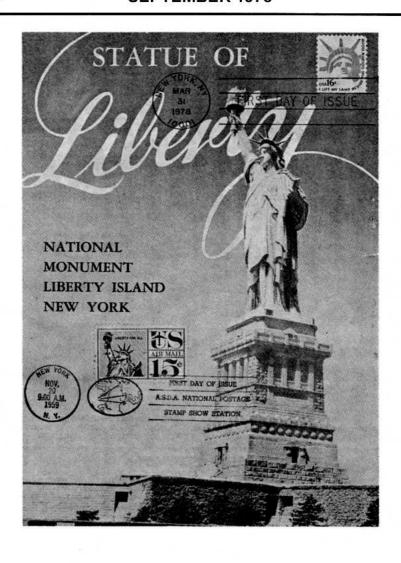


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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved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

Franco-American Friendship Issue

The cover for this issue was created by Brother Andrew Rasmussen, a charter member of the Masonic Stamp Club, an active member and former secretary of the Essay-Proof Society and over fifty years in Masonry. Now retired from the New York City School System, Bro. Rasmussen served for 21 years with the U.S. Merchant Marine Service at King's Point, N.Y. to the rank of Chief Yeoman and Warrant Officer and for 20 years as Chief Clerk at the U.S. Customs House, New York City.

An avid student of source material for the engravings on our postage stamps, he has created in his own fashion many original first day postal montages, depicting famous events and personalities of our American heritage.

However in this particular case, he

However in this particular case, he used a hand-out circular to capture two first day cancels almost 20 years apart. We do hope Brother Rasmussen will furnish us some more of his Masonic philatelic montages.



A 13c stamp issued 4th May 1978 in York, Pa. to commemorate 200th Anniversary of the signing of the French Alliance.

CLOSED ALBUMS

Albert H. Feinerman David Krantz Porter L. Ranck Myron E. Wilkes

Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, commemorates the allegiance of the two Nations during the American Revolution and attests their abiding friendship.

The Statue of Liberty enlightening the world was conceived and designed as a symbol of a great international friendship. With the passing of the years its significance has deepened until today it is the most symbolic structure in the United States.

The Statue of Liberty, one of the most colossal structures in the history of the world, stands in New York Harbor at the very portal of the New World. It has greeted many millions of the oppressed and of the venturesome of other lands who have crossed the ocean in search of greater freedom and opportunity. To the whole world, the Statue has become the symbol of those ideals of human liberty upon which our Nation and its form of government were founded.

In its international aspect, the Statue, which was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, commemorates the long friendship between the people of the two Nations. This is a friendship that has continued since the American Revolution when, supported by the French with sinews of war, it helped turn the tide of victory to the side of the Colonies.

Then there is symbolism in the design of the Statue itself. The broken shackles of tyranny that are molded at the feet of Liberty have spoken for themselves to generations of people fleeing tyranny. The tablet in the Statue's left hand, inscribed July 4, 1776, refers to the Declaration of Independence — telling all comers of the American ideal that "all men are created equal." The torch, held high in her right hand, lights the way to freedom and liberty.

The French Built the Statue

A monument to commemorate the alliance of France and the United States in the War for American Independence was proposed by Edouard de Laboulaye, French historian and commentator. His own countrymen shortly after the end of the American Civil War.

A young Alsatian sculptor, Frederic

Auguste Bartholdi, was sent to America to study and discuss the project. As Bartholdi entered New York Harbor, he conceived the idea of a collossal statue to stand at the very Gateway to the New World to represent the one thing man finds most precious — liberty.

Bartholdi's conception of the international memorial was accepted and in November 1875, the Franco-American Union was formed, with De Laboulaye as president, to make plans, secure funds, and prosecute the program. The Statue was to be erected through the joint efforts of the two peoples: the French to give the Statue proper and the people of the United States the pedestal.

The response of the people of France was quick and warm, and a campaign to raise the necessary funds was launched with public entertainments. The cost of the statue, approximating \$250,000, was far greater than anticipated, however, and it was not until July 1882 that the required amount was subscribed. Every cent of this amount was contributed by popular subscription and governmental assistance was not required.

The mechanics of enlarging Bartholdi's 9-foot "working model" to its present height of 152 feet tested the sculptor's ingenuity. The plaster model was first reproduced four times its original size. Then section by section the 36-foot model was enlarged to its existing scale. Copper sheets three thirty-seconds of an inch in thickness (about that of a silver dollar) were pressed into wood patterns and hammered into shape by hand. The present green coating of the Statue, a patina, is the result of oxidation of copper. The framework of the Statue, designed by the French engineer, Gustave Eiffel, consists of four huge steel supports which bear the weight of the entire structure. The construction is remarkable when one considers that the width of the face is 10 feet and that of the eyes 2 feet 6 inches. Moreover, the arm carrying the torch is 42 feet long and 12 feet in diameter at the point of greatest thickness.

The arms of the Statue which carries the torch was exhibited in Philadelphia in 1876 at the Centennial Celebration of American Independence. Later in the same year it was exhibited at Madison Square in New York City and then returned to France. The head of the Statue was shown in Paris at the World's Fair held there in 1878. On July 4, 1884, in Paris, the completed Statue was presented to the United States. The following year it was taken apart and the pieces crated for shipment to New York City.

The Americans Built the Pedestal

Meanwhile a committee in the United States started to raise \$125,000 for the construction of the pedestal. The original estimated cost, however, proved to be about half the amount necessary to complete it. With only 15 feet of the structure completed, work on the pedestal stopped in the fall of 1884, pending subscription of an additional \$100,000. On March 16, 1885, the New York World took up the crusade. In daily editorials, Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the World, assailed public indifference and urged benefit performances, sporting events, and entertainments for the pedestal campaign fund. The drive was so successful that he was able to announce the collection of this fund by August 11, 1885. This was less than 5 months after the drive had been started and 2 months after the arrival of the Statue in the United States.



Hand-stamped cachet in use during STAMPHILEX 17-19 Mar. 1978 in N.Y. City.



A pictorial postmark cancellation was in use during STAMPHILEX international stamp show 17-19 March 1978 in Hotel Americana, New York City.

In 1883, work on the construction of the pedestal, at old Fort Wood on the island in New York Harbor then known as Bedloe's Island, had been commenced under the direction of Gen. Charles P. Stone, engineer in chief. It was built of concrete with a granite facing. Four huge steel girders were built into its walls, with similar girders placed a few feet from the top of the pedestal. These connect with the first set by iron tie rods and continue on up into the framework of the Statue itself. It was only in this way that the 152-foot figure, placed on a pedestal almost 150 feet in height, could withstand the high winds of the bay.

Dedication and Recent History

Edouard de Laboulaye did not live to see the work finished, and his place as president of the Franco-American Union was taken by Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal. Bartholdi was among those present to see President Grover Cleveland dedicate the Statue on October 28, 1886.

Statue on October 28, 1886.

On August 3, 1956, a joint resolution of the Congress approved the change of the island's name to Liberty Island. This was done in recognition of the symbolic significance of the Statue and of the plan to construct at its base, within the walls of old Ford Wood, the American Museum of Immigration, honoring all those who came to this land in search of freedom and opportunity and to whom the Statue of Liberty was a shining beacon.



A 16c definitive stamp was issued 31st March 1978 in New York City; no advance notice was given to the public. The denomination reflects the higher first class postage rate. This stamp will be issued in pane, and in coil form.

Adventure in Masonic Stamp Collecting

The Statue of Liberty

By Peter Lee

Many countries besides the United States have issued stamps picturing the Statue of Liberty. It has Masonic significance since its creator was a Mason and the cornerstone at its base was laid with Masonic rites by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

The idea of creating it was as a symbol of French-American Friendship. Following is a list of all the Countries that have issued stamps in its honor, with Scott's numbers listed are also U.S. Post Cards, U.S. Pre-Cancels and the January 7th, 1968, six-cent embossed envelope.

United States #566, 696, 899, 908, 995, 1008, 1035, 1041, 1042, 1042A, 1044A, 1075, 1066, 1320, 1057, C35, C58, C63
Anguilla 1975 Bicentenary
Brazil #673
Bulgaria #C78, CB1
China #593-8
Cuba #372

France #372-3, 243-4, B44-5, B335 Haiti #338-9, C12-13 Korea #132-75 Liberia #355, C102 Monaco #C20 Nicaragua #C253 Norway #386 Panama #317-21 Peru #318 Philippines #572-4 Poland #319 San Marino #268-C80 Sharjah #C25-7 Spain #C56 Switzerland #C42 U.A.R. #194 Uruguay #217-22 U.S. Precancels #566, 696, 1035, 1057 U.S. Post Cards #UX44, UX45 and reply card, UX46 U.S. Embossed Envelope — New 1968 6c with head of Liberty

(From Masonic Philatelist, April 1968)



LAFAYETTE

Citizen of Two Nations

By R. W. Zoltan J. Grosz

Grand Representative of the National Grand Lodge of France, President of the Comite Francais du Souvenir de Lafayette

(Empire State Mason, April 1977)

The vision of greatness and hope to achieve it is in the mind of every growing youngster, as well as being held and respected by everyone who has grown to maturity and advanced age.

From antiquity to our days there have been many persons of greatness and of great achievement. As a matter of fact, every generation in every country has had outstanding persons, and, when we think of great achievements many come to mind. But, in reality, when we try to identify these by continents and countries, we discover that truly great persons are rare.

To achieve greatness and fame in both a foreign land and, after returning home, in one's native country is virtually unparallel in this world.

One man who achieved this distinction was Major General Marquis de Lafayette. His greatness was not limited only to military achievements, but also was in the fields of politics and diplomacy and within the Masonic fraternity here and in his native France.

Born in 1757 to a wealthy and noble family of royal blood (his mother was a descendant of the King of France) and married at eighteen to a sixteen year old girl of an equally old and wealthy family, Lafayette could easily have been expected to live out his days in pomp and luxurious dilettantism.

Yet there burned within this young man a fierce passion for the freedom and dignity of all men that transcended his heritage and radically changed the course of his life . . . and in that transcendence and alteration changed the course of history. We can never know what part Freemasonry played in kindling that passion — all we can say is that Lafayette was a member of the Craft prior to his embarking on his illustrious career and actively participated in its deliberations until his death.

Lafayette was barely nineteen when he arrived in America, having left in France, a bride whom he loved devotedly, a noble title and distinguished family, and his considerable personal fortune . . . or at the very least with the real danger of losing all these. Yet, in retrospect one could read into the name of the ship which brought him, the Victoire, an omen portending the contribution to American liberty to be made by its human cargo.

The young crusader was greeted as much with suspicion as with joy by his adopted country and it is a tribute to his diplomacy and guilelessness as well as his courage and battlefield skills that he was commissioned a Major General in the Continental Army on July 31, 1777. He proved himself to be a sincere, loyal, and resourceful soldier who suffered his wounds cheerfully convincing all that he fought with no ulterior motive but solely for the love of liberty for his adopted countrymen.

During the frightful winter of 1777 in Valley Forge, Gilbert Marie Joseph du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was affiliated in American Union Lodge No. 1 and General George Washington was there to receive him.

I am personally convinced that it is from this moment onward that fidelity and tenderness began between these two Brothers which grew into a devotion unmarred by time and unbroken by doubt although no two men were ever more unlike.

At the request of the first Congress, Lafayette returned to France in 1779 to solicit aid from King Louis XVI for the American cause. He returned in 1780, after a year of court intrigue, arriving in Boston on the frigate Hermione with a well-trained Army, Navy and a considerable loan . . . vital contributions toward the winning of American independence.

Few biographies can match the life of Lafayette — hero at nineteen in America; hero of French liberty at thirty; and, who held the destiny of France in his hands on at least two occasions during his native land's most turbulent times.

In all, Lafayette made four visits to America; the last being in 1824 at the age of sixty-seven. Standing at the bow of the Cadmus he cried from emotion upon his returning to his beloved America and the realization that this would

probably be his final visit.

Thirty thousand cheering Americans were there to greet him, waving French and American flags, throwing flowers and presenting their children for his blessing. On his final tour, he was received and saluted as a living legend and a link with the past. For Lafayette it was also a final farewell to old friends and comrades-in-arms, the Founding Fathers, now old men living in semi-seclusion — Jefferson, Adams, Madison and many others.

During this journey Lafayette visited eighty-two cities, was received with hon-or in twenty-four Grand Lodges, and in Elizabethtown, N.Y. was made a Royal Arch Mason. He also visited thirty-seven Lodges bearing his name and many of the forty-eight high schools and colleges named "Lafayette."

On September 9, 1825, leaving on the American frigate Brandywine, he took with him more than a ton of earth from Bunker Hill so that he might be buried in France under and within American soil.

Today in the heart of Paris, within the cemetery of Picpus, the tomb of Lafayette is considered as American soil and the American flag that waves over it is exchanged every Fourth of July for a new one by the City of Paris. The weatherbeaten flag is given to a patriotic society. I had the privilege, in 1969, to receive this flag on behalf of the Comite Francais du Souvenir de Lafayette. A few weeks later I presented it to John Lindsay, at that time Mayor of New York City. When he left office, I wondered if he had taken the flag with him, for if he had not I wanted to obtain it for the Comite as an historic relic. Upon inquiring, I learned that not only did he take the flag for himself, it was the only object he packed personally to make certain it would not be left behind.

I sincerely believe that Lafayette left a lasting and tender souvenir not only in the pages of history, but also in the hearts of all Americans and particularly in the hearts of Masons. In 1834 when Lafayette passed to the Grand Lodge above, the world lost a unique man honored and revered by two countries, and we Masons lost a great Brother . . . one of the greatest the Fraternity has ever embraced.

French Alliance Stamp in York, Pa. 4th May 1978

"Stamps", April 8, 1978 A 13c U.S. commemorative stamp for the 200th Anniversary of signing of the French Alliance in 1778 was issued at York, Pennsylvania, 4th May 1978. The Alliance, signed in Paris 6th February 1778, was ratified by the Second Continental Congress in York 4th May 1778. Issuance of the stamp in York marks the second consecutive year in which a U.S. commemorative stamp has been dedicated in the historic Pennsylvania city. The 200th Anniversary of the drafting of

September 1977. Design of the French Alliance stamp was made public 17th March 1978 during a brief ceremony in the Colonial Court House, downtown York. The restored Court House is only a few blocks from the site of the original Court House where

the Articles of Confederation by the Con-tinental Congress was issued in York

the Alliance was ratified by the members of the Congress in 1778.

When the British occupation of Philadelphia became imminent in the summer of 1777, the Continental Congress evacuated the city and moved to York in September, where the Congress remained in session until June 1778. York was the capital of the country for almost ten months. The American victory at Saratoga in October, 1777, led almost immediately to negotiations in Paris. The two treaties compromising the Alliance, one commercial and the other defensive, were signed by Conrad Alexandre Gerard, first secretary to French Foreign Minister Vergennes, and by Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, the American commissioners. Without consultation with Congress, the Americans agreed to a binding political alliance which provided that neither power would sign a separate peace treaty without the prior consent of the other country and that the alliance would continue at least until Great Britain acknowledged U.S. independence Official dispatches announcing the pact reached the U.S. 18th April and were delivered to the Continental Congress at York 30th April, The Congress formally ratified the treaties 4th May and the ensuing French military and financial support were essential factors in the winning of the American War for Independence. The French Alliance was the first treaty of alliance ever made by the United States.

The French Alliance stamp is similar to the Lafayette commemorative issued in 1977.



"Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown"

by Wessel M. Lans

You will certainly be aware of the fact that the U.S. Souvenir Sheet "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown" is a beautiful accession to our collection "Masons on Stamps".

Amongst the American Officers on the right side there are 13 Masons: the Brethern: Benjamin Lincoln (15), George Washington (17), Thomas Nelson (18), Marquis de Lafayette (19), Baron Van Steuben (20), James Clinton (23), Mordecai Gist (24), Anthony Wayne (25), Edward Hand (26), John P. G. Muhlenberg (27), Henry Knox (28), Ebenezer Huntington (29) and Walter Stewart (33).

They are mentioned in the Work: "Freemasons depicted in the National History Series of Colonel John Trumbull's Paintings" by R. W. James R. Case, Grand Historian of Connecticut. In this Work you will also find the key-

drawing of this article. It was issued in 1959 by "The Masonic Service Association" in Washington, D.C.

Less known is that also different French Officers, on the picture of Trumbull appearing on the left side, are Masons. Therefore it is regrettable that those persons are not shown on the Souvenir Sheet of the United States. Fortunately the Republic of Aitutaki did a very good work by issuing a strip of 3 stamps, on which these French Officers are printed.

I found the masonic details of these Masons in: "Francs-Macons Parisiens du Grand Orient de France" (Fin de XVIIe siecle) by Alain Le Bihan. This Work was issued in Paris in 1966 by the "Bibliotheque Nationale".

I took the following particulars from this scientific work:

2. Laval. Anne — Alexandre — Marie — Sulpice — Joseph de Montmorency-Laval, Marquis de Laval. 1747-Brigadier in the nbeau. 1783 Major army 1817. Rochambeau. 1783 Major General. E m i g r a t e d during the French Revolution. He was in 1773 member of the Lodge "Saint-Jean de Montmorency-Luxembourg" in Paris.

4. Lauzun. Armand-Louis de Gontaut, duc de Lauzun; after 1788 known as Duc de Biron. 1747-1793. Came to America in 1780. 1783 Major General. Guillotined on Dec. 31, 1793. He was in 1773 member of the Lodge "Saint-Jean Montomorency-Luxembourg" Paris. In 1777 member of the Lodge "La Candeur" in Paris.

Simon. Claude-Anne St. Saint-Simon Marquis de Rouvroy, Montbleru. 1743-1819. Served in the West-Indies. Landed with the fleet of Adminal de Grasse to aid Washington and Rochambeau at Yorktown. He was 1775-1783 member of the Lodge "La Candeur" in Paris. 1786 member of "La Societe Olympique" in Paris. 1)

8. Fersen. Jean-Axel, Comte Fersen. 1754-1810. Born in Sweden, Adjutant to Rochambeau. He was in 1786 member of "La Societe Olympique" in

Paris. 1)

9. Damas. Joseph — Franocois — Louis — Charles — Cesar, Comte Charles de Damas-d'Antigny. 1758-1829. Aide de Camp to Rochambeau. He was in 1776 member of the Lodge "La Candeur" in Paris. In 1786 member of "La Societe Olympique" in Paris 1).

Jean, Chastellux. Francois Chastellux. Chevalier de 1734-1788. under Rochambeau in the American War of Independence. He was in 1782 member of the Lodge "Saint-Alexandre d' Ecosse" in Paris and of the Lodge "Saint-Alphonse des Amis

Parfaits de la Vertu'', also in Paris.

1) The "Societe Olympique" originated from the in 1779 in Paris installed Lodge "L'Olympique de la Parfaite Estime" Several artists were a member of this prosperous Society. The only list of (1786)which still exists. members mentions 438 members. There is little known of the activities of this Society, only that all members had to be a Mason.

Eventually intercalate:

15. Benjamin Lincoln. 1733-1810. "Lodge of St. Andrew", Boston, Mass. Initiated 1780; Passed and raised 1781.

18. Thomas Nelson. 1738-1789. Possibly member of "Harmony Lodge", No. 2, N. Car. W. M. of "Lodge No. 9" in

Yorktown.

- 19. Marquis de Lafayette. 1757-1834. Member of the Lodge "St. Jean d'Ecosse du Contrat Social" in Paris. W. M. of the Lodge "Les Amis de l'Humanite".
- 20. Baron von Steuben. 1730-1794. Member of "Trinity Lodge" in No. 10 in New York City.
- James Clinton, 1733-1812. Member of "Warren Lodge" in Little Britain.
- 24. Mordecai Gist. 1742-1802. Member passed and raised in 1775 in "Lodge No. 16", in Baltimore, Md.
- Edward Hand. 1744-1802. Member of "Military Lodge No. 19".
- John P. G. Muhlenberg. 1746-1807. Initiated, passed and raised in 1779 in 'Royal Arch Lodge', No. 3, Philadelphia.
- Henry Knox. 1750-1806. Member of "First Lodge of Boston".
- Ebenezer Huntington. 1754-1834. Initiated in 1776 in "Union Lodge", Roxbury, Mass. In 1795 founder of "Somerset Lodge", Norwich, Conn.
- Walter Stewart. 1756-1796. Member of "Pennsylvania Union Lodge".

George Washington — Marshal of France!

A little known fact about George Washington is that he was a Marshal of France. The story is found in a copy of The Missouri Intelligencer, for September 20, 1830, in old and yellowed pages that have been long overlooked.

"George Washington," the Watertown Register says, "it is a fact not generally known to Americans that the Father of this country held the office of Marshal of France, under Louis XVI. At the same time he was performing here the duties of Lieutenant General of the Revolutionary Army.

He was created Marshall, to enable him to command Rochambeau, who in rank was a very old General, and could only be commanded by a Marshal of France. On a picture presented to him by the Earl of Buchan, was written, "To Marshal General Washington."

Every day we seem to uncover new facts and activities of George Washington, all of which testify to the integrity and worth of this great man.

The Arrival of Gen. Lafayette

As I have said frequently, one of the most prolific sources of information for the Masonic philatelist is what might be regarded as "dry" reading — proceedings of a Grand Lodge. Recently, I have been scanning some old numbers of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

In view of the announcement that the Post Office Department will issue a stamp commemorating the 175th anniversary of the arrival of Gen. Lafayette, the following items, which I came across, are of particular interest. In the 1883 volume there is an account

In the 1883 volume there is an account taken from the Tennesse proceedings of that year. On May 4, 1825 Bro. Gen. Lafayette visited Nashville and was introduced to the Grand Lodge by Bro. (President) Andrew Jackson P.G.M., given the grand honors and seated at the right hand of the Grand Master. To him, the then Grand Master said.

"The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Tennessee, with all brotherly affection, tender you their sincere congratulations, and bid you welcome. They feel an equal pride and pleasure in recognizing you as a brother, and in receiving within these consecrated walls the early friends and companion of the illustrious and venerated Washington, with whom the name of Lafayette will be transmitted to the latest posterity, inscribed upon the imperishable rolls of a glorious immortality."

Commenting on that event, the 1883 Tennessee proceedings said: "What a glorious day for the Masons of Tennessee! That sat side by side within the Grand Lodge, Jackson and Lafayette. Jackson, the grandest man of his day, the soldier of iron-hearted valor, the successful defender of his country's rights; Lafayette, the daring and heroic young Frenchman, who of all others was most beloved by the people of America. Prominent Masons from all over the State had assembled there, being drawn hither by the interesting events then transpiring . . . What Mason can now, at this remote day, look upon this scene without feelings of pride?"

Where Lafayette was made a Mason has not been established. This is believed to have occurred in an Army Lodge at Valley Forge. He was an honorary member of the Grand Lodges of Delaware, Tennessee and New Hampshire, and of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 (Washington's own). He was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8. R.A.M.,



New York, and knighted in Morton Encampment No. 4, K.T., New York. He also was a Scottish Rite Mason.

Bro. Gen. Lafayette frequently spoke of Freemasonry. On one occasion, he said: "Freemasonry is an order whose leading star is philanthrophy, and whose tenets inculcate an increasing devotion to the cause of virtue and morality."

He is pictured, along with his Brother Mason George Washington, on France No. 243-244. Those stamps also have other Masonic philatelic significances. It shows the "Spirit of St. Louis," the plane flown across the Atlantic by Bro. Charles A. Lindbergh. Also shown is the Statue of Liberty, designed by a Mason, and started with Masonic ceremonies. He appears on U.S. 3c 1952. Sc. #1010, 1077.

Past Grand Master Bert S. Lee of Missouri adds the information that Lafayette is one of the three honorary P.M.G.s of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and that he attended the Grand Lodge on his visit to the United States.

Grand Secretary T. E. Doss of Tennessee adds that the records of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee indicate that Lafayette was the only Mason ever elected to honorary membership in that Grand Lodge. — J. A. Mirt.

ASTRONAUT/SENATOR MADE MASON AT SIGHT

The first American to orbit the earth was a much decorated Marine Colonel, John Herschel Glenn, Jr., who saw much combat service in both World War II and in Korea. He is now a United States Senator.

In impressive ceremonies held in conjunction with the 170th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and the celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the State, Senator John H. Glenn, Jr., was made a Mason-at-Sight by Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, Jerry C. Rasor, on August 19, 1978, in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Franklin — PMG. **Grand Master**

By W. C. Blaine

With the possible exception of George Washington, no other man of the Revolutionary period has received so many well-merited honors, both at home and abroad as Benjamin Franklin. He was born in Boston January 17, 1706, the 15th of 17 children.

He became a printer and was an apparent business failure when 25, but he became financially secure at 28 and

retired with a fortune at 48.

He had only two years of formal education, yet he could speak French, Spanish and Italian. He helped found the American Philosophical Society, the Philadelphia Library, and an academy which became the University of Pennsylvania.
His "Poor Richard's Almanack" was

read along with the Bible. He became a Mason in February 1731 and signed himself Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734. He reprinted and published Anderson Constitutions, the first Masonic work published in America.

On arriving in Paris as U.S. Ambassador in 1776, Franklin affiliated with the Lodge of Nine Muses and became its

Master until 1781.

He became an honorary member of several lodges in France and in 1785, Honorary Venerable of the Lodges of the Commanders of the Temple of Carcas-sone. He is also a member of the Order of St. Jean of Jerusalem.

As many powerful political personages at the French Court were members of these orders, Franklin's efforts on behalf of the American Revolution received strong support in France.

When Franklin was Postmaster General of the Colonies, he often visited Lodges where his appearance brought other men of influence to the meetings, thus ce-menting ties long before the Revolution which later served to rally support.

At 70, Franklin had given his fortune to help finance the American Revolution, his wife had passed away, and his only son had joined the Tories.

However, Washington, who looked upon Franklin with "respect, veneration, affection and as a sincere friend" called on him to seek help in France. Franklin rose to the task and was right in his element. Numerous pamphlets favorable to the American cause appeared in France.

Further details on Franklin appear in an article in the January 1963 issue of "New Age", published by the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

As every collector knows, Franklin appears on U.S. postage stamp No. 1 in the catalog and on various issues of postal stationery and revenues.

He is also a popular subject on the stamps of many countries. These include Argentina, San Marino, Turkey, Bulgaria, France, Liberia, and Romania.

In both U.S. and foreign issues, Franklin often appears together with Washington.

Sculptures of Masons

By Marshall Loke

Rapidly finding its place among the most popular of topicals is Masonry on Stamps. The possibilities of the subject are infinite, limited mainly by the individual's ideas and the amount of time he can devote to it. Besides stamps of and symbols or temples scenes of interest, several hundred stamps of the world bear portraits of men known to be Freemasons.

While famous men in various walks have been immortalized on postage stamps, others equally deserving have been honored somewhat indirectly and obscurely by stamps showing their works rather than their portraits.

In this article we will consider some sculptors, who were Freemasons, and note the stamps that resulted from their

talents.

Jean Antoine Hudon — Probably no man's portrait on postage stamps of the United States is more familiar to more people than that of George Washington.

Although several artists have made likenesses of him that have been used at times on stamps, the bust sculptured in 1785 by French artist Jean Houdon has been judged by contemporaries to be the best likeness of Washington ever produced.

Stamps based on this classic sculpture are the profile type used many times since 1851 (examples are U.S. No. 554 and 804).

Jean Antoine Houdon)1740-1828) was one of the top ranking French sculptors. Even while a pupil in the School of Fine Arts in Paris he won a grand prize.

In Rome he created a fine statue of St. Bruno. Among his works were busts of Napoleon, Empress Josephine, Louis Mirabeau, Voltaire, Lafayette, Franklin, and many others.

He was made a member of the French Institute. Napoleon made him a member

of the Legion of Honor.

It was Benjamin Franklin who persuaded Houdon to accompany him to the United States in 1785 to fulfill an order by the State of Virginia for a statue of George Washington.

The sculptor spent two weeks at Mount Vernon preparing a model for the statue which is now in the State House at Richmond. The portrait bust is at Mount

Vernon.

The stamp portrait of Franklin (U.S. No. 552), and that of Jefferson (U.S.

No. 552), and that of Jefferson (U.S. No. 807) are from busts by Houdon.

Jean Houdon, like Washington and Franklin, was a Freemason. He was a member of the famous Lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris. Franklin while a resident of Paris, was active in this Lodge, as also was John Paul Jones.

The Lodge had a bust of Jones made by Houdon Voltaire and other prominent

by Houdon. Voltaire and other prominent

Frenchmen were members there.

Frederick Auguste Bartholdi work of another French sculptor has a welcome place on our stamps. Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World appears on U.S. No. 566, 899, 995, 1041, 1042, 1044A.

Frederick Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904) was also a member of a Lodge

of Freemasons in Paris - Lodge Alsace-

Lorraine.

Among its members were such men as Jules Ferry, Premier of France, and Joseph Joffre, later to become the French Field Marshal and hero of the

Marne in World War I.

One of Bartholdi's mammoth sculp-tures carved in solid rock is the Lion of Belfort (France No. B8). He planned the Statue of Liberty to be the largest statue in the world and several years of hard work were required before it was completed.



George Michael Cohan (1878-1942),song and dance man, composer, playwright and producer. Both a Roman Catholic and a Freemason. Born July 4, 1878 in Providence, Rhode Island, James Cagney played the part in por-traying his life in the film "Yankee Doodle Dandy.'

Songs, many of which became very popular — Give My Regards to Broadway; Over There; You're a Grand Old Flag; Harrigan and Mary's a Grand Old Name, Among his few films were — Broadway Jones (1916), Hit-the-Trail Holiday (1918) and The Phantom President (1933). Raised November 16, 1905 in Pacific Lodge No. 233; received 32° AASR (NJ) Feb. 3, 1906 and member of Mecca Shrine Temple, all in New York City and was a life member of each. He died November 5, 1942 and was buried with Roman Catholic services.

MASONIC CACHETS

The above is in preparation.

See enclosed circular for available covers.