



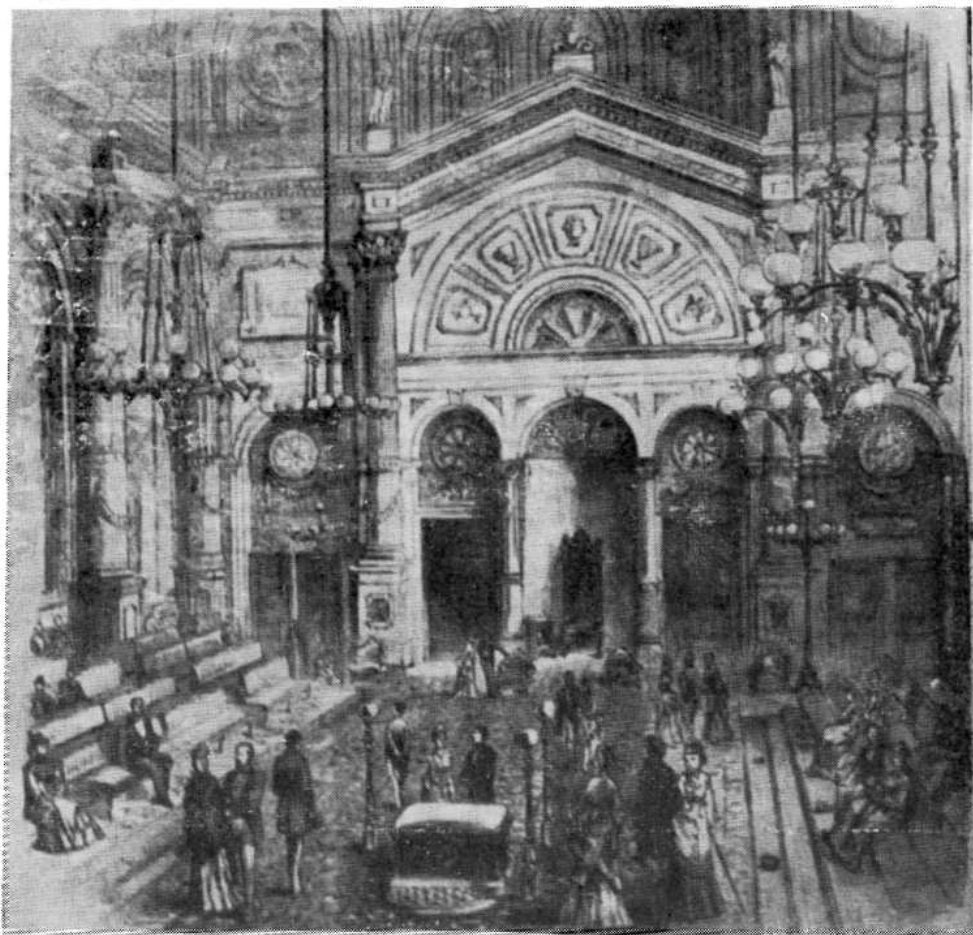
# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 31

NOVEMBER 1974

NO. 3

## THE GRAND LODGE ROOM WEST — PHILADELPHIA



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Published by

The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl

PUBLICATION FUND

of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York Inc.

22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y. 10016

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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 —

Last May we showed a Masonic Cover which commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, Pa. and thanks to our Brother Ed Walsh in Mass. we now have additional information regarding this event of Masonic History. Brother Walsh researched microfilm of the Scottish Rite Library which enables us to show an article that appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of October 11, 1873. We are deeply grateful to Brother Walsh for these pictures.

## HERMAN (PAT) HERST, JR.

Brother Herst was voted into the APS Hall of Fame at the Chicago APS Convention and received a gold medal. He also received a silver medal as an award for stamp columns in newspapers with circulation over 10,000. Pat has a column in the Boca Raton, Fla. News.

Submitted by Stanley A. Salomon

## NEW MEMBERS

Morton Siegel  
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Tiffin, OH  
Tiffin Lodge No. 77, Tiffin, OH  
Walter J. Rosinus, Sr.  
Hamden, Conn.  
Connecticut Rock Lodge No. 92  
New Haven, Conn.  
Allen E. Wolf  
Waseca, Minn.  
Tuscan Lodge No. 77, Waseca, Minn.

## DECEASED MEMBERS CLOSED ALBUMS

Geo. E. Virden, Princeton, IL  
David G. Jaeger, Olmsted Falls, OH  
Reid M. Graybill, East Petersburg, PA  
James Robertson, East St. Louis, IL

## THE GRAND MASONIC TEMPLE — PHILADELPHIA

Reprinted from Frank Leslies  
ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER  
October 11, 1873

Top Left—The Egyptian Room West.  
Top Right—The Grand Chapter Room West.  
Middle Left—The Oriental Room East.  
Middle Right—The Ionic Room East.  
Bottom Left—The Norman Room East.

### DEDICATION OF THE GRAND MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA

On last Thursday evening, Philadelphia contained at least 150,000 strangers who had been attracted to the city by the dedication of the Grand Masonic Temple, which took place on Friday. A



grand ball was given on Thursday evening at the Academy of Music and Horticultural Hall—the buildings being connected by a bridge—at which it was estimated that 15,000 people were present.

On Friday morning at seven o'clock, the various Blue lodges assembled at their respective places, and moved into position on Broad Street. Those in the procession were dressed in black with white aprons and gloves. The officers wore their appropriate jewels.

Sixty city lodges were in line, and thirty from the state round about the city. There were other lodges from New

York, Boston, Albany, Newark, Trenton, Camden, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, and Harrisburg; and delegations from all of the states in the Union, from Canada, South America, Great Britain, West Indies, China, Germany, Palestine, Spain, Italy, and other countries. About Spain, Italy, and other countries. About fifty bands of music were in line.

After the parade, and at high-twelve, the Temple was dedicated by R.W. Bro. Samuel C. Perkins, assisted by his Grand Officer, the ceremony taking place in the Grand Lodge Room. On Saturday, the Temple was thrown open for the inspection of brethren residing more than twenty miles outside of the city. Monday was devoted to the consecration of the Grand Chapter Room and to other exclusively Masonic services.

In the evening, a grand banquet was given by the Royal Arch Masons of Philadelphia to the Grand Royal Arch Officers of Pennsylvania and of sister Grand Chapters in the Grand Banquet Hall of the new Temple. On Tuesday, there was a grand parade of the Knights Templar and a dedication of the Temple to Templar Masonry. This service included the dedicatory ceremonies.

#### **The Interior of the Temple**

In the last number of this paper, we published an exterior view of the Temple, which gives a correct idea of its grand architectural beauty. The interior is no less striking in all its details.

The meeting room of the Grand Lodge is the largest one in it. It is 105 feet long, 51 feet wide, and 50 feet high. From an octagonal vestibule at the western end, the visitor enters through massive doors, artistically constructed of walnut, with cedar sinkings and raised panels made of mottled walnut imported from France. The work is highly polished, and these panels present the appearance of marble. The furniture of the hall is of walnut and cedar, covered with blue plush, and the seats in rows at the sides of the hall will accommodate four hundred persons. Magnificent bronze chandeliers lighted at night, whilst a skylight gives light by day—an original device of the architect being availed of to distribute the rays of the skylight equally through every part of the spacious room. This hall is constructed and decorated upon the Corinthian order, everything being in keeping. There is the deep and polished capital and the large cornice. In this, as in all the apartments, the decorations are intended as studies, each being a complete representative of the order selected, in detail and aggregate.

The apartment for the meeting-place of the Grand Chapter is similar in magnificence to the Grand Lodge Hall, and a fit companion to it. Though somewhat smaller, it is still a very large room, differing from the other only in length. It is 90 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 50 feet high. The decoration and finish are the Italian Renaissance. There are in relief around its walls two stages of columns. The first are Corinthian, with choice ornamental details. The second represents a series of columns, with foliated capitals from which springs the vaulted ceiling, which may be divided into three portions. The center is a circular skylight, 20 feet in diameter, whilst east and west of it are two compartments, finished with elliptical panels. Red is the prevailing color, as blue is in the Grand and other Lodge Halls. A striking feature of this apartment is the Vails of the Temple.

The Egyptian Hall is 65 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 30 feet high, and is the only perfect specimen of Egyptian architecture in America. Twelve elephantine columns stand on either hand in massive grandeur, each of which has an original in Egypt from which it was copied. The hooded viper, the pyramid, and other decorations of the Ptolemies are to be found reproduced here. These columns, which stand clear of the walls, divide each side into sections, and these are enriched with the panel ornaments found in the Egyptian temples, there being borders of reeds and rushes, a fluted frieze, the globe, cobra and wings, and the surmounting lion and cobra. Lotus flowers entwined around the bases of the columns, and appear in the panels and there are reed decorations on the cornice, whilst pyramidal fillings complete the panels.

The Ionic Hall is in the southwestern corner of the temple, and is 75 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 30 feet high. Its decoration is in the purest Grecian Ionic. There are 24 columns around the room with the well-known spiral volutes.

In the northeast corner of the building is the Norman Hall. Its ornamentation is similar to that of the porch—the cable, zigzag, nailhead, billet, rosette, and other Norman features prevail. The furniture is of walnut and fir.

The fourth of the subordinate lodge rooms is known as Oriental Hall, and is throughout a brilliant exemplification of Moorish architecture period. Elegance, lightness, and splendor, slenderly-proportioned figures, the horseshoe arch and the chromatic decorations combine to give the variety of form and

brilliance of color that make up the Oriental school.

The Banquet Hall occupies the greater portion of the northern side of the first floor, and is 105 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 30 feet high. Its architecture is of

the composite order. It is capable of seating 500 people. Altogether, the new Masonic Temple in Philadelphia is the grandest building of its kind in the world.

## **BARON FREDERICK WILLIAM VON STEUBEN**

# **Prussian Militarist in Revolutionary War**

By Donald E. Fassler, 32°

When one thinks of Masons who should be numbered among the "founders of the United States" he needs to consider the name of a Prussian militarist among the foremost. He is Baron Frederick William von Steuben, who became a Major General in the Continental Army and was one of General Washington's most trusted and important military aides.

Baron von Steuben is justly credited with taking over the training of a motley, ill-trained, and poorly organized group of colonists and would-be soldiers in the spring of 1778 at Valley Forge and drilling them into the formidable army which affected the surrender of Cornwallis and the British at Yorktown in 1781. A graduate of the exacting Military School of Prussia and a favorite of Frederick the Great, Baron von Steuben wrote "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States in 1779" and this was a great help in the development and success of the American Army.

A born militarist whose forebears had served German kings for several generations, young von Steuben was possessed of a burning desire to help the freedom-loving colonists in America. In 1777, his old friend, the Count of St. Germain—then serving as the French Minister of War in Paris—introduced von Steuben to Benjamin Franklin and both encouraged him to go to the assistance of the struggling colonists. Fortified with a letter of introduction from Franklin, von Steuben arrived at Portsmouth, N.H., in October, 1777, and offered his services to Congress as a volunteer.

The Continental Congress accepted, and he reported to General Washington at Valley Forge on February 23, 1778, was designated an Inspector General of the Continental Army with the rank of Major General, and began the task of training the troops. He was a brusque and demanding leader, often given to

profanity, but most adept in adapting Prussian military ideas to the needs of his pupils. Results of his work were shown in the next campaign, particularly at Monmouth where he rallied the disordered and retreating troops of General Charles Lee. He was a member of the court martial which tried Maj. John Andre in 1780 and after Gen. Horatio Gates' defeat at Camden, von Steuben was placed in command of the district of Virginia with instructions to "collect, organize, discipline, and expedite the recruits for the Southern Army."

In April, 1781, he was superseded in command of Virginia by General Lafayette. Maj. Gen. von Steuben commanded an important sector in the campaign at Yorktown. He received the first offer of capitulation from Lord Cornwallis. Ill. W. R. Denslow, 33°, a noted Masonic historian, termed him a trusted advisor of Washington and wrote: "It is doubtful if the American cause would have succeeded without the aid of Steuben in organizing and training. He was honorably discharged in 1784, became a naturalized American citizen, and made his home near Utica, N.Y., on bounty lands that he had received for his war services. It is reported that Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey also gave him grants of land for his services. Congress passed a vote of thanks, gave him a gold-hilted sword in 1784, and later gave him a pension of \$2,400 per year. This small pension was granted to him in lieu of his personal fortune of "hard money"—that the British had counterfeited to upset the value of Continental specie—because Congress had nothing to pay for their services but paper money. (We Americans used the same device in World War II to lower the value of the Japanese invasion monies in the Philippines.) This pension came about at the insistence of President Washington and Secretary of Treasury Hamilton.

Frederick William Augustus Henry Ferdinand von Steuben was born November 15, 1730, at Magdeburg, Germany, the son of a Prussian army officer. He was educated in Jesuit schools at Neisse and Breslau, distinguishing himself as a mathematician. At the age of 14 young Frederick served under his father in the War of 1744. He entered the army officially at age 17, and served in the Seven Years' War. In 1762, he was made aide to Frederick the Great and after the close of the war resigned from the army. He served as Grand Marshal at the court of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Hechingen for 10 years and then accepted a similar position at the court of the Margrave of Baden. His services were also sought by the King of Sardinia as well as by the Emperor of Austria.

One historian, E. A. Sherman, says von Steuben received the degrees of Masonry in the Military Lodge of the Blazing Star in Berlin. Ill. Brother Denslow reports him "a member of Trinity Lodge No. 10 (now 12) of New York City and an honorary member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City. On St. John's Day in 1788, he dined with Holland Lodge and addressed the 'Veterans of the Royal Art' in French. In the minutes of February 6, 1789, 'Bro. Past Master von Steuben' was appointed a member of the committee to inform Washington of his election as an honorary member of the Lodge."

Milwaukee, Wisc. claims the only equestrian statue erected to von Steuben's memory. Bronze plates on opposite sides of the base contain copies of Steuben's "Letter to Congress from Portsmouth, N.H., October 6th, 1777," and of Washington's "Letter to Steuben at the Close of the War in 1783." The Baron's letter reads:

Honorable Gentlemen:

The Honor of serving a Nation engaged in the noble enterprise of defending its rights and liberties was the motive that brought me to this continent. I ask neither riches or titles. I am here from the remotest end of Germany at my own expense and have given up an honorable and lucrative rank. I have made no condition with your deputies in France nor shall I make any with you. My only ambition is to serve you as a volunteer, to deserve the confidence of your General and Chief and to follow him in all his operations as I have done during seven campaigns with the King of Prussia. Two and twenty years spent in such a school seems to give me the right of thinking myself among the number of experienced officers, and if I am possessed of the requirements in the art of war they will be much more prized by me if I can employ them in the service of a Republic such as I hope soon to see in America.

I should willingly purchase at the expense of my



**An equestrian statue erected to von Steuben's memory stands in Milwaukee.**

blood the honor of having my name enrolled among those of the defenders of your liberty. Your gracious acceptance will be sufficient for me and I ask no other favor than to be received among your officers. I venture to hope that you will grant this request and that you will be so good to send me your orders to Boston where I shall await them and take suitable measures in accordance.

I have the honor to be, with respect, honorable gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant.

Frederick William von Steuben

**Washington's letter:**

Annapolis, Dec. 23, 1783

My Dear Baron:

Although I have taken frequent opportunities, both public and in private in acknowledging your great zeal, attention and abilities in performing the duties of your office, yet I wish to make use of this last moment of my public life to signify in the strongest terms my entire appreciation of your conduct and to express my sense of obligations the public is under to you for your faithful and meritorious services.

I beg you will be convinced, my dear sir, that I would rejoice if it could ever be in my power to serve you more essentially, than by expressions of regard and affection. But in the meantime, I am persuaded you will not be displeased with this fare-

well token of my sincere friendship and esteem for you.

This will be the last letter I shall write while I continue in the service of my country. The hour of my resignation is fixed at twelve today. After which I shall become a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac. Where I shall be glad to embrace you and testify the great esteem and consideration with which I am, my dear Baron, sincerely yours,

George Washington

General and Baron von Steuben died November 25, 1797, at his home in the State of New York, near Utica. One historian reports: "He directed he be wrapped in his military cloak, with the Star of Honor, which he always wore, placed on his breast when he died, and to be buried in the forest near his home in a plain box without a stone to mark his grave." However, there has been erected a mammoth shaft of Vermont granite, bordered by four hand-carved stone howitzers, in the midst of the "sacred woods" that marks the resting place of this great and generous Mason—who served America in its darkest days far beyond the call of duty.

Americans have not forgotten von Steuben, as is evidenced by the several towns, counties, and cities that bear his name as well as hundreds of schools and other public buildings and parks. On the 200th anniversary of his birth in 1930, the United States Postal Department issued a commemorative 3-cent postage stamp bearing a profile engraving of Brother von Steuben.

### OUR LOYAL BROTHER

The death of Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden represented a big loss, not only for Swedish Masonry but for Brethren all over the World. Very few of us reach the Masonic Age of 71. He was initiated as a Young Prince on November 11, 1902, and he fulfilled to the best of his ability this great obligation for many years. He did not miss any work, and specifically he had the will and energy to work for Humanitarian goals within his Lodge and in the outside world.

To become Grandmaster after his father he had to wait 51 years. It is usual in Sweden that the King is M. . W. . Grandmaster ad vitam, therefore he became King and Grandmaster at the same time at the age of 68. He was a lover of science and a philosopher, and the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa was bestowed upon him over 15 times. After he became King he continued to work for Freemasonry. It was for him more important to be a human being and have the understanding of a

human being. He acted with tolerance and understanding in all his problems, simply wanting to be a man among men, a brother among brothers and very seldom and only at special occasions did he wear his uniform.

He was very economy minded and hated to be a large spender for himself or the State, but he had a great heart and gave a lot for social purposes where help was necessary and need existed. His representation of his country both at home and abroad brought him great respect and admiration. Like many Kings of Scandinavia he refused escort when he left the castle for town. He never forgot that his ancestors were simple people and raised his own family the same way. In the telephone book of Stockholm his name is under "K" next to Kooperatives. He entered a small book store one day and the owner called from the back "Who is there?" "Only I" he replied, but the fact that he bought books very often told the owner who he was.

He lived by his own principles, namely to be warmhearted and gentle, and this is the reason why Sweden mourns a great King and citizen and the Craft mourns a dedicated brother.

R. . W. . Walter C. Marshall

### EUGENE BOREL

Brother Borel was born June 17, 1835 in Neuenburg, Switzerland and died June 14, 1892 in Bern. He was a politician and advocate and in 1857 became a member of the municipal council of Neuenburg. In 1865 he became a member of the estates council and later in 1869 President of this board. His public service continued as he became a member of the federal council and chief of the railway and postal department in 1872. 1875 Borel left the government to take over the direction of the newly established World Postal Union.

He received his initiation on February 7, 1883 in Lodge "Zur Hoffnung" No. 7, Bern, passed April 2, 1884 and raised June 25, 1884.

Philatelic reference: Switzerland issue of March 28, 1874.

Ludwig Appledorn

### RICHARD BEDFORD BENNETT

Viscount Bennett was made a Mason in Miramichi Lodge #18 at Chatham, N.B. and later affiliated with Ashlar Lodge #28, Calgary, Alberta, Canada on April 14, 1910.

Bennett was Prime Minister of Canada from August 7, 1930 to October 23, 1935.

## WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL

### Opening of Centenary Exhibition

For London, summer scene 1974 is enhanced by the opening of the Churchill Centenary Exhibition on May 10, Somerset House, Strand. This exhibit relates both to Winston Churchill and his ancestors, and includes pictures, manuscripts, and other personal possessions. The proceeds are earmarked for two national memorials to Churchill.

The exclusive illustration featured on this cachet will be repeated in several future cachets designed to help mark the 100th anniversary year of the birth of Winston Churchill. The artist, John E. Parker, Chevy Chase, Washington, D.C., worked in part from the nine-foot statue located on the gardenside of the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. It was dedicated April 9, 1966, and is one of the most popular tourist attractions for the Capital city. The sculptor, William McVey, Cleveland, Ohio, was commissioned by the English Speaking Union, and was privately funded. The project was so shaped as to complement London's Roosevelt statue with a mutual sense of gratitude for remarkable wartime leadership.

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In International Churchill Society is dedicated to keeping alive for posterity the memory of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill. It brings together students of his life, collectors of postage stamps and postal history honoring him, picturing events with which he was connected, of artifacts of all kinds. For information about the Society bulletin, write:

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ENGLAND

### HISTORICALLY COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

- |     |  |      |
|-----|--|------|
| 48  | Feb. 22—Ed, Kentucky. Red, black, purple cancellations. All mail. Two distinct types. One is a semi-profile of Washington. Other is a square with full profile of Washington, under which is FEB 22. Sponsored by Postmaster | .50  |
| 49  | Feb. 22—Henton, Illinois. Magenta, purple. Cancellation. Shows a semi-profile of Washington to right. Sponsored by Postmaster  | .50  |
| 50a | Mar. 1—Utica, N. Y. Red. Approx. 1,100. Circular—commemorates 100th Anniv. City of Utica, N. Y. On site of Old Fort Schuyler, which is pictured in center. Utica Stamp Club and Chamber of Commerce                          | .40  |
| 51  | Mar. 13—Warszawa, (Poland). First day Poland's Kosciuszko, Pulaski, Washinton Commemorative Stamp  | 1.00 |
| 52  | April 6—Washington, D. C. Square cachet—six lines lettering for Grand Review—Military Forces Army Day, sponsored by United States Bicentennial Commission and Military Order of the World War. Further details unobtainable  | —    |
| 53  | April 8—Fredericksburg, Va. Green. Approx. 22,000. Square—center pictures The Home of Washington's only Sister. Commemorates visit to Kenmore. Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce  | .10  |
| 54  | April 14—Petersburg, Va. Blue. 210. Semi-profile of Washington with solid blue background. Celebrates Washington's Visit to Petersburg, Va., April 14, 1779. Sponsored by Petersburg Stamp Club                              | 1.00 |
| 55  | April 14—Norfolk, Va. Red and blue sticker, with profile of Washington in center. Reads 250th Anniv. Norfolk, Va. Homecoming year. The celebration for this event was August 16th. These covers mean nothing                 | —    |
| 56  | April 21—Trenton, N. J. Green. 14,479. Oval—center pictures semi-profile of Washington, 1789 to left, 1932 to right. Lettering and stars in border. Chamber of Commerce  | .10  |
| 57d | April 23—New York, N. Y. Printed blue, red, bicolor. 900 sold. Commemorates Washington's return to New York. Sold by Harry Ioor. 12 envelopes for 30¢  | .40  |