



The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY

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Brother George Wettach
Fidelity Lodge No. 113, New Jersey
President 1983-1984
Masonic Stamp Club of New York

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 40

NO. 4

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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

George H. Wettach

Brother Wettach was born and raised in New Jersey and has always resided there. He is of Swiss and German ancestry. His father and two uncles were Masons as was a fourth cousin who was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland for four years. He also has a first cousin who is a Mason.

Brother George seems to gravitate to Masonic bodies named Fidelity. As a youth he belonged to Fidelity Chapter, Order of De Molay in East Orange, N.J. Later he joined Fidelity Lodge No. 113, F. & A.M. and Fidelity Chapter No. 49, R.A.M., both of Ridgewood, N.J.

Bro. George became a stamp collector early in life as his father was in the export-import business in New York which was a great source of stamps. Somewhere along the way, Bro. George took a liking to entire covers of all types. He also collects autographs and, to a lesser degree, coins. For many years he was a merit badge counselor for the Stamp Collecting and Coin Collecting badges for the Boy Scouts of America. Genealogy is another interest which he shares with his daughter Joyce. His interest in postcard collecting he shares with his son Lawrence.

After his father's death in 1934, Bro. George spent a couple of years in the export-import business but then switched to savings banking. By the time he retired, he had held the official position of Auditor of the United Mutual Savings Bank in New York for about ten years. He says that his motto there was "Big Brother is watching you!". During his tenure as Auditor he founded The Midtown Auditors Association consisting of Auditors of New York City savings banks. It is still going strong as is the Fair Lawn Stamp Club which he founded in 1955. Two years ago he founded the Fair Lawn Postcard Club which is still growing.

Bro. George and his wife Frieda, a retired school teacher, both like to travel. In their travels Bro. George enjoys doing something Masonic and/or philatelic if he can. He still cherishes the memory of a visit with our member T.J. Fray and his wife Anne in Plymouth, England in 1983. That year the Wettachs visited the Museums of the Grand Lodge of England in London and the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh, visits that they would recommend to all Masons.

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

THE ROCKET STORY and THE ORIGIN OF ROCKET MAIL BY

Brother DAVID DEUTSCH,

President of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York,

The news item was unusual and held my attention. It was a brief statement to the effect that a mail carrying rocket experiment would be conducted in an isolated area in Astoria, New York. Also, that a limited number of covers would be carried on this rocket during its flight which would thereafter be mailed to anyone interested at a cost of 75¢ each. It was my impression that this experiment was little more than a "get rich quick" scheme and I decided to forget about it.

I had never previously heard of a rocket flight and my knowledge of rockets was practically nil. It was common knowledge that the Chinese had made and used them hundreds of years ago in firework displays and at special celebrations. That this device could be sent aloft and transport contents without exploding, was inconceivable. The thought then occurred, what if someone had actually built a rocket which could fly successfully to a destination and also carry mail? I became intrigued with the idea and curiosity overcame my initial derogatory impression. I forwarded \$1.50 to the sponsor of the event and shortly thereafter received two plain 3¢ stamped embossed envelopes postmarked Brooklyn, New York, September 23, 1935, with a small triangular imprint containing the words, "Carried via Rocket-Post, September 22, 1935." It was then in the era known as the depression years and as a young lawyer I could ill afford the luxury of spending \$1.50 in furthering a whim. To make ends, meet my work day expenditures were limited to a dollar. The subway fare from my home to New York was a nickel. Lunch was 40 to 50¢ at the Automat or the Exchange Buffet, (where the honor system prevailed and you informed the cashier on the way out what the bill was and paid accordingly). Pipe tobacco was inexpensive. Charlie Landau's famous cigar store near City Hall sold custom made "All Havana" cigars for 6¢ each, and some change would still be left to splurge or to save. True, I had satisfied my curiosity when I ordered the rocket mail covers, but the experience was a disappointing one at the time for I considered these covers insignificant and meaningless! (My estimate of the current market value per cover, is approximately \$200.00 236 were carried).

Several months went by after this incident, when I came upon another similar news item. It contained interesting and informative data concerning an interstate mail carrying rocket flight, which would take place in February 1936, between Greenwood Lake, New York and Hewitt, New Jersey. The rocket would be equipped with wings so as to facilitate its landing. It would operate on a new principal of rocket flight and would be fueled with a mixture of chemicals and liquid oxygen which would generate constant propulsion while in flight. The designer and builder was Willy Ley, one of the world's foremost scientists on rocket engines and construction. I learned that he lived but a few blocks away from my home in Brooklyn and arranged to call at his place. I was thrilled to meet this great scientist and rocket authority, though still a young man. He spoke so very quietly and told me of his work with rockets since the mid-twenties and that he had authored several books on this subject. Regretfully, the time, effort and expense of construction that went into the long planned interstate rocket flight went for naught. Following preliminary trial the rocket failed to take off properly at its final test on February 23, 1936, and skidded on the ice of Greenwood Lake until it crashed a short distance from its launching area.

As a result of this second news item and my meeting with Willy Ley, I commenced collecting rocket mail covers and became interested in rockets and rocket

research. I believe that rocket mail covers will become philatelic gems and will be sought after and prized by collectors as pioneer items in the years to come. The world has been electrified by the constant publicity of the miracles performed by spacecrafts propelled by rockets, since the first Sputnik (fellow traveller) went aloft into orbit around the earth on October 4, 1957. The wonders of the new outer world field of science and energy have been added to by the advent of the Space Shuttle, which is a combination rocket, airplane and glider and considered to be the most remarkable machine ever built by man. Thousands of new collectors especially among the young, will ultimately join those among us who know that collecting rocket mail can be one of the most exciting and pleasurable areas of our philatelic hobby.

Members of our great fraternity can acclaim with pride that Masons performed vital and distinguished services in NASA's achievements in the space program. The following Astronauts are Masons. Undoubtedly, there are others and I will endeavor to ascertain who they are: Frank Borman, Virgil I. Grissom, Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., Walter M. Schirra Jr., Donn F. Eisele, Edgar D. Mitchell, Thomas P. Stafford, Paul J. Weitz, and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., was the first Mason and the second Astronaut to set foot on the surface of the moon.

Every rocket cover tells a vibrant and dramatic story ... it was flown at a certain place and date and for particular scientific purposes ... it has an interesting cachet which is frequently colorful ... it is stamped, post-marked and numbered ... it has a separate rocket stamp prepared and affixed for the occasion. Usually, the details relating to the size of the rocket, type of fuel, whether solid, liquid or stream, time of flight, distance, altitude attained, prevailing weather conditions and other important particulars, are available or ascertainable. Small rockets are constructed and flown not exceeding fifteen feet in height and several inches in width. Hence, only a small number of covers can be carried as cargo, as a rule 300 to 500. The planning and construction of each rocket and the eventual launch are all so meaningful, educational and exciting.

A rocket is a simple device in theory, but highly complex and most difficult to implement in practice. It is a self-propelled vehicle, device or missile, which contains within itself the requirements of flight and which operates under and pursuant to Isaac Newton's third law of motion, which states, "To every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction." Let's suppose there was a sled piled with bricks on the ice of a frozen lake and you got on it facing the rear. Then if you threw a brick as hard as you could, and another and another, the thrust of the bricks would propel the sled forward, each time more rapidly, and the momentum would continue to increase until the bricks were gone. If you were in space where there is no gravity, you would continue on indefinitely. Therefore, the purpose of a rocket engine is to provide the necessary thrust backward, in order to send the rocket upward or forward at high velocity, for a period of time.

This strange device is one of the oldest and yet one of the most modern inventions known to man. As a weapon of war it is much older than the gun. It was designed, constructed and flown many centuries before the steam and combustion engines were heard of. It made continued scientific advances over the years and the present day rocket has become one of the most important and sophisticated of NASA's new technologies and space age accomplishments.

From the beginning of time man sought to reach the stars. We learn from the Holy Bible that the first attempt to do so was made shortly after the formation of society. The Book of Genesis, Chapter XI, Verses 1-9, vividly portrays the building of the Tower of Babel by which means the Babylonians expected to reach the heavens and make war on God. This ill fated structure was so called because the Almighty confused their tongues so that none could understand the other and the tower was destroyed. Similarly, in modern times the thinking and behavior of certain godless nations and terrorist ideologies has become confused and distorted with

hatred, oppression, evil motivation and intent to make war and eradicate peace, truth and brotherhood from the face of the earth.

How did this remarkable device originate and from whence did it come? It may sound ridiculous and far fetched but it is probable that the theory of rocket propulsion evolved from man's observation of the lowly squid, a mollusk which is one of nature's most peculiar and mysterious creatures. It siphons in water, then ejects it through a funnel which propels it at startling speed, exemplifying Newton's Law mentioned previously, that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Four hundred years before Christ, one Archytas of Tarantum, a Greek philosopher, carved a pigeon out of wood which he caused to fly by means of a steam reaction device. In 53 B.C., Heron, a mathematician of Alexandria, built a more improved steam device in the form of a round object which spun on its axis and ejected steam from its tubes causing it to rotate. It is said that this was the forerunner of rocketry. This rotating device modified over the years is now our present day lawnsprinkler. The Chinese came into this chronological sequence of development about a thousand years ago with the manufacture of gunpowder rockets which took off with considerable noise and provided great excitement and entertainment for the multitudes. They soon discovered that an arrow fastened to a tube of gunpowder which they called Arrow of Fire made an effective weapon of war. In the year 1230, the Arabians reported using rocket devices which slithered across the ground and panicked the enemy. Two years later at Peking the Chinese repulsed attacks of the Mongolians with rocket barrages. In the year 1500, a Chinese endeavored to prove and carry out the connection between rockets and flight into space. This would-be astronaut named Wan-Hoo fastened a seat between two kites and tied 47 gunpowder rockets astern for motive power. After Wan-Hoo climbed aboard, his servants waited during the appropriate countdown and ignited the rockets. When the dense clouds of smoke cleared, no trace of Wan-Hoo or the space ship could ever be found!

The Europeans heard of the new rocket weapon and began to experiment with it in the 14th century. They invented rockets that could be fired from tubes to give them direction ... rockets that could spin over water and explode at the water line of enemy vessels ... rockets that could run on a tight-rope carrying messages ... and rocket engines that could travel on rollers and explode in the midst of the enemy. About the year 1400, a major battle was fought in which the Italians using rockets made with charcoal, sulphur and saltpeter, were victorious. In the 15th and 16th centuries, rockets showed remarkable progress ... they were equipped with parachutes to lessen the force and impact of landing and enabled them to be reused ... there were rockets which would dive under water before exploding ... rockets which were launched and flown from ship to ship. Pirates made successful use of this discovery against the wooden ships which sailed the high seas. Conrad Haas, a Roumanian artillery officer, was the first real pioneer of the modern rocket. He was four centuries ahead of his time! In the 1530's, he built and launched three distinct stage Apollo-like rockets. They were 6 1/2 feet high, fuelled with a gunpowder propellant and accurate up to almost half a mile. He described his work with detailed and colorful illustrations in a 350 page manuscript, which has been accepted as being genuine by historians and experts. In 1621, a wagon was built in Holland which was propelled by a hot water rocket. The greatest display of fireworks in the history of the world took place in London in the year 1749 when over 10,000 rockets were sent aloft. Several years later, the Maharajah of Mysore in India, with a trained corps of rocket launchers demoralized and decimated the crack English cavalry with their rocket barrages. Sir William Congreve, a British lawyer, constructed a long range weapon of great destruction which was employed against Britain's powerful enemy France in the early 1800's. In 1807, 25,000 Congreve rockets were launched by British Navy ships which put the City of Copenhagen to fire and destroyed it. When Francis Scott Key saw the "rockets red glare" at Fort Sumpter he wrote these immortalized words into our most beloved song and National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. The rockets referred to at Fort Sumpter, were made after the model constructed over

fifty years previously by Sir William Congreve.

There were two men of genius who were the most famous pioneer rocket scientists in the world. The Russian, Konstantin Ziolkovsky and the American, Robert H. Goddard. Ziolkovsky wrote dozens of technical articles on rockets and space during the end of the last century and for a number of years in this one. He foresaw mankind living within cities in space ... of using energy from the sun ... he invented space suits and was so far ahead of his fellow scientists that they are still not caught up to some of his teachings.

Dr. Goddard was America's greatest engineer and scientist in the field of rocketry. On March 16, 1926, he launched the world's first liquid-propellant rocket, powered by liquid oxygen and gasoline, an event considered by many aerospace experts as epochal as the Wright brothers flight at Kitty Hawk. Earlier his theoretical writings on rocketry prompted the New York Times to publish an editorial page article which stated that Dr. Goddard was ignorant of elementary physics if he thought that a rocket could work in the vacuum of space. But, the renowned Smithsonian Institution published his principles of rocket development and his aspirations to send a rocket to the moon. He obtained over 200 patents covering every conceivable aspect of rocket design, propulsion and guidance ... he engineered the first gyroscope stabilized rocket ... he proved that rockets could be used as missiles ... that a rocket could be built with rockets within it ... that instrument guided missiles could reach the upper stratosphere and in the middle 30's, he fired a rocket which flew to high altitudes faster than the speed of sound. He left us with a wealth of ideas on how to refuel spacecraft, on electrifical propulsion, atomic power, automatic cameras in space, and he developed jet systems for the takeoff and lift of heavy aircraft to flight, as well as other scientific marvels. His eyes were on the heavens and always by his side with encouragement, his dear and devoted wife Esther.

Thus have I related and reminisced with you a breif history of this ancient invention. I have travelled back through the centuries until I found the beginning of rocketry and traced it from its origin up to modern times. Until recent decades, the average person was unaware of the rocket and its capabilities. In the early 20's, the authorities of the General Post Office in Berlin became interested in the use of large rockets for intercontinental transportation of mail. They believed in the feasibility of this project but due to financial problems then prevalent in Germany, funds were unavailable for this expensive research and very little became of it at the time. However, a score of year later, the German war machine perfected the construction of the V-2 a large size rocket missle as a potent and destructive military weapon under the guidance of Dr. Wernher von Braun and a team of engineers supervised by him. Thousands of these explosive missiles were successfully launched in the final stages of World War II and they wreaked havoc upon allied targets on the continent and in England.

Returning to the 20's, experimentation with small rockets became the rage among the scientific community of central Europe. Freidrich Schmiedl, an Austrian, had become fascinated in his youth with rocket construction and in the great potential for its use in the transportation of mail and news. As a struggling engineer, he soon found that the cost of building these experimental rockets was too burdensome. It occurred to him that he could supplement his income and help pay for the construction of newer and more improved rockets by enclosing envelopes in them, have them stamped and postmarked and then sell them to collectors. It was this simple imaginative scheme which gave rise to one of the most exciting facets of philately, the collection of rocket mail covers. On February 2, 1931, he sent aloft his rocket V-7 with a small cargo of covers and cards which had been stamped with Austrian postage. When the V-7 landed, these stamped items became the first mail ever carried by a rocket. News of this caught on and spread rapidly among rocket scientists throughout the world. In the 30's, Stephen Smith in India and Sikkim, a state in

northern India, as well as Alan Young in Australia, conducted numerous rocket mail carrying flights. Over 20 years before the dog Laika was sent into orbit by the Russians in Sputnik, Stephen Smith sent aloft small animals, merchandise and rocket mail covers. Willy Ley and Fred Kessler worked diligently in the United States to perfect mail carrying rockets. The Rocket Research Institute, the Reaction Society and the Rocket Mail Society, of which the writer has been a director for many years, sponsored various mail carrying flights in this country during the 30's and thereafter. They, along with the better known rocket scientists in Europe, conducted numerous experimental flights each carrying mail as a result of which tens of thousands of informative, interesting and varied types of rocket mail covers became and still are available to collectors. Among the most outstanding of this group were Gerhard Zucker, A.J. de Bruyn, Glauco Partel, Karl Roberti and John D. Stewart.

On May 27, 1974, Dr. Glauco Partel of the Central Rocket Institution of Rome, one of the world's foremost experts in the construction of experimental rockets, conducted a cargo bearing flight in his BORA 2 rocket which was fourteen feet in height. It travelled five miles between two mountain towns in Italy and made a pinpoint landing on target, an achievement of considerable magnitude. The cargo consisted of medicines, newspapers and 500 rocket mail covers.

Is the regular and systematic delivery of mail flown in rockets in the near future within the realm of reality? Who would have believed that we would have radios, televisions, push button elevators, or telephones that send photographs and printed matter over the wires and countless other innovations; that our defense department would have soldiers on military maneuvers each with a rocket system strapped on his back in readiness for flight and that we would have spacemen on the moon and space shuttles in periodic orbit of the earth? There will be nationwide and intercontinental delivery of cargo and mail through the substratosphere at supersonic speeds and this should be accomplished by a craft with a vertical take off and landing system which will permit it to land at any predetermined place, propelled by nuclear or some other new form of energy combustion. No man has the faculty or the wisdom to forecast with exactitude what the future has in store, but from the miraculous occurrences of the present, these are the technical advancements which I believe will follow in the future.

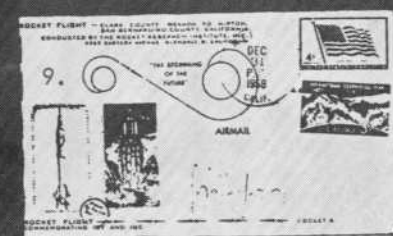
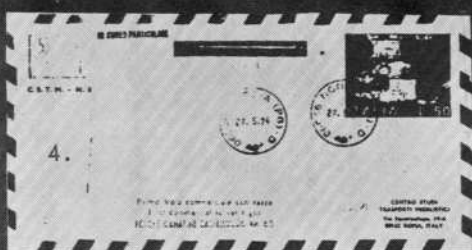
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Questions relating to this article may be addressed to the writer, with stamped return envelope.



PHILATELY

THE FAMILY HOBBY



Fall in Love

WITH STAMP COLLECTING





A few Rocket Mail Covers from the writier's collection.

1. Greenwood Lake item referred to in the article, flown 2/23/36.
2. Flown in Austria, 10/30/61. Signed by Friedrich Schmiedl, the Pioneer of Rocket Mail.
3. Rocke gram flown in Sikkim, India, 4/8/35. Signed by Tashinamay Al and on reverse side by Stephen H. Smith.
4. Italian cover flown between two mountain top towns 5/27/74, referred to in the article. Signed by Glauco Partel.
5. Aerogram on rocket flight Sweden to Norway, 8/24/69.
6. Flown aboard U.S. Space Shuttle "Challenger". Launched 8/30/83. .returned to earth 9/5/83.
7. Flown in rocket "Skyscraper" Mohave Desert 2/16/73. Signed by J.C. Kulaugh and David Deutsch.
8. On first rocket flight in Poland, Klucze (Kracow) 10/6/60.
9. On rocket flight Nevada to California, 12/31/58, signed by Willy Ley.
10. First Official Missile Mail, U.S.P.D., from U.S. Submarine Barbero, 5/8/59.
11. First Cuban Rocket Flight, with World's First Official Government rocket stamp, Havana 10/15/39.
12. Astoria, New York, item referred to in the article, flown 9/22/35.



SPECIAL OFFER

While our President, David Deutsch, was spending long hours working on the preceeding fine article **The Rocket Story** and **The Origin of Rocket Mail** we searched for a supply of our FIRST MAN ON THE MOON COVER issued in 1969 and featuring Brother Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.

A very limited supply of the above cover is available

Send \$3.00 and your SASE to:

MOON COVER

Masonic Stamp Club of New York

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46 West 24th Street

New York, New York 10010

1934



OUR 50th ANNIV

OCTOBER





ANNIVERSARY DINNER

12, 1984

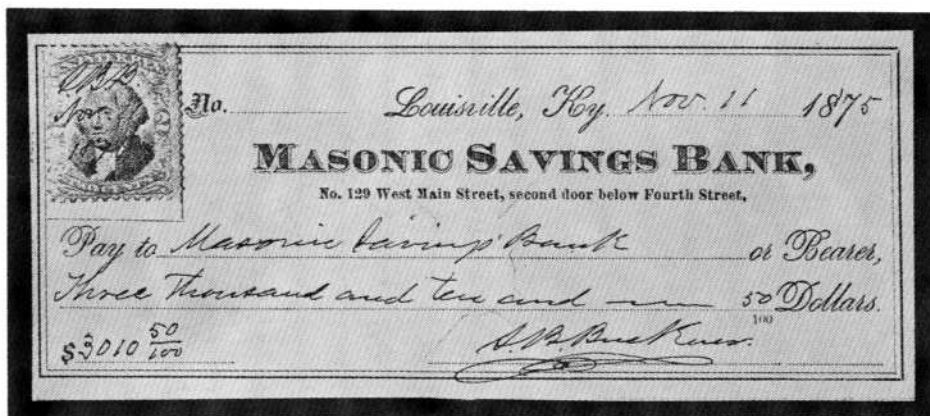


IS THERE A MASONIC CONNECTION HERE?

By George H. Wettach

One of my hobbies (or vices) is collecting autographs. Some I write for directly and some I purchase from autograph dealers. I was able to get signatures from an astronaut and a Nobel Prize winner in person but opportunities like those don't happen often.

One particular purchase intrigued me because it was a check drawn on the Masonic Savings Bank of Louisville, Kentucky on November 11, 1875 by Simon Bolivar Buckner who had been a Confederate General and also Governor of Kentucky.



This acquisition started me on two lines of research. The first was to find out about the beginning and the end (at least under that name) of the Masonic Savings Bank. The second was to verify the Masonic status of Simon Bolivar Buckner.

I started off with my own copy of **10,000 Famous Freemasons** which stated that General Buckner was a Freemason, but with no Lodge mentioned. Then a search through **House Undivided - The Story of Freemasonry and the Civil War**, which is in the Library of the Grand Lodge of New York, uncovered the statement that General Buckner was a Mason but without any other substantiation.

In my further research I found the persons contacted to be very helpful and cooperative. James C. Klotter, General Editor of the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort very kindly sent me photocopies of pages from the **History of the Ohio Falls Counties**, published in 1882. From this source I learned that the Masonic Savings Institution was chartered February 24, 1864. It opened the following January with \$56,000 capital. In 1868 the capital was increased to \$250,000 and the name was changed to Masonic Savings Bank. Mr. Klotter's covering letter indicated much additional research on his part. From him I learned that a history of Louisville written in 1896 does not list the bank as operating then. He surmises that it closed its doors some time between 1882 and 1896, possibly during the Panic of 1893. He also checked the 1891 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky (mentioned in **10,000 Famous Freemasons**) and found several Buckners but not Simon B.

Knowing from personal experience that banks frequently change their names when merging with another bank, I contacted the chairmen of two of the oldest banks in Louisville to see if their banks had absorbed the Masonic Savings Bank some time in the past. These inquiries led me to The Filson Club in Louisville which apparently has a huge file of historical records.

Nettie Watson of the Filson Club very kindly looked through their records on General Buckner. Although General Buckner was an early member of the Club, their biographical material on him does not mention any Masonic affiliation. Miss Watson also checked the biography entitled **Simon Bolivar Buckner** by Arndt M. Stickles, published in 1940 by the University of North Carolina Press. The book goes into great detail about General Buckner's life. There is no mention of Masonic rituals in the description of his funeral.

All this leaves us at an impasse. Was Simon Bolivar Buckner a Mason or was he not? His selection of the Masonic Savings Bank hints that he **might** have been a Mason. The Grand Lodge records and the report of his funeral do not indicate that he was Mason. He could have been made a Mason in some other jurisdiction than Kentucky, of course.

At least we have the following Masonic connections on the illustrated check; the most obvious is the name of the bank; Brother George Washington's portrait is on the required revenue stamp on the check; Simon Bolivar, the Liberator, after whom General Buckner was named, was a Mason. It would be nice to be able to prove that General Buckner was also a Mason to really wrap it all up Masonically. Further information about the Masonic Savings Bank or General Buckner's Masonic status would be appreciated by the author.

**GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK**

The President of
THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK
Bro. David Deutsch
invites
Members of the Club
and
Brothers who wish to join the Masonic Stamp Club
to a meeting of the Club
for the conferral of the
DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILATELY
on
Wednesday - 8 May 1985 - 7:30 p.m.
the evening of the closing session of
Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge
in the
French Doric Room
Masonic Hall - 10th Floor
46 West 24th Street
New York, New York

Book Review

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, Editor

MASONIC PHILATELY

**By Trevor V. Fray, Published by Harry Hayes,
48-50 Trafalgar Street, Bailey West Yorkshire, WF 17 7HA Gt. Britain.
56 pg., Plastic-coated cover - Vo. 1 - Price £5.60, Includes Postage.**

This handy manual introduces a philatelic study by the many American, British and other known Philatelists who have contributed their respective research in the dozens of publications relating to Masonic Philately. A biographical sketch of the author who has spent 25 years in the craft, and familar background of Masonry. Brother Fray has been a collector for over thirty years and spent nearly eight years preparing this study of Masonic Philately.

A short chapter on the Background and Masonic Theme relating to the craft helps the new collector in acquiring the tools in building his own personal collection. The international scope of our fraternity makes the collecting of stamps both a continuous relating study, as far as one wished to purse.

Fray provides the religious and charitable aspects of free masonry, a chapter relating to subject material appearing on stamps, and the masonic theme for the collection, a chapter on how to build and store their stamps and related postal material, and the use of the stamp catalogue. Fray's work refers to Stanley Gibbons simplified (Stamps of the World) published in two volumes. Other suggestions are offered and advice given.

General
Services
Administration

Harry S. Truman Library
National Archives and
Records Service

Independence,
Missouri 64050



August 22, 1984

Mr. Nick Batalias
27-05 Urban Place
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410

Dear Mr. Batalias:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent donation to the Harry S. Truman Library.

The "First Day of Issue" Colorano Silk Cachet featuring Greta Kempton's portrait of Harry S. Truman in full Masonic regalia and including the Truman commemorative coin will be placed in the museum collections of the Library.

During this centennial year of Mr. Truman's birth we have been pleased to receive many donations from people around the country who wish to remember the former President. It is in that spirit that I wish to thank you for your gift. I hope that you enjoyed your recent visit to the Truman Library.

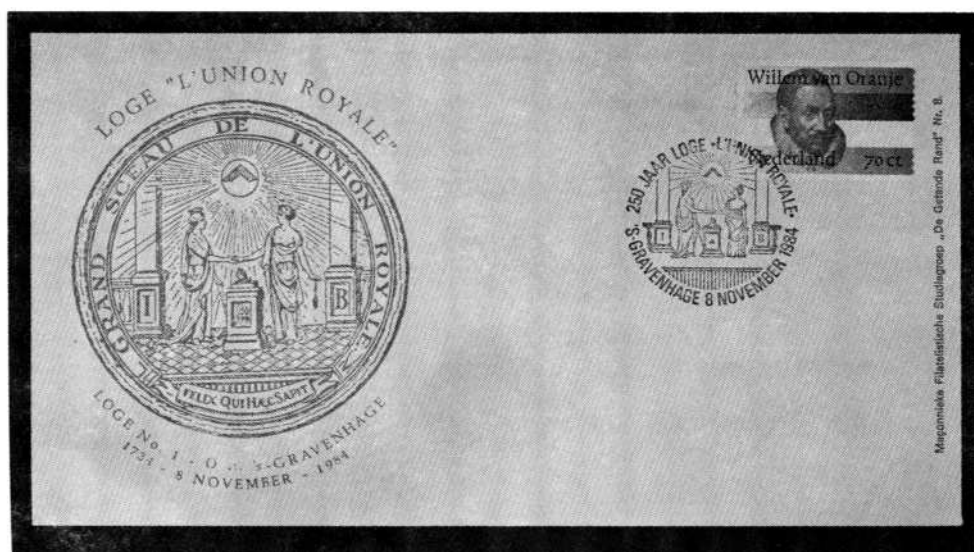
Sincerely,

BENEDICT K. ZOBRIST
Director



The President Truman 20c issue (Scott #1854) First Day of Issue Cover January 26, 1984 together with the 1-5/8 U.S. Mint Truman Medal and the full color portrait of President Truman as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. A very limited supply is available at a cost of \$6.00 each plus 54c postage. **DO NOT SEND SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE AS THIS COVER REQUIRES SPECIAL PACKAGING.** Send your orders to:

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Fairlawn, New Jersey 07410





W. F. SMIT
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Tel. 08373-12607

Heelsum, November 12, 1984.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York
c/o Dr. Allan Boudreau.

Masonic Hall - Box 10

46 West 24th Street

NEW YORK, NY 10010, U. S. A.

Dear Bro. Boudreau,

This is to let you know, that the Masonic Philatelic Studygroup "De Getande Rand" has issued a new special Masonic cover for the 250th anniversary of the eldest Lodge in the Netherlands, Lodge "L'UNION ROYALE" No. 1, E. The Hague.

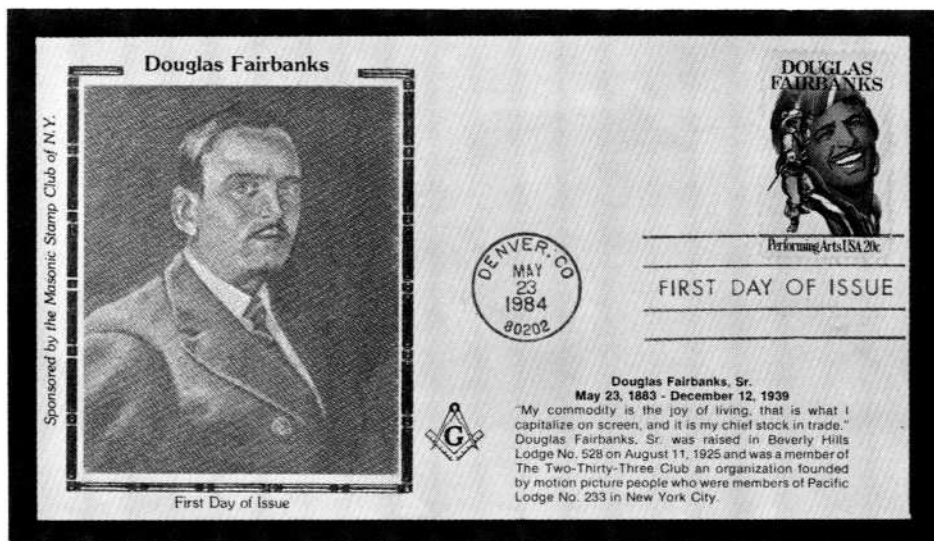
I am sending you this Masonic cover with the special postmark placed at our disposal by the Postmaster General. This cover is for sale at the price of \$ 1,50 included postage for sending in a closed envelope by air-mail. 8 copies for \$ 10,-. Order with me, W.F. Smit, Utrechtseweg 33 C, 6866 CH HEELSUM, Netherlands. I am sorry to say, that only US \$ bills can be accepted. Cheques cannot be accepted, due to difficulties in cashing the cheque.

I would like to ask you if you would be so kind to make an announcement in your magazine with a photo-copy of this cover, to enable the members and other Brethern to order this cover.

Looking forward to hear from you, and thanking you in advance for the announcement of the Masonic cover in your magazine, with kind regards,

Fraternally yours,

W.F. Smit,
President Masonic Philatelic
Studygroup "De Getande Rand".



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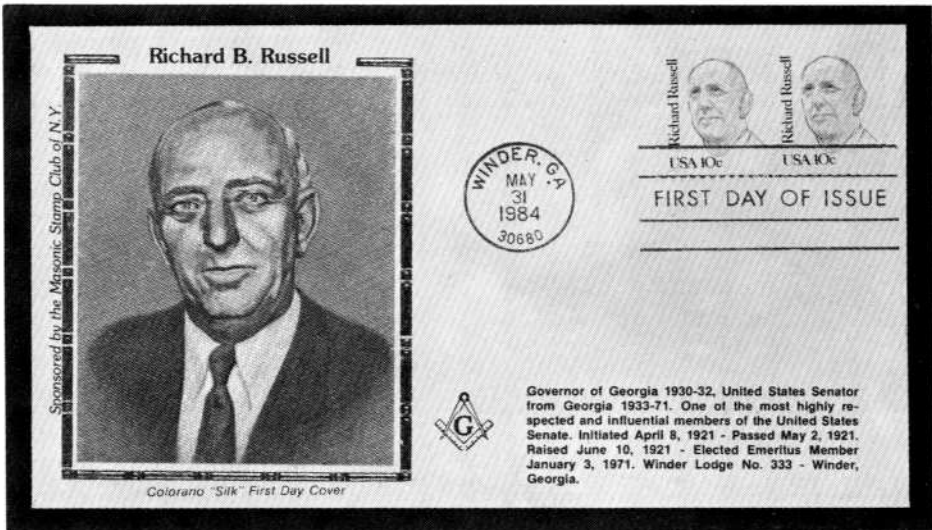
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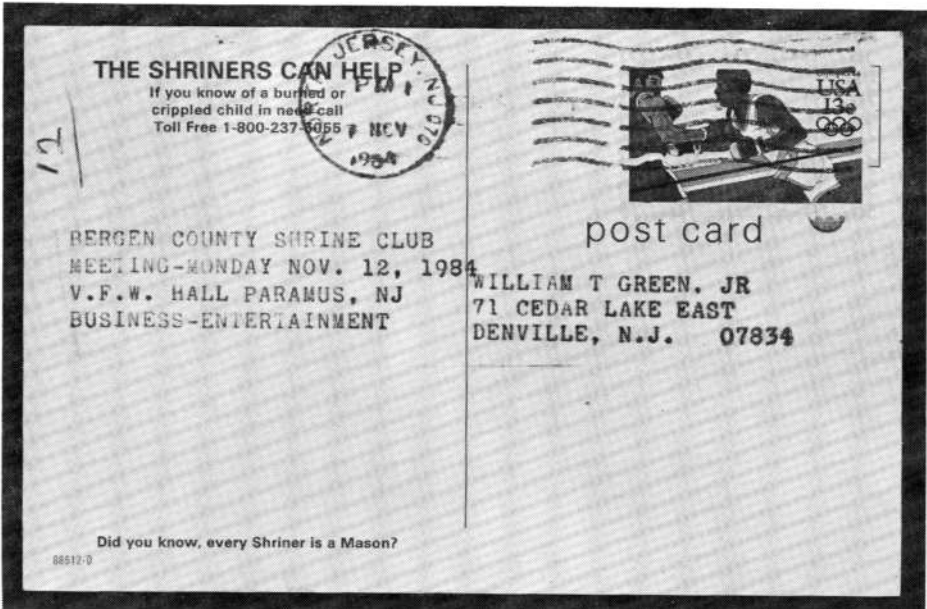
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**NO MAN
EVER STANDS
SO TALL...
AS WHEN
HE STOOPS
TO HELP
A CRIPPLED
CHILD.**

More Than Meets The Eye — By: George H. Wettach

The President of the Bergen County (New Jersey) Shrine Club has been using the illustrated Shrine postcard for his meeting notices. His name does not appear anywhere on the postcard but a clue to his identity is found in the postage stamp used, the 13¢ Olympic stamp of 1984 that shows two boxers. The President is R. W., Rudy Anzalone, D.D.G.M. of the Twenty-fifth Masonic District of New Jersey. Brother Anzalone uses that particular stamp to subtly remind the members that he used to be an active boxer a number of years ago. The question that comes to mind is, what does he do with the other three stamps in each block that portray an archer, a discus thrower and a pole vaulter?



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