



The Masonic Philatelist

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**Brother Davis Deutsch, Esq.
President
Masonic Stamp Club of New York**

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 40

NO. 3

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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.

Please Address All Communications To The

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N.Y.

MASONIC HALL - Box 10
46 West 24th St.
New York, N.Y. 10010

On The Cover

David Deutsch, Esq.

Is an attorney of many years standing, having attended City College and New York University. Is a member of the bar of the Federal Courts, the Supreme Court of the United States and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Is a member of the Queens County Bar Association and on its Speakers Bureau; the Long Island City Lawyers Club; Congregation Beth Jacob of Astoria, of which he was President; the Astoria Civic Association of which he was Counsel for many years; the Welfare League For Retarded Children; the Wall Street Art Association; the Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas, of which he is Counsel; the Rocket Mail Society of which he is a Director; the Metropolitan Air Post Society; the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, a Patron of the Queens County Museum of Art and a member of the Bayside Historical Society.

His paintings are all over the world, and in various religious, charitable and other institutions. He has received numerous honors and awards and has delivered talks on art to Senior Citizens, Religious, Fraternal and other groups. He has also written articles on Rocket Mail and lectured on this subject before philatelic societies. Most recently, he received a citation and medallion for distinguished service from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. His interest in the opera is also reflected in his membership in the Friends of the Israel National Opera.

He is a Past Master of Vulcan-Comrade Lodge Free and Accepted Masons; a Recipient of the Grand Master's Dedicated Service Award; President of Vulcan-Comrade Foundation, and a member of the American Lodge of Research, the Lawyers Square Club, the Masonic Square Club and has delivered Masonic Lectures as far away as England and Israel. He received a Citation and Medallion for distinguished service from the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Regular meetings, 2:00 p.m., 2nd Wednesday each month except July and August at:

The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016
Phone (212) 683-0559

Masonic Stamp Club Golden Anniversary Year



Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

M. L. STUART STURGES
GRAND MASTER 1982-83
32 STEWART AVENUE
S. GLENS FALLS, N. Y. 12801

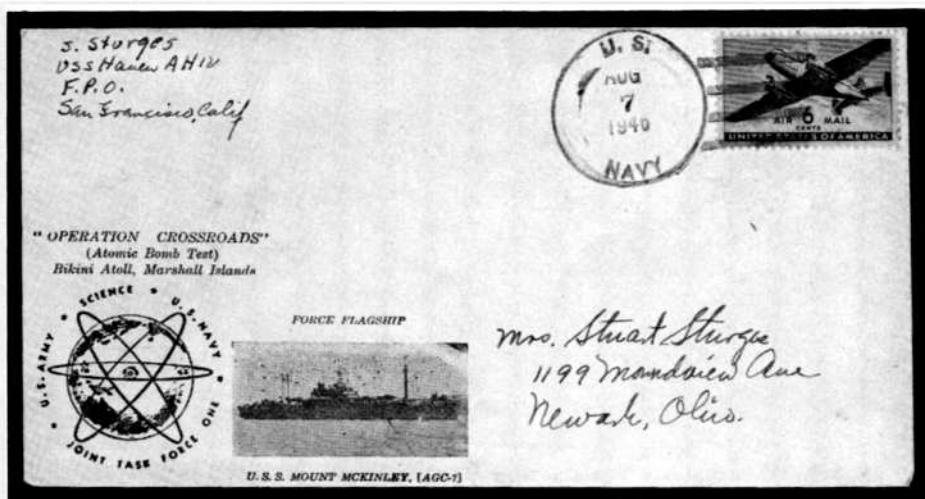
Dr. Allan Boudreau
Librarian, Grand Lodge of New York
71 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

Dear Allan,

I enclose a cover which I promised you for your collection. The issue was a single one made between the Able and Baker tests at Bikini. Only a limited number of covers were allowed each participant, I recollect it to be five. Many did not take advantage of the event so only a small number are probably in existence.

Forty years ago last month, the first cruise missile was made operational. This was followed by a strategic ballistic missile in about two weeks. We knew them as the V-1 and V-2 Buzz bombs. While this was going on many of us were engaged in putting together the atomic explosive. Our first test was at Alamogordo, NM on the 16th of July, 1945. Plans were immediately laid on how and when to use this as a weapon of war. So, on August 5, 1945 we dropped one over Hiroshima, and on August 9, 1945, we dropped one over the 'Sea of Roofs', Nagasaki. Although the war was not officially over, the Joint Task Force No. 1 was established to further test the capabilities of this new weapon.

Test Able was an overhead explosion and Test Baker an underwater explosion. This cover commemorates the First Large Scale Nuclear weapon Testing.



A SIDELIGHT TO PHILATELY The Greatest Thrill of My Life

By Bernard Tepper

It was early in 1954. Harry S. Truman was out of the Presidency over a year and was staying at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where I was working at that time.

During his visit, I received a call to see the hotel manager. He knew Mr. Truman and told me he was probably having a heated discussion since Mr. Tru-

man called him and asked for a Bible. The manager was correct. Mr. Truman was to prove he was right by quoting from the Bible.

The manager selected me to deliver the Bible, knowing I was a Mason and suggested that perhaps somehow I could obtain his autograph. He also suggested that the signature be on my Masonic dues card.

I liked the idea but remembered that I had Douglas MacArthur's autograph on the back of the card. I decided to take a chance.

Mr. William Hillman answered my knock on the door. I recognized him immediately as a few weeks prior, I had



Photograph taken by Brother Bernard Tepper at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, of President Truman.

purchased a book he wrote about Mr. Truman titled, "Mr. President."

This was my big chance. I asked Mr. Hillman if Mr. Truman would sign the card, but made emphasis for him not to turn it over. I could see Mr. Truman in the large room with eight or ten men, all sitting in a large circle.

Mr. Hillman approached the President and after a few words, I was motioned to enter.

This I had not expected. As I approached, all I could feel were eight or ten pairs of piercing eyes. I was scared.

The first thing Mr. Truman said was, "Why can't I look on the other side of the card?" I sheepishly answered, "You may not like what's written there, Sir."

With that, he turned the card over and upon seeing MacArthur's autograph, laughed and showed it to everyone. Scared as I was, I started to laugh. Mr. Truman remarked, "Young man, we are brothers after all. I'll sign under his name." After signing, he wrote the initials, "P. G. M. Mo." He asked if I knew what it meant. I was kneeling next to Mr. Truman and proudly answered, "Yes sir, 'Past District Deputy of Missouri.'" He then slapped me on the back and laughingly said I really demoted him and that it meant, "Past Grand Master of Missouri."

We shook hands and I left. On my way back to work several thoughts went through my head and suddenly I realized that this was "The Greatest Thrill of my Life."

Little did I know then, what was to come.

A few months passed. Mr. and Mrs. Truman again visited New York and stayed at the Waldorf. I now had in my possession a Masonic traveling paper, larger in size than a diploma and more permanent than the dues card. I decided to ask Mr. Truman to autograph this. The hotel manager called Mr. Truman, who suggested that I see him immediately, as he had a few minutes to spare.

Mr. Truman personally answered my door knock. I refreshed his memory with the previous "P.G.M. Mo." incident which he recalled.

He signed the sheet and we spoke on Masonry in New York for a few minutes.

He was most wonderful. He must have sensed my nervousness and within a few moments had me completely relaxed.

Suddenly, Mrs. Truman entered. We both stood up and Mr. Truman intro-

duced me to his wife, who then extended her hand to greet me.

Mr. Truman then apologized, stating that they had to leave for an appointment.

After I left, I then realized that actually, this was really "The Greatest Thrill of my Life."

After all, many people get to meet an Ex-President of the United States, but how many also get to meet the wife of an Ex-President, as I did.

Two wonderful people!

JAMES FRANCIS BYRNES

James Francis Byrnes, born May 2, 1879 in South Carolina, was admitted to the bar in 1903. At first he edited a newspaper, then served as a court reporter. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 2nd South Carolina District, serving through the 62nd to 68th Congresses, 1911-25. He was a U.S. Senator from 1931 until 1941 when President F. D. Roosevelt appointed him a Justice of the Supreme Court. The following year he resigned to become Director of Economic Stabilization and after that he was Director of War Mobilization 1943-45.

In 1945 Byrnes was appointed Secretary of State by President Harry S. Truman and in that capacity he accompanied the President to Potsdam, Germany, where the American, British and Russian delegations met to decide what to do about Germany at the end of World War II. A stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Potsdam Agreement was issued by the German Democratic Republic in 1970 (Scott No. 1228). Bro. Harry S. Truman is shown at the round conference table nearest to the inscription "25 DDR", while Bro. Byrnes is sitting at Truman's immediate right.

According to "10,000 Famous Freemasons", James F. Byrnes was raised in Aiken Lodge No. 156, A.F.M., Aiken, S. C. on January 12, 1911 and affiliated with Spartan Lodge No. 70, Spartanburg, S. C., July 5, 1926. He received the Royal Arch November 21, 1921 in Kadoshlayah Chapter No. 41, R.A.M., Aiken, and affiliated with Chicora Chapter No. 23, Spartanburg, in 1934. He was received in Aiken Council No. 23, R.&S.M., November 26, 1920 and affiliated with Blake Council No. 19, October 22, 1945. Knighted in Columbia Commandery No. 2, October 20, 1916 and affiliated with Aiken Commandery No. 14 in 1923 and Spartanburg Commandery No. 3 in 1934.

Byrnes was Governor of South Carolina 1951-1955. He died April 9, 1972 at Columbia, S. C.

—Marshall S. Loke





Buried Treasure ! ! !

We frequently dream of benefitting from an unexpected bonanza, but rarely are such unrealistic expectations rewarded.

The Masonic Stamp Club has recently had such good fortune and we are now able to share it with all the members.

A long time member who wished to remain anonymous has come upon a quantity of the very popular WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965 First Day Covers which we have reproduced on the preceding pages.

The three covers; a giant 6" X 9" cover and two standard size covers are all cancelled "World's Fair N.Y. Apr 22 1964."

These Covers have been generally thought to be out-of-print and unobtainable at any price. We have no intentions of changing this situation but could not resist the opportunity to share this good fortune with the members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Any member of the club who desires to obtain the three (3) WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965 FIRST DAY COVERS (April 22, 1964) should send \$ 5.00 to:

World's Fair Covers Box 10
Masonic Stamp Club of New York
46 West 24th Street
New York, New York 10010

The supply is strictly limited and all requests received after the supply is exhausted will be returned. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR MORE THAN ONE SET. THIS OFFER IS NOT OPEN TO DEALERS AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN THE RESALE OF SCARCE OUT OF PRINT COVERS.



Fall in Love
with
Stamp
Collecting

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NEW MASONIC COVERS AVAILABLE SOON



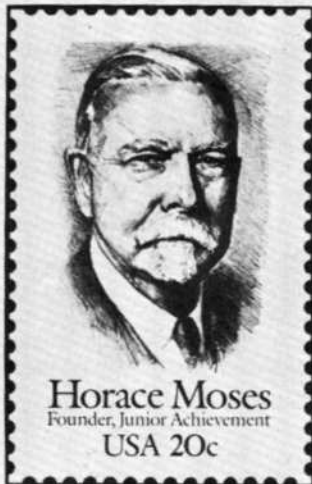
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SPECIALTY COLLECTING

Specialty collecting hasn't anything to do with the subject matter of the stamps you collect. It refers strictly to the form in which you collect them.

Blocks of Four A block of four, with two mint stamps above and two below, can come from anywhere on a sheet of stamps. That makes it the most plentiful form of block and the easiest to come by.

Booklet Panes Stamps booklets were first issued in 1898. On the average, two new booklet panes are issued per year. Most philatelists collect entire panes of entire booklets, just as they came from the post office. The first combination pane, consisting of one 9¢ Freedom to Assemble stamp and seven 13¢ Flag stamps was issued March 11, 1977.

Covers Covers (or envelopes) cancelled on a postage stamp's first day of issue are collected with tremendous enthusiasm by a large philatelic audience. On page 17 you'll find a more detailed discussion of first day covers.

Plate Blocks The Postal Service adopted a new plate number system effective January 1, 1981. Except in cases where more than four designs appear in a pane of stamps, the new system establishes a plate block as consisting of four stamps regardless of the number of inks or the press used to print the stamps. The new system permits offset plate numbers to remain on the selvage of panes instead of being trimmed off during production and makes possible the printing of plate numbers on booklet panes and the printing at intervals of plate numbers on coil stamps.

Each color plate or cylinder used initially in the production of a stamp will be designated by the number "1," and the numbers for each plate or cylinder will be grouped in the selvage adjacent to a single stamp. Whenever a plate or a cylinder is replaced during the manufacturing process the number "1" will give way to the number "2" in the color of the plate or cylinder replaced.

"Copyright" Blocks The U.S. Postal Service now copyrights all new stamp designs. The copyright "C" in a circle, followed by "United States Postal Service" or "USPS" and the year, appears in the selvage of each pane. The first copyright inscription appeared January 6, 1978, in the margin of sheets of the Carl Sandburg stamp. Most philatelists collect copyrights in blocks of four.

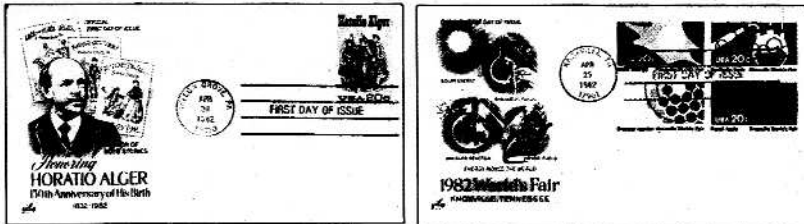
"Mr. ZIP" Blocks The Zoning Improvement Plan—better known as ZIP Code—was devised to increase postal efficiency. And it succeeded dramatically. A "Mr. ZIP" cartoon and slogan were inaugurated January 10, 1964, with the Sam Houston issue. The cartoon and slogan with adjoining block of four immediately became a popular collectible.

Souvenir Cards In 1938 and 1939, the Post Office Department Philatelic Truck toured the country distributing souvenir sheets that pictured the White House. They were the forerunners of the modern souvenir card.

FIRST DAY COVERS

A first day cover is an envelope that bears a new stamp cancelled on the first day of the issue at the post office designated to conduct the first day ceremonies.

For each new stamp or postal stationery issue, the Postal Service designates one post office where the item is first placed on sale. Usually it's a post office that is in some way related to the subject the stamp commemorates. Other post offices place the stamp on sale the following day.



Here's how you can secure a first day cover through the Postal Service:

The date and place of issue of new stamps are announced by the Postal Service in the press and on post office bulletin board posters.

When the stamps go on sale at your post office, you can buy them and affix them to your own envelopes. Your stamped and addressed envelopes (peelable labels are permitted) should be mailed inside another envelope to "Customer Affixed Envelopes," care of the Postmaster of the designated first day city. The post office will cancel the envelope and return it to you through the mail.

Or, you can send your pre-addressed envelope to the name of stamp or postal stationery issue, care of the Postmaster of the designated first day city, and the first-day post office will affix the new stamp. You must include payment to cover the total face value of the stamps that will be affixed. Do not send cash. Payment can be made by check, bank draft, or U.S. Postal money order, payable to the U.S. Postal Service.

The envelope you send for your first day cover can be plain or cacheted. A cacheted envelope carries a special design at the left. The Postal Service doesn't provide cacheted envelopes, but you can buy them from stamp dealers as well as some department and stationery stores. If you ever receive a damaged first-day cover, though, you can send it right back and it will be replaced.

First day cover service is one way the Postal Service accommodates collectors, and they spare no effort to get the cover in the mail without delay. But be patient . . . the volume of requests is high and occasionally a post office is completely swamped. The 10¢ Moon Landing Airmail Stamp of 1969, for example, was affixed to 8,700,000 first day covers. It is anticipated that first day covers for the 1982 state birds and flowers issue will exceed the 1969 record.

MASONIC HISTORY

MASONIC CANCELLATIONS ON THE 2 CENT RED BROWN

Edward L. Willard

Raised State College Lodge No. 700, December 1926, State College, Pa. under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Elected Master December 1940. Member Harvard Chapter Acacia National Fraternity.

The study of cancellations on any stamp for any period reflects the interests of the generation then current. For some years we collected cancellations on all 19th Century U.S. stamps and since 1851 there have been cancellations whose masonic origin is obvious in the years prior to the turn of the century. Cancelling devices were most frequently supplied by individual postmasters rather than the government.

Generally, Masonic Cancellations started with the issue of 1851. We know of no such cancellation on the issue of 1847 though such may exist. Masonics first found wide usage on the issue of 1861 and its succeeding grilled stamps. The most usual forms were the square and compass of the Blue Lodge. The Open Bible of Rutland, Vermont is well-known and there are a few others, but all seen are directed towards Blue Lodge Masonry.

We are not so familiar with the period of the three cent greens and they do contain many interesting Masonic cancels, but York Rite Freemasonry which seemed to boom following the years of the Civil War, finds itself best covered in period between 1883-1887 which was the time of the two cent red brown in which we specialize. On the two cent green and the series of 1890 fancy cancellations are much less frequent and except for the period of the late '20s non-existent after the turn of the century in volume sufficient to form a collection.

LETTER G



The true Masonic G is the first letter of the deity

Not all cancellations with the letter G represent the first letter of God



Not Masonic
Georgetown Sta., D.C.

Probably Masonic

Masonic cancellations must be viewed in the light of the Masonic times. The great landmarks do not seem to change.

Coming now to the period of 1883-1887 the most common Masonic is, as usual, the square and compass. **Every Mason, operative or speculative, is aware of these tools.** Some square and compass cancellations are easy to identify. The real problem is to separate the very non-Masonic situation of a clerk who desired

MASONIC SYMBOLS SQUARE & COMPASS



Warsaw, Ky.



Doubtful



Unfinished or Broken

Doubtful



Note: Right point could
be a compass point

simply to identify his killer by dual knife cuts and crossing similar knife cuts. We draw a distinction in two ways. There must be either a definite head or hinge to the compass or on the other hand the legs of the compass must show definite intention of tapering to a point. The square can seldom be used to determine Masonic character.

Again in the Blue Lodge cancels there appears the trowel. This working tool



Jewish script for the word Jehovah
Putnam, Conn.



Sun and Moon

Masters Trowel

KEYSTONES ROYAL ARCH MASONIC SYMBOLS



Keystone of an arch

Keystone with letters

was strangely seldom used and appears only as a hand cutting on a cork.

In the period 1883-1887 we are not aware of a G in a square and compass such as was used in earlier times, but the single letter G with Masonic implications present. First, we hasten to say that all letter G's are not Masonic. The letter G appears in the list of post office stations in New York City and was located at 1661 Broadway and also in Philadelphia it denoted the station at Germantown. Cut corks sometimes contain a G as the first letter of the town name or the initial of a particular clerk. Only by true postal history research can a G be said to be

MASONIC SYMBOLS TRIANGLES



Triangle and Sun



truly Masonic. Such research is too long for these notes.

Some of the great lights of Blue Lodge Masonry are illustrated in a plain sun and moon. There are frequent moon and star cancellations reported to be Masonic, particularly three different types from Northampton, Massachusetts, but we have failed to identify these as having reference to work under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts after having attended lodges in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The word Jehovah in Hebrew is well known to be of Masonic origin and from Putnam, Connecticut, and is set out in full as illustration 315 on page 63 of Herst Sampson on "Fancy Cancellations". Not being a student of the Hebrew language, our tracing is faulty. Besides the G there is only one other Masonic reference to the diety and this does not occur to our knowledge in the '80s. It is a Hebrew Yod used at Oregon, Pennsylvania in the '60s and would appear to be more associated with the work of the Council. It is Drawing No. 1695 in Herst-Sampson and perhaps is more appropriate to a member of the Council of Royal and Select Masters.

With the '80s York Rite Masonry seems to have been reflected in greater volume in cancelling devices. For example, the beautiful piece of work which was neither plumb, level nor square, but completed the Royal Arch. Examine another

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



Cross of the Order of Malta



True Cross of the Savior Order of the Temple

cancellation bearing the initials H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S. What Royal Arch Mason would fail to recognize the first letters of that sentence "He that would smoke Spanish tobacco knows something."

Next there frequently appears a killer in the form of an equilateral triangle. No Royal Arch Mason can forget this symbol which was lost for 470 years and at one time inscribed in the three great languages of the day—Syriac, Chaldean and Egyptian. No inscriptions occur on postal cancellations. The sum within the triangle now has meaning also.

Commanderies of Knights of the Order of the Temple were flourishing. Three cancels are shown having commandery background. The first is the Cross of the Order of Malta. There are many Maltese Cross cancellations, but we believe this one to be purely Masonic because of the indentation of the sides.

The last two devices are the Cross of the Savior and are directly traced to the Order of the Temple.

It is at once apparent that work in different Grand Bodies varies slightly but the basic landmarks do not. We believe the cancellations here shown are truly representative of Freemasonry and its superior bodies.

ASDA National Postage Stamp Show



NATIONAL '84

Visit The Masonic Stamp Club
Of New York, Inc. Lounge At The
ASDA National Postage Stamp Show
At Madison Square Garden, New York City
November 15-18, 1984

Freemasonry in Brazil

by Bro. Alfred C. Knight, Park 516, Fourth Manhattan



1.30 cr, 50th Anniv. founding of Grand Lodge of Brazil, 18th July 1977; panes of 50; quantity 5,000,000; des. by Julio P. Guimaraes; offset; perf. 11½x11; others are perf. 11; at all by Govt. Press.

I descended from a Braniff jet onto the soil of Brazil, a country covering half of all of South America. Although Brazil is best known in the United States for its famous carnival, its coffee, and its Amazon jungle, it is much more complicated than that — with 110,000,000 people, spectacular examples of industrial progress in the form of factories, offices and skyscrapers, and culture quite unique when compared to other cultures in South America.

The Masonic Lodge visited was in Sao Paulo the largest city in South America — a city of industrial activity, with streets like "Avenida Nove de Julho" rivaling Fifth Avenue in elegance, and a melange of peoples with an ethnic background as diverse as that of New York City. The Grand Lodge in Sao Paulo has more than 4,000 Masons in it.

Freemasonry is indeed thriving in Brazil. Masonry, moreover, seems to have had a prominent influence in the bringing of progressive ideas and civic leadership to Brazil, much as Masonry has had in the United States.

Many famous and admired political and military leaders were Master Masons. Brazil's "George Washington" — the leader who led the breakaway from the mother country Portugal and then headed the first independent government — was Don Pedro I. Brazil's first emperor, Don Pedro was made a Master Mason by Jose Bonifacio, who has been called the "architect of independence" and who was a Grand Master of Masons.

The parallel to American history of Masons taking leadership positions in a great political event like this are obvious. Besides George Washington (who saw the principles of Masonry "founded on benevolence and to be exercised only for the good of mankind"). American Masons remember Benjamin Franklin and Peyton Randolph (first president of the Continental Congress).

Eight presidents of Brazil (including the first two of the republic set up in 1889) were Masons. The names of Marechal Floriano Peixoto and Marechal Deodoro de Fonseca for instance are as well known to Brazilian history students as some names of the fifteen American presidents who were Masons are well known to American students.

Brazil's great military hero, the Duke of Caxias, whose name graces scores of parks and public centers throughout Brazil, was a Mason. So, too, were famous scholars, like Rui Barboza, and artists, like Portinari.

Other distinguished Brazilians, though not Masons themselves, were profoundly influenced by Masonic ideas and individual Masons. Marshal Rondon, for instance, great patron of Brazil's native Indians and catalyst for the formation of Brazil's Indian protective agency (similar to our Bureau of Indian Affairs), was influenced by the ethical principles an old professor of his had espoused. That professor, a Mason, had taught that all men, however primitive and wretched, were united in humanity. The primitive should be accepted for what he was, helped to be true to himself, and helped up the ladder of civilization.

The Masonic ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity, and service to mankind, have had an influence on the advancement of civilization in Brazil. The Proclamations of Independence — and of the Republic — the Movement for the Humane Treatment of the Indians — and the Liberation of the Slaves (a Negro Mason named Jose de Patricinio had a key role here) — were all events in which Brazilian Masons felt a calling and left a mark on history.

In the State of Sao Paulo, there are 124 Lodges. Average membership is 25. Seventy percent of the members of a Lodge attend each meeting, which occur weekly. The average age of Masons is under 40.

Eighty percent of all Brazilian Masons are Roman Catholics.

Brazilian Masons do not speak the ritual from memory, but rather read it.

Once secretive, Brazilian Masonry is now going a little more public. They do not propagandize, but try to make the Craft known. This summer, they were very proud of the first public monument to Masonry being erected to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a Grand Lodge in a certain state — the Sao Jose do Rio Preto obelisk.

Masons in Brazil keep in touch with each other, despite the vast distances between Lodges. In addition to an active social life within the Lodges, they have "white" social functions — where ladies and friends are allowed in on occasion. The spirit of benevolence and charity is a strong one in the Brazilian Lodges. The Campinas Lodge runs a free pharmacy for poor people; another area Lodge runs an orphanage.

The main themes of Brazilian Freemasonry are well stated by a poem I came across in Sao Paulo's Masonic Magazine "A Verdade" (The Truth). "What is Masonry?" was the caption and translated it reads:

What is Masonry?

In the home it is goodness.

On the job it is loyalty, honesty.

In relations with the unfortunate it is compassion.

In relation with the weak it is succour.

In relation with the strong it is friendship.

In relation with the penitent it is forgiveness.

In relation to God it is reverence and love.

The Grand Master himself, Erwin Seignemartin — a distinguished business leader in Sao Paulo with a command of English and an encyclopaedic knowledge of Masonic and Brazilian history — was kind enough to come in to greet me and answer my many questions about the Craft. Thousands of miles from 23rd Street, the institution of Masonry is alive and well.



Grande Oriente do Brasil

On August 24, 1973 Brazil issued a single stamp, Cr \$1.00 to commemorate the Grande Oriente do Brasil 1822/1973. Technical details are: Press release Nr. 76, designed by Maria Carmen Ribeiro and Suzana Fonseca.

Fall in Love with Stamp Collecting



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

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Brazilian Masons on Stamps

DOM ANTONIO PEDRO DE ALCANTARA BOURBON, 1798-1834, was appointed Regent of Brazil by his father, but when ordered back to Portugal, refused to return and instead issued the Grito de (Cry of) Ypiranga, proclaiming the independence of Brazil.

Assuming the title of Emperor Pedro I, he issued a new constitution which was eventually recognized by Portugal in 1826. Pedro ruled well through his brilliant minister, **JOSE BONIFACIO**, but being jealous, dismissed him, after which Pedro's popularity gradually waned and he was forced to abdicate in 1831, in favour of his son who succeeded as Pedro II. Besides being Pedro I of Brazil, he later ruled Portugal as King Pedro IV.

Dom Pedro was initiated into freemasonry in 1820 and the following year became Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Brazil. On 12th August 1822, he joined Lodge Comercio y Artes Lodge, but shortly afterwards issued a decree closing all masonic lodges, stating that these were being used as a cloak for political manoeuvres.

Today, Comercio y Artes Lodge is once again No. 1 on the register of the Grand Orient. There is a Lodge Dom Pedro I, No. 30 at Uribata, G.L. of Prana, and Lodge Dom Pedro I No. 45 at Mineiros, G.L. of Goias.

JOSE BONIFACIO DE ANDRADE Y SILVA, Brazilian writer, scientist, statesman and patriot, born Santo Sao Paulo 1763 and educated at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. He spent ten years in Europe, studying metallurgy and mineralogy and engaging in scientific research, and was responsible for the discovery of several new minerals.

During the Peninsular War he fought with the **DUKE OF WELLINGTON's** - Portuguese troops who were led by another freemason, Sir **BENJAMIN D'URBAN**. Returning home in 1819, he led the movement which secured independence for Brazil without bloodshed.

As Prime Minister to Pedro he faithfully and loyally carried out the order to close the lodges, although himself a dedicated freemason. In July 1823 however, Pedro dismissed Bonifacio and his brothers, Martin Francisco and Antonio Carlos, being jealous of the Prime Minister's popularity.

Some years later he returned to Brazil and became tutor to the five-year-old heir to the throne. His wise guidance had a lasting effect on the young boy whose subsequent rule was marked by high-mindedness and wisdom, qualities rarely found in 19th century heads of state. Jose Bonifacio is credited with having said, long before Lincoln, that no country can exist half slave and half free.

Jose Bonifacio was Grand Master of the Grand Orient in 1821, until succeeded in that office by Pedro I, and on his return to Brazil, he again became Grand Master continuing until his death in 1838.

In addition, a Supreme Council 33° had been formed, then following dissension, a second Supreme Council (No. 2) was set up in conjunction with the Grand Orient, with Jose Bonifacio as Sovereign Grand Commander. Lodges named after him are Jose Bonifacio No. 55, Cangucu, G.L. Rio Grane do S. and Jose Bonifacio No. 20, Santos, G.L. of Sao Paulo.

An unusual stamp issued by Brazil in 1909, Sc. #191, shows Bonifacio with five other New World leaders, **JOSE DE SAN MARTIN** of the Argentine, - **MIGUEL DE HIDALGO** of Mexico, - **BERNARDO O'HIGGINS** of Chile, - **GEORGE WASHINGTON** of the United States and **SIMON BOLIVAR** of Venezuela. All six were freemasons.

A Roman Catholic priest, **Father DIOGO ANTONIO FELJO**, was a Brazilian Statesman, who in 1835 was appointed as sole Regent for the young Pedro II (before then there had been two or more at a time). Nominated for a four-year period, he struggled valiantly against the forces of disintegration, but was forced to resign in 1837. His Mother Lodge is not known, but in 1835 he was a founder of a Lodge named Amizade, at Sao Paulo.

Another early Brazilian freemason was **HIPOLITO DA COSTA**, born 1774, who was initiated in Washington Lodge No. 59, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 12th March 1799. Stamp S. G. 1525 issued in 1974.

R. W. Bro. **DOUGLAS MURISON**, District Grand Master (Mark) for the District of the River Plate, an expert on Latin American history and its connections with Freemasonry, states that **LUIS ALVEZ DE LIMA Y SILVA**, **DUQUO DE CAXIAS** was a member of the Craft.

Brazilian Masons on Stamps (Con't.)

Born in 1803 at Rio de Janeiro he became a soldier of renown and a capable statesman. A leader in the war against the Argentine tyrant Rosas, he was Commander-in-Chief of the Brazilian Army 1851-52 and created Marshal in 1862. In the war against Paraguay he again led the Army and captured the City of Asuncion. Created a duke by the Emperor Pedro II he also served four times as Prime Minister, 1850, 1856-7, 1861-2 and 1875-78. He died in 1880.

At least three lodges have been named after our worthy brother, Duque de Caxias No. 33, Januaria, G.L. of Minas Gerais; Duque de Caxias No. 16, Macapa (Amapo) G.L. Para; and Duque de Caxias No. 70, Sao Vicente, G.L. Sao Paulo.

MANUEL DEODORA O DA FONSECA born 5th August 1827 at Alagoas, was active in the campaigns against Uruguay, Paraguay, 1868-70, served as Governor of Rio Grande do Sul 1887-9 and a leader in the movement against Pedro II.

He became Provisional President in 1889, confirmed by a formal election in 1891 when he became the first President of the new Republic. He commenced to implement the promises he had given by abolishing corporal punishment in the armed forces, establishing universal manhood suffrage, freedom of religion, separation of Church and State and a new Civil Code.

These measures proved too radical for many, and following severe disagreements accompanied by violence, he dissolved Congress, established Martial Law and introduced censorship. This in turn so antagonised his own supporters that he was quickly forced to resign.

An honest and popular man, he was a good soldier, but a poor executive. Marshal Deodoro died at Rio de Janeiro, 23rd August 1892.

In freemasonry he was Grand Master of the Grand Orient, and several lodges have been named after him including: Marechal Deodoro da Fonseca No. 2, Aquidauana, G.L. Mato Grosso, Marechal Deodoro No. 31, Caxias do Sul, G.L. Rio Grande do Sul, and Lodge Marechal Deodoro No. 43, Aparcida de Goiania, G.L. of Goias.

BENJAMIN CONSTANT BOTELHO DE MAGALHAES 1838-91, statesman best known for his liberal and republican teaching when a Professor at the Military Academy. He was another of the leaders in the revolution which caused the abdication of Pedro II in 1889, and the liberal decrees issued by

President Manuel Deodoro were largely the work of Benjamin Constant and Ruy Barbosa.

He is listed by Clarence Beltmann in "Freemasons on Postage Stamps", but particulars are not given. The Benjamin Constant Lodge at Mombaca, G.L. Ceara, Brazil is named after him, issued in 1906 and issued in 1939, Sc. #484.

RUY BARBOSA, statesman and lawyer, born Sao Salvador, 5th November 1848, helped to draft the new constitution when the country became a republic in 1890 and served as Minister of Finance under Manuel Deodoro.

In 1910 he was the unsuccessful candidate in the Presidential election, although he probably polled most votes, but the affair was conducted in a most dubious fashion, hence the assumption that the results were rigged.

Brother Barbosa, a freemason according to R. W. Bro Murison was responsible for revising Brazil's Criminal Code and for several other legal reforms. In 1921 he was appointed Brazil's representative at the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague. Ruy Barbosa died at Petropolis 1st March 1923.

Lodges named after him are Ruy Barbosa No. 16, Peabiru, G.L. Parana; Ruy Barbosa No. 93, Franco de Rocha, G.L. Sao Paulo; and Ruy Barbosa No. 46, Sao Lourenco, G.L. Minas Gerais, 1924 and 468B issued in 1929.

A set of stamps issued in 1935 commemorated the "Ragged Revolution" of 1835, and depicts the Duque de Caxias as well as **BENTO GONCALVES DA SILVA**. Presumably for his part in the affair General Goncalves was imprisoned in the Forte de Mar, and while there wrote letters to various lodges asking for help, as being a freemason in distress. One was read out in Lodge Beneficencia on 30th June 1837 and another in La Virtude of Orient Lodge, Bahia, on 28th July 1837.

Fortunately the Governor of the Fort happened to be a founder of Beneficencia and it is comforting to learn that did in fact obtain official agreement for the release of the General. Bento Goncalves Lodge No. 28, Porte Allegro, G.L. Rio Grande do Sul is named after him.

CARLOS ALBERTO GOMEZ, the greatest Brazilian musician and composer of the 19th Century was born in 1836 and studied in Italy. Brother Gomez, a freemason is not only depicted himself on stamps but another issue shows a few bars of music from his Opea, "Il Guarany", a work which gained recognition in Europe and the United States. He died in 1896.

Brazilian Masons on Stamps (Con't.)

The confused recognition status of the Grand Lodges in Brazil is difficult to understand, and is not made any easier when one finds no less than five lodges named after a previous Grand Master of the Grand Orient in three of the rival constitutions. This is of course explained by the fact that several Orient Lodges seceded when the separate Provincial or State Grand Lodges were formed.

The brother in question, **LAURO SODRE y SILVA**, born 1858 was a Doctor and a General, initiated in Lodge Harmonia and Fraternidade 1st August 1888. He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Orient 20th May 1904 and again 18th May 1907. His son, Admiral - **BENJAMIN SODRE** also became Grand Master in the early 1950s.

The five lodges are:— Lauro Sodre No. 7, Gama, G.L. Pernabuco; Lauro Sodre No. 3 Sao Luiz, G.L. Maranhao; and three under the Grand Lodge of Minas Gerais, Lauro Sodre No. 36, Nova Era; General Sodre No. 41, Sacramento; and Lauro Sodre No. 59, Governada Valadares. 998 issued in 1958.

MANUEL FERRAZ DE CAMPOS SALLES, born Campinas, Sao Paulo, 1846, was associated with Deodoro in bringing about the abdication of Pedro II, and did much to save the country from economic collapse. The vast upheavals which followed the abolition of slavery and then the overthrow of the monarchy caused a wave of extravagance and inflation, which had to be curbed.

Having served as an outstanding Governor of his State, he was elected President for 1898-1902 and this term was characterised by many reforms in finance, peaceful settlements of boundary disputes and friendly relations with the Argentine and European nations. He arranged a large loan from the House of Rothschild.

There is a Campos Salles Lodge No. 5565 under the English Constitution at Sao Paulo, working an English ritual in the Portuguese tongue, which is a worthy monument to Brother Manuel Ferraz de Campos Salles. He died in 1913. S.G. 1193 issued in 1967.

Dr. FRANCISCO DE PAULA RODRIGUEZ ALVEZ, born 1848, was one of Brazil's ablest civilian Presidents. After serving as State President of Sao Paulo 1900-02 he was elected President of the Republic for 1902 to 1906. He was again State President 1912-16 and yet again President of Brazil from 1918, but died in office the following year.

Rodriguez Alvez initiated a programme of municipal improvement, when Rio de Janeiro was freed from the scourge of Yellow Fever, and transformed into one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Captain Phillipe Durand, one of the first masonic philatelists of any real worth, received a letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Orient of Brazil which confirmed that Brother Rodriguez Alvez was a member of the Craft, but alas did not volunteer any dates or names of lodges. S.G. 273 issued in 1906. Sc. #184.

NILO PECHANA, 1857-1924, Brazilian freemason, lawyer and politician became Vice President in 1906 and succeeded as President in 1909 on the death of Alfonso Penna and completed the Presidential term. During this period, Brother Pechan, a civilian, negotiated a treaty settling a border dispute with Uruguay. He again served his country when appointed Foreign Minister 1917-19.

HERMES RODRIGUEZ DA FONSECA, a nephew of Deodor da Fonseca was elected President of the Republic in 1910, after a rather dubiously conducted election when his opponent was Ruy Barbosa. Marshal Hermes da Fonseca, a soldier of some distinction was an initiate of Lodge Rocha Negra at San Gabriel (now No. 1, under the Grand Lodge of Rio Grande do Sul) then under the Grand Orient.

The Grand Master, Lauro Sodre in 1910 is said to have bestowed the "title" of "Well deserving of Lodge Capitular Amoe Trabalho" on the Marshal. S.G. 1186 issued in 1967.

Another freemason **EPITACIO DA SILVA PESSOA** was president of Brazil from 1919 to 1923, after which he represented his country as a member of the World Court at the Hague.

Born 1865, Senator and Supreme Court Justice from Paraiba, he is depicted on several stamps, including one with President Vargas, a dictator who suppressed the Craft during his term of office. Brother da Silva was a delegate to the 1919 Peace Conference and succeeded as President following the death of Rodriguez Alvez.

During his term he undertook vast reclamation work in the North West. and Brazil celebrated the Centenary of its independence. An Act of Congress was passed, allowing members of the Imperial Family to return to Brazil if they so desired and the remains of the Emperor Pedro II and his Empress were brought back and re-interred in the Cathedral at Petropolis.

Our brother died in 1942.

Brazilian Masons on Stamps (Con't.)

QUINTINO BOCAIUVA, 18. — 1912, noted Brazilian journalist was initiated in American Lodge in 1861, S.G. 1070 issued in 1962. (any further information either about the brother or the Lodge would be welcome. It could of course be a Grand Orient Lodge)

JOSE MARIA DA SILVA PARANHOS, BARON RIO BRANCO, born 1845, served as Chancellor and Foreign Minister, and as President of the Council of Ministers signed the Declaration of Independence.

The Foreign Ministers room at the Itamaraty Palace has frescoed around the walls, "In this room which was for many years his workroom, died on February 10th 1912, the great Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United States of Brazil, Jose Maria da Silva Paranhos, Baron Rio Branco".

He became a Grand Master of the Grand Orient and made an outstanding reply to a public attack on the Craft. In 1873 the Bishop of Pernambuco tried to get the Craft banned by the civil government following a Papal Bull of excommunication, by raising the matter in the Senate. Rio Branco pointed out that the allegories and traditions connected with our symbols do not in any way conflict with religion, and as to references to the Great Architect of the Universe, he challenged his opponents to say that God was not the Creator of All, or that His wisdom, power and glory were not adored in that formula.

He went on to say, "God preserve us indeed from a principle of faith which denies us the right to appreciate the character and tendencies of a Brazilian civil association upon the grounds that the Spiritual power has declared it irreligious. If today that power is admitted in relation to Masonry, tomorrow the same power will say that another civil institution comes within its anathemas, will proscribe its members, leaving them no other course than to be silent, obey and suffer". Largely due to his eloquence the plan failed.

He was also responsible for a government measure whereby children born to slaves were freed at the age of 21, and as Foreign Minister settled a boundary dispute with Bolivia by purchase. There is a Rio Branco Lodge No. 24 at Piratini under the G.L. Rio Grande do Sul.

Two other Brazilians who appear on stamps and also have lodges named after them are **Joaquim Nabuco** a great fighter for the emancipation of the Slaves, and **Marshal Rondon**. They were quite possibly freemasons and any information would be welcome.

BRAZILIAN MASONS ON STAMPS

Dom Pedro I and Dom Pedro II all Scott's issues 1866-84. Also 261, 1243, 727.

Jose Bonifacio Scott's 191, 261, 800, 801, 959, Scott's 260-262, Independence Set as cut of stamp issued in 1972 for 150th anniversary.

Luis Alvez, Duque de Caxias. Scott's #410, 479, 621, 797, 750-54, 1193

Manuel Deodora da Fonseca 485, 486, (Set 484-86)

Benjamin Constant Sc. #175, 484, 807

Ruy Barbosa Sc. #286, 300, 692, 798, 799

Joaquim Nabuco Sc. #C77

Mariano Rondon Sc. #865

Bento Gonvalves Sc. #409

Carlos Alberto Gomez Sc. #1155

Iauro Sodre, Sc. 855, Benjamin Sodre ?

Manuel de Campos Salles Sc. #1064

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez Alvez Sc. #184, 198

Nilo Pechana Sc. #192, 1059

Rodriguez da Fonseca Sc. 824

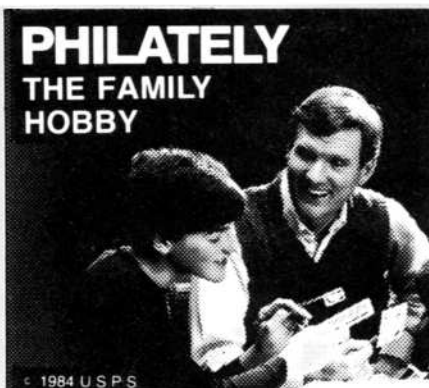
Epitacio Pessoa Sc. #235, 262, 342, 345, 1002.

Quintino Bocaiuva Sc. #948

Jose Da Silva, Baron Rio Branco Sc. 193, 194, 627, 865, C63, C77

Many other Masons from other countries are depicted on Brazilian stamps too numerous to detail in this article.

For our own presidents **Washington** Sc. #480, **Grover Cleveland** 481, **Harry S. Truman** #673, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** Sc. #C76, **Dwight D. Eisenhower** #C93.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL
STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

50th Anniversary Dinner
Friday-October 12, 1984-6:30 p.m.
Masonic Hall-71 West 23rd Street
New York City

Dear Brother,

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York is proud to announce its 50th Anniversary Dinner in honor of our immediate Past President Brother George Wettach and our Brother Dr. Allan Boudreau, Past President, Publisher of the Masonic Philatelist and newly appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Third Masonic District of Manhattan. There will be a roll call of all Past Presidents from the inception of the Club.

We have managed to keep the cost of this dinner at a nominal \$20.00 per member and each guest attending. As a 50th Anniversary Special there will be NO CHARGE FOR THE LADIES!!

A large turnout is expected and there is a limit to the number of seats available. Please send your remittance with the reservation form below TODAY.

Fraternally and sincerely,

Ladies invited
Dress Informal

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
Dinner Chairman

Treasurer-Masonic Stamp Club
46 West 24th Street-Box 10
New York, New York 10010

Enclosed is my remittance of \$20.00 for the Masonic Stamp Club 50th Anniversary Dinner. My lady _____ will, _____ will not attend. Additional sum of _____ enclosed for guests at \$20.00 each.

My entree choice is _____ beef, _____ fish.
Name _____ Address _____