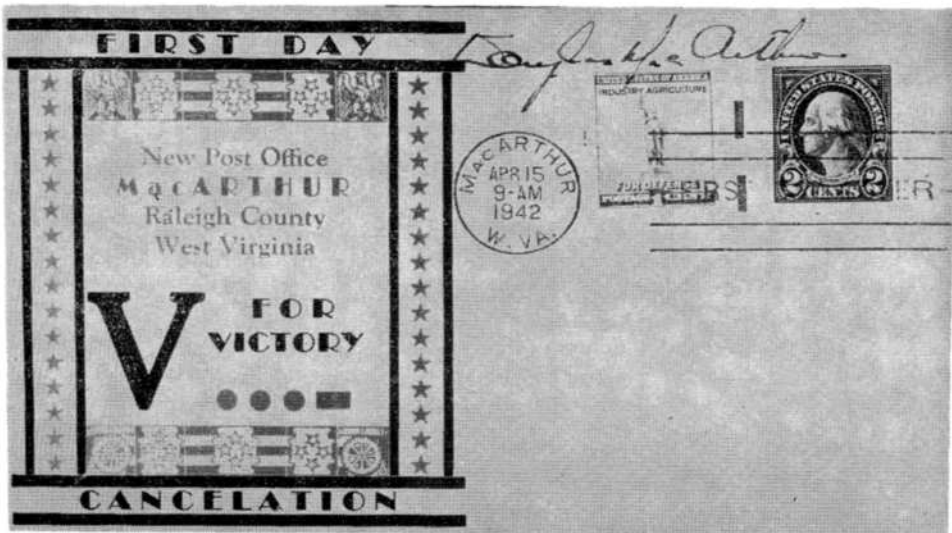
11th August, 1942

Dear

General MacArthur is very pleased to autograph your first day cover and return it to you as requested.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Morhouse
CHARLES H. MORHOUSE
Lieutenant Colonel, M. C.
Aide-de-Camp.



A 75 bani Rumanian stamp issued in 1964 depicts Astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper (Faith 7 15-16th June, 1963) of Carbondale Lodge No. 82, Colorado. It is also astonishing to see "Old Glory" on this Eastern European country stamp. It is indeed strange to see a series of official stamps (1954) from the German Democratic Republic on which are to be seen corn and compasses, but it will be noted not a square but a hammer!

When officers are invested in a lodge under the Grand Lodge of India, four sacred volumes are present: the Bible, the Yasna, the Koran and the Samyutta. Which brings me to my own country, which issued a 12½-cent blue and gold stamp in 1970 showing the volume of the Sacred Law and finally that the first lodge in South Africa was established in 1772.

Yours fraternally,
Bro. Colin R. Mackenzie
Athenaeum Lodge of Research No. 7455 E.C.

TIME IN DIFFERENT MASONIC BODIES

During the eighteenth century some Masonic bodies selected their own dates of the years, but today this is generally forgotten. Normally we write 1974 A.D. as the year in which we live. This is supposedly based on the birth of Jesus Christ. Prior to this the years were numbered backwards as B.C.

In the Jewish calendar 3760 is added to 1974, or 5734, and it is called **Anno Mundi**. Going back 5734 years we find that civilization already existed in Mesopotamia and Egypt. It was the time of the old Stone Age, and also the beginning of the time in which metals were used. This age began, not with the discovery of, but with their transformation to usage for human needs. The Bible mentions, in Genesis, Tubal Cain, the son of Lameds, who was the first artificer or iron worker; this was after the epoch of Cain and Abel and before the flood.

Next we have the dating of the Royal Arch Masons. They add 530 to 1974 and call it "**Anno Inventionis**," in the year of the discovery. Looking back to what happened in the year 530 B.C. we find that this is the time of the liberation of the Jewish people by Cyrus from Babylonian slavery. He gave Zerrubabel the authorization to build the second temple. The first temple had been destroyed 52 years before by Nebuchadnezzar.

Then we come to the Royal and Select Mason group. They add 1000 to

1974 and call it "**Anno Depositiones**," the year of the deposit, but we could not find out what this meant.

And still another time was set by the Knights Templars. They reduce the existing year by 1118, which would bring us to the year 855 as the starting year of the Templars. This is the time of the Emperor Charlemagne and his knights such as Roland. However, it appears more likely that the year 1118 was intended as the formation of the brotherhood of Knights Templars, who promised to protect the pious pilgrims who would otherwise be exposed to plunder and bodily harm while on their journey to the Holy Land.

Not attached to any body but mentioned "**Anno Lucis**," A.L., the Year of Light, which brings us close to the time of Adam or to that time in the Bible (about 4000 years ago) which declares "There will be Light." But in all this figuring there is one big mistake. Human beings lived long before this. A discovery in 1929 in Chou Kon Tien, China, gives us a hypothetical age of one million years of the human element on this earth.

—Walter C. Marshall

EDMUND BARTON 1849-1920

Edmund Barton was initiated in Australia Lodge of Harmony No 556, (E.C.) on March 3, 1878.

He was invested as Senior Deacon on June 9, 1880.

With the establishment of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888, Australia Lodge of Harmony No. 556 (E.C.) became No. 5 of the new body.

Mr. Barton did not seek further progress in Masonry, presumably because of the demand of his time as a lawyer and politician.

In 1901 Barton became the first Federal Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth and served in that capacity until 1903, when he was made Senior Puisne Judge of the High Court of Australia, and he inspired throughout his long career as a politician a deep personal devotion.

Edmund Barton passed away on January 6, 1920 at Bedlow Bath, near Sydney.

Nearly one-third of the first Parliament were Masons or later became Masons, according to information received from The New South Wales Grand Lodge historian.

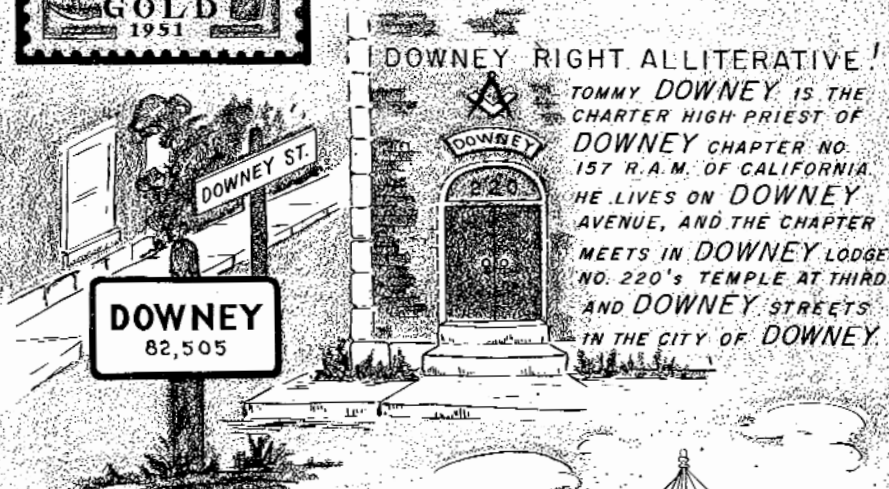
—Elwing D. Carlsen

Did You Know?



DISCOVERER OF GOLD IN AUSTRALIA IN 1851 WAS EDMUND HAMMOND HARGRAVES, AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF LEINSTER MARINE LODGE NO. 2, SYDNEY, N. S. W.

A SAILOR, BORN IN ENGLAND, HE WAS ATTRACTED TO CALIFORNIA BY THE GOLD-RUSH THERE IN 1849. BEING IMPRESSED WITH THE SIMILARITY OF THE GEOLOGICAL FORMATION IN AUSTRALIA, HE BEGAN A SEARCH IN THAT COUNTRY WHICH SET OFF A GOLD-RUSH BY THOUSANDS.



GRAND LODGE OPENED ON A BOAT!

ON MARCH 8, 1953, THE GRAND LODGE OF LOUISIANA OPENED IN EMERGENT COMMUNICATION ON THE BOAT **IDALIA** IN THE CHANNEL SOUTH OF HACKBERRY IN CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA, TO CHARTER CAMERON LODGE NO. 439 AND INSTALL THE OFFICERS.

