

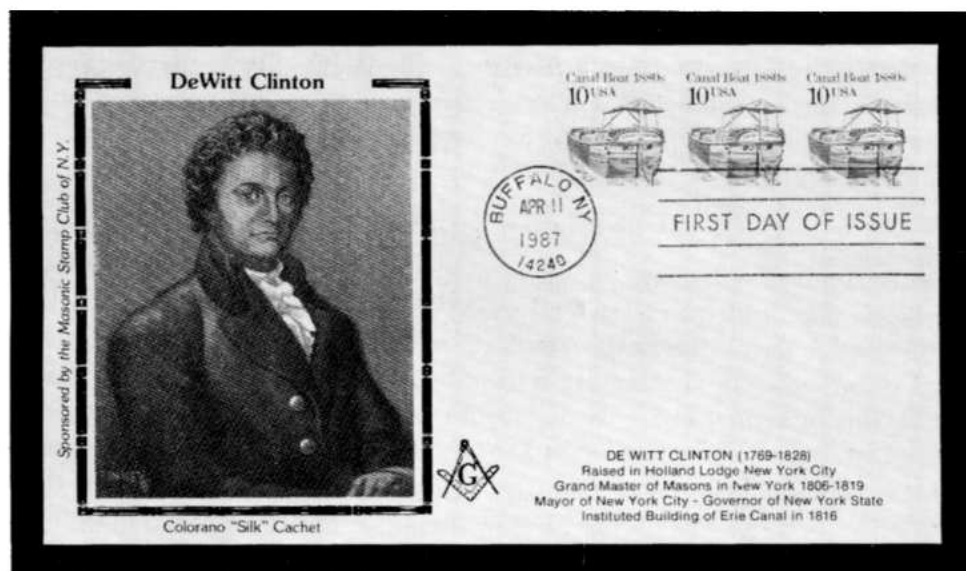
The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY

VOL. 43

SEPTEMBER 1987

NO. 3



**New DeWitt Clinton Canal Boat
First Day Cover**

See Special Offer on Page 21

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 43

NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 1987

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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.

The Editor invites all members to submit items of information and articles on the subject of Masonic Philately. Typewritten copy and/or camera ready items will result in the best possible presentation of your material if it is selected for use.

ON THE COVER

We feature the 10¢ Canal boat 1880's stamp that was first issued in Buffalo, New York on April 11, 1977.

DeWitt Clinton is best remembered as the person who was responsible for the construction of the Erie Canal in New York State that connected the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain with the Atlantic Ocean. The Erie Canal was responsible for the rapid development of middle America.

DeWitt Clinton was also a prominent Mason, Grand Master in New York for fourteen years and a major figure in many of the concordant Masonic organizations. His record in public life as United States Senator, Mayor of New York City and Governor of New York State has never been equaled.

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

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SOME NOTES ON DE WITT CLINTON

IN THE early history of the Grand Lodge of New York, as in the early history of the Empire State itself, it is odd how the name of DeWitt Clinton constantly reappears. No diligent searcher of the archives either of the State or of New York Freemasonry can ignore this repetition or fail to assign to it a due meed of recognition. By the fact of the construction of the Erie Canal, DeWitt Clinton assured to New York City the commercial supremacy over rival American seaports which it enjoys to this day. By the fact of his labor to bring unity and harmony to a distracted Masonic Craft, he helped establish the sound foundation on which the Grand Lodge of New York rests to this very hour.

Mere recapitulation of the offices and places of honor this man held in the State, in private society and in the Fraternity affords astounding testimony to the variety of his genius. He sprang from sturdy stock. When King Charles I of England was losing both his crown and his head in the Cromwellian wars, among his stanch adherents was a certain English gentleman, William Clinton by name, who saved his own head by the unpleasant process of going into permanent exile. He settled in northern Ireland and there founded a new patrimony. His grandson, Charles Clinton, emigrated to America in 1729, settling in Orange County, New York. To him were born four sons, Alexander and Charles, both physicians, George, afterwards Governor, and James, afterwards known as General Clinton, a soldier of distinction in the Revolutionary War. The General married Mary DeWitt. Their third son, DeWitt Clinton, was born at Little Britain in Orange County, on March 2, 1769.

This youth received early instruction in a grammar school conducted by the Rev. John Moffat. Later he attended Kingston Academy and still later Columbia College, from which, at the age of 15, he was graduated at the head of his class, receiving an A.B. degree. For three years he studied law in the private office of Samuel Jones. He was admitted to the bar in 1788, although his professional practice thereafter appears to have been slight. His uncle, Governor George Clinton, offered him an appointment as his private secretary, acceptance of which committed him definitely to a career in politics.

It was said of him that he was an indefatigable worker. It was his habit to rise at dawn, or perhaps several hours earlier, and spend some hours in study before beginning his routine of daily work. Espousing the political theories of the Republican party, he early threw himself into polemics of the kind fashionable in those days. He fleshed his maiden spear in such redoubtable

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opponents as Hamilton, Madison and Jay, to whose letters in the *Federalist* he replied with other letters signed "A Countryman." Nor did he always come off second best in those epistolary passages at arms.

His avuncular protector pushed the young man's fortunes as rapidly as might be, appointing him first a secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and then a secretary of the Board of Commissioners of State Fortifications. In 1797 and 1798 he served as a member of the State Assembly. Then after serving as member of the State Senate for four years, he became United States Senator at the age of 33. From 1803 to 1807 he was Mayor of New York City. He was again Mayor in 1809; after an interregnum in 1810 he became Mayor again in 1811 and served to 1815. In 1811 he was also Lieutenant Governor. In 1812 he was defeated for President of the United States by James Madison, receiving 89 out of 211 electoral votes. In 1817 he was elected Governor of New York and was re-elected three times. He was Governor on the day of his death, in 1828. In 1824 he declined an appointment by President Adams as American Minister to England.

Throughout his political career, Clinton championed the cause of those whom Lincoln afterward called the plain people. He early became convinced that in popular education lay the greatest hope of the nation. He was a prime mover in the establishment and upbuilding of the State's system of free public schools. He helped organize the State Historical Society and the State Library. Cooper Union, the Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Fine Arts and numerous lyceums in all the principal cities of the State were some of the later fruits of this planning.

In the opinion of many persons, all DeWitt Clinton's other achievements are dwarfed in comparison with the consequences that flowed out of construction of the Erie Canal. For a long time far-sighted men had seen the advantages New York might gain by means of waterways connecting the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain with tidewater, but the engineering difficulties had seemed insurmountable. In 1805 the Legislature had made a tentative effort in this direction by authorizing a survey, but nothing came of it except that DeWitt Clinton happened to be a member of the commission entrusted with the task. In 1810 he explored the entire route from Lake Erie to the Hudson and decided in his own mind that a canal would be feasible. The War of 1812 drove the project out of public attention for the time being, but Clinton himself never forgot it.

In 1814 he traveled over the State, explaining his views and urging that something be done. At first his proposals were widely ridiculed by influential persons, but the public was with Clinton. In 1816 it chose a Legislature favorable to the enterprise. That body made Clinton chairman of a commission to prepare surveys and estimates. In 1817, when he became Governor,

SOME NOTES ON DEWITT CLINTON

he was in a position to press the work. This he did so vigorously that in 1825 the canal was opened. In October of that year Clinton began a triumphal progress from Buffalo to New York on the boat "Seneca Chief," in the course of which he dedicated the canal with appropriate Masonic ceremonies.

This canal brought the produce of a western empire to the doors of New York City and enabled New York City to become the foremost maritime center in the New World. Great cities grew up along its banks; trade and industry everywhere were stimulated. New States sprang up to the westward and prospered because of this convenient outlet of trade. It may be doubted that any other single factor more signally contributed to the early commercial expansion of the nation.

In Masonry as in public life, DeWitt Clinton was indefatigable and successful. He was made a Mason in Holland Lodge on September 3, 1790, having been proposed by the Worshipful Master. In 1792 he served the Lodge as Secretary; minutes written in his hand are still preserved. In 1793 he was elected Senior Warden and in 1794 became Worshipful Master. The advent into Grand Lodge of a man of his singular ability must have brought pleasure to that body, then engaged in the difficult task of welding into a single fraternity Lodges in various parts of the State, of various Masonic parentage and diverse aspirations.

From the beginning he appeared as a Great Conciliator. The first Grand Lodge task of any importance assigned to him was that of serving on a committee to arrange for Masters Lodge No. 2 of Albany to come under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. This was part of a general movement for unity and harmony that seemed to go smoothly enough when DeWitt Clinton was on hand and to go less smoothly whenever he was absent. One of the earliest Masonic documents associated with his Grand Lodge career was a circular letter outlining a plan for stabilizing the uncertain financial situation of the Craft. In 1795 he was again busy at his work of conciliation, being member of a committee that ironed out a long and bitter dispute among members of St. John's Lodge No. 6. The details of this transaction are too long and involved for rapid summary here, but the task was ultimately brought to a happy termination.

Within less than five years from the time when he had been made a Mason, DeWitt Clinton was elected Junior Grand Warden. In 1798 he was elected Senior Grand Warden. In 1806 he was elected Grand Master and served continuously in that office until June 7, 1820, when he declined another reelection and was replaced by Daniel D. Tompkins, Vice President of the United States. In 1816 he was made Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States and served in that capacity for more than ten years. When the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant

SOME NOTES ON DEWITT CLINTON

Orders was constituted on June 18, 1814, DeWitt Clinton was made its first officer under what was then the title of Thrice Illustrious Grand Master. When the General Grand Encampment was formed, he became General Grand Master, holding that office at the time of his death.

During a great part of Clinton's grandmastership Grand Lodge was continuously harrassed by difficulties attending the collection of dues. The long quarrel between Country Masons and City Masons that was destined afterward to result in schism was even then smoldering. For a time efforts were made to bring about coöperation through Grand Inspectors, whose principal duty was to collect dues. Finally an arrangement was effected under Clinton's leadership that had every prospect of success. The State outside the metropolitan area was divided into three districts, each under the oversight of a Grand Visitor. This system was overthrown soon after Clinton left the Grand East. It is perhaps significant that the first great break, resulting in two Grand Lodges, followed soon after the plan was abandoned.

So much has been said about the Governor's skill as an administrator that sight has been lost of the fact that he was also one of the Fraternity's great philosophers. Indeed, the Masonic student who reads some of his addresses is struck with amazement to discover how closely Clinton's theories of the origins and functions of the Institution harmonize with the most advanced of modern views. At a time when Masonic scholarship, so-called, was highly uncritical, DeWitt Clinton was critical in the best modern acceptance of the term. A quotation or so will illustrate the point. In his inaugural address as Grand Master in 1806, among other things he said:

"Its origin is lost in the abyss of unexplored antiquity. No historical records, no traditional accounts can point out the time, the place or the manner of its commencement. While some have endeavored to discover its footsteps among the master-builders and artists engaged in the construction of the Jewish Temple, others have attempted to trace it to the Eleusinian mysteries which are said to have taught the immortality of the soul, and other sublime truths of natural religion. Some again have ascribed its rise to the sainted heroes of the Crusades, while others have endeavored to penetrate the mysteries of the Druids, and to discover its origin among the wise men of that institution. Amid this uncertainty, which must ever result from the absence of written history, our safest course is to avoid a particular conclusion, and to rest satisfied with the general conviction that our Society is the most ancient benevolent institution in the world. . . . Seeing the strong hold which Masonry has upon the human heart; that it entwines itself with the best sympathies of our nature, and is approved by the most enlightened faculties of the mind; that all the terrors of punishment, that even the horrid Inquisition has not been able to destroy the Institution; that, like the true religion, it has flourished on the blood-stained soil of persecution — who can fail to realize its worth?"

SOME NOTES ON DEWITT CLINTON

Again in an address delivered in Grand Lodge on September 29, 1825, he said:

"Enthusiastic friends of our Institution have done it much injury, and covered it with much ridicule, by stretching its origin beyond the bounds of credulity. Some have given it an antediluvian origin, while others have represented it as coeval with the creation; some have traced it to the Egyptian priests; and others have discovered its vestige in the mystical societies of Greece and Rome. The erection of Solomon's Temple, the retreats of the Druids, and the Crusades to the Holy Land, have been at different times specially assigned as the sources of its existence. The order, harmony and wonders of creation, the principles of mathematical science, and the productions of architectural skill, have been confounded with Masonry. Whenever a great philosopher has enlightened the ancient world, he has been resolved by a species of moral metempsychosis or intellectual chemistry into a Free Mason; and in all the secret institutions of antiquity the footsteps of Lodges have been traced by the eye of credulity. Archimedes, Pythagoras, Euclid and Vitruvius were, in all probability, not Free Masons; and the love of order, the cultivation of science, the embellishment of taste, and the sublime and beautiful works of art, have certainly existed in the ancient, as they do now in the modern times, without the agency of Freemasonry. Our Fraternity has thus suffered under the treatment of well-meaning friends, who have undesignedly inflicted more injuries upon it than its most virulent enemies . . . but our Institution, clothed with celestial virtue, and armed with the panoply of truth, has defied all the storms of open violence and resisted all the attacks of insidious imposture; and it will equally triumph over the errors of friendship, which, like the transit of a planet over the disk of the sun, may produce a momentary obscuration, but will instantly leave it in the full radiance of its glory."

The severest test to which Clinton's Masonry was subjected was imposed by the excitement attendant on the Morgan Affair. He was Governor of the State at that time and was simultaneously the titular leader of Royal Arch Masonry and Knight Templarism. His personal fortunes were tremendously involved in the political turmoil of the time. His political enemies were numerous, able and bitter. Many of them sought at once to capitalize the growing anti-Masonic frenzy into an agency for the Governor's ruin.

The firm and adroit manner in which he met this crisis did infinite credit both to his head and his heart. As Chief Executive of the State, sworn to enforce the laws, he proceeded with vigor to inquire into all circumstances connected with the abduction and disappearance of Morgan. He offered pecuniary rewards for information that would establish the fact of any crime and bring the guilty to justice. He placed the resources of his high office behind the machinery of criminal jurisprudence. He condemned as un-Masonic the misguided efforts of the fanatics who had brought Masonry into disrepute. At the same time, he wrote one of the ablest defenses Freemasonry received in those troubled times, saying, among other things:

"I am persuaded, however, that the body of Freemasons, so far from having any participation in this affair, or giving any countenance to it, reprobate it as a

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most unjustifiable act, repugnant to the principles, and abhorrent to the doctrines of the Fraternity. I know that Freemasonry, properly understood and faithfully attended to, is friendly to religion, morality, liberty, and good government, and I shall never shrink, under any state of excitement, or any extent of misrepresentation, from bearing testimony in favor of the purity of an institution, which can boast of a Washington, a Franklin and a Lafayette, as distinguished members, and which inculcates no principles and authorizes no acts, that are not in perfect accordance with good morals, civil liberty, and entire obedience to government and the laws. It is no more responsible for the acts of unworthy members, than any other association, or institution. Without intending in the remotest degree a comparison, or improper illusion [allusion?] I might ask whether we ought to revile our holy religion, because Peter denied and Judas betrayed."

The various official pronouncements of Governor Clinton in regard to the Morgan Affair are of public record and often have been quoted. They disclose on his part conduct of unimpeachable integrity. Even the bitterest of his political opponents afterwards admitted that Clinton had handled this difficult business in a manner that put forever to rest "those foul slanders" with which at the height of the excitement his name had been assailed.

Clinton's death came suddenly on February 11, 1828. Some months before, his physician had warned him he was subject to a fatal heart attack, but with characteristic firmness he replied, "I am not afraid to die." He did not wish either his friends or his foes to know of his danger. Outwardly strong and vigorous he seemed the embodiment of physical and mental power. On the very day of the fatal seizure he conducted business as usual. After leaving the executive chambers at Albany, he went to his home at North Pearl and Steuben streets, where he wrote some letters and conversed with his son. He complained of constriction in the chest; a short time afterward he expired.

Announcement of his death brought expressions of grief from all parts of the nation. When his estate was wound up it was found not to exceed in value some \$5,000 or \$10,000. It was commonly said of him at the time that he died pure and poor. Politics had not been for him a means of personal aggrandizement.

A secular historian, DeAlva Stanwood Alexander, in his "A Political History of the State of New York," gives a concise and convincing character sketch of this eminent New Yorker. He says:

"Of DeWitt Clinton it may fairly be said that 'his mourners were two hosts — his friends and his foes.' Everywhere, regardless of party, marks of the highest respect and deepest grief were evinced. The Legislature voted \$10,000 to his four minor children, an amount equal to the salary of a canal commissioner during the time he had served without pay. Indeed nothing was left undone or unsaid which would evidence veneration for his memory and sorrow for his loss. He had lived to complete his work and enjoy the reward of a great achievement. Usually benefactors of the people are not so fortunate; their halo, if it comes at all, usually

SOME NOTES ON DE WITT CLINTON

forms long after death. But Clinton seemed to be the creature of timely political accidents. The presentation of his canal scheme had made him Governor on July 1, 1817; and he represented the State when ground was broken at Rome on July 4; his removal as canal commissioner made him Governor again in 1825; and he represented the State at the completion of the work. On both occasions he received the homage of the entire people, not only as champion of the canal, but as head of the Commonwealth for which he had done so much.

"... Clinton's career was absolutely faultless in two respects — as an honest man, and a husband, only praise is due him. He died poor and pure. Yet there are passages in his history which evidence great defects. Life had been for him one long dramatic performance. Many great men seem to have a suit of armor in the form of coldness, brusqueness, or rudeness, which they put on to meet the stranger, but which, when laid aside, reveals simple, charming, and often boyish manners. Clinton had such an armor, but he never put it off, except with intimates, and not then with any revelation of warmth. He was cold and arrogant, showing no deference even to seniors, since he denied the existence of superiors. Nobody loved him; few really liked him; and, except for his canal policy, his public career must have ended with his dismissal from the New York mayoralty. It seemed a question whether he really measured up to the stature of a statesman. Nevertheless, the judgment of posterity is easily on the side of Clinton's greatness. . . . Like a captain of industry he combined the statesman and the practical man of affairs, turning great possibilities into greater realities. It may be fairly said of him that his career made an era in the history of his State, and that in asserting the principle of internal improvements he blazed the way that guided all future comers."

Clinton was twice married. By his first wife, Maria Franklin, he had seven sons and three daughters. After her death he married Catharine Jones in 1819.

It is perhaps advisable to close these notes on his life with a quotation from an address he delivered on July 22, 1823 to the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity of Union College at Schenectady:

"Whatever may be our thoughts, our words, our writings, or our actions, let them be subservient to the promotion of science and the prosperity of our country. Pleasure is a shadow, wealth is a vanity, and power is a pageant; but knowledge is ecstatic in enjoyment, perennial in fame, unlimited in space, and infinite in duration. In the performance of its sacred office, it fears no danger, spares no expense, omits no exertion. It scales the mountain, looks into the volcano, dives into the ocean, perforates the earth, wings its flight into the skies, encircles the globe, explores sea and land, contemplates the distant, examines the minute, comprehends the great and ascends the sublime."

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Also cf.: *New York's Debt to DeWitt Clinton*, article by James E. Craig, *The Masonic Outlook*, September 1926; and

Third of the Line, article by James E. Craig, *The Masonic Outlook*, April 1931.



**DeWitt Clinton Monument
Greenwood Cemetery — Brooklyn, New York**

George Washington Masonic Stamp Club



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FALL SCHEDULE

Saturday September 5 BALPEX SHOW

2:30 P.M. Parlour Room Hunt Valley, Md.

Spend the day enjoying the annual BALPEX exhibit, join the brethren for our meeting with dinner at 5:30 PM at the Steak & Ale Restaurant at 601 Timonium Rd., Timonium, Md.

Saturday October 24 YORK ART ASSOCIATION

220 S. Marshall St.
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2:30 P.M. Meeting
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then go one block on
eastern Ave. and turn
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York Art Assoc. is at
end of street.

THERE WILL BE A MINI-LESSON
FOR THE LADIES BY AN ART
INSTRUCTOR during our meeting.

Saturday November 28 Plymouth Masonic Temple
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2:30 P.M. Bro. Zollickoffer will again arrange for
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This is always a lively auction! Donations
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CHURCH AND STATE AND UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS

by Bro. Warren B. Bezanson

William Pitt Lodge No. 734

Greenville, North Carolina

How many of us realize that the United States Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have issued about 150 postage stamps with religious implications? From time to time, the press has reported the concern of some groups about Christmas stamps or those depicting persons clearly identified with a particular denomination. However, the opposition has never reached the magnitude of other church-state arguments.

Religion on stamps is a matter of interest to stamp collectors who specialize in specific issues. One of the study units of the American Topical Association, the Collectors of Religion on Stamps (COROS), and individual stamp collectors have published and written handbooks and articles on the subject.

The widely circulated *Linn's Stamp News* has dealt with it from time to time. The principal themes in these discussions are: (a) religious freedom, (b) the Bible, (c) Biblical quotations and the name of God, (d) churches, (e) Christmas, (f) religious groups and movements, and (g) clergymen and religious leaders.

Particularly notable among the "religious freedom" stamps are the 3 cent Flushing Remonstrance (1957), bearing the words "Religious Freedom in America"; the 20 cent Touro Synagogue issue (1982), quoting George Washington's statement, "To bigotry, no sanction, To persecution, no assistance"; and the 4 cent Credo of Thomas Jefferson (1960), "I have sworn hostility against every form of TYRANNY over the mind of man."

Of those stamps dealing with the Bible, the prime example is the 3 cent "Gutenberg Bible Stamp," issued in 1952 for the 500th anniversary of the first major book printed with movable type. The book shown on the Flushing Remonstrance stamp is undoubtedly a Bible.

"What hath God wrought" on the 3 cent Telegraph Centenary stamp (1944), and "In the beginning God..." on the

6 cent *Apollo 8* commemorative (1969) are direct Biblical quotations. The motto "In God We Trust," found on the 3, 8, and 11 cent stamps of the 1954-59 Patriotic Series, is based on the Psalmist's "...in God is my trust," as is "In God is our trust" on the 4 cent Francis Scott Key Credo issue (1960).

Among the 18 postally illustrated churches, missions, and other religious edifices are the West Point Cadet Chapel on the 5 cent Army commemorative (1936-37), and the Alamo, on the 3 cent Texas Centennial stamp (1936) and on the 9 cent regular issue (1966). Two churches, Baltimore Cathedral and Trinity Church, Boston, are depicted on the 15 cent Architecture USA stamps (1979 and 1980). The Touro Synagogue commemorative, mentioned previously, shows that historic building in Newport, Rhode Island. Also, a postal card in the Historic Preservation series (1980) portrays the Mormon Salt Lake Tabernacle.

Christmas stamps, issued every year since 1962, are too familiar to warrant discussion, except to note that the Postal Service has always attempted to strike a balance between religious and secular themes, although even the "secular" issues are questioned by some who object to any governmental observance of religious holidays.

Many of the stamps commemorating religious groups and movements note the anniversaries of their coming to America. The Pilgrim Tercentenary (1920) was observed on a set of three stamps; 4 years later the Huguenot-Walloon 300th anniversary was recalled. A 2 cent stamp commemorated, in 1930, the arrival of the Puritans in Massachusetts Bay in 1630. In 1934 a 3 cent stamp depicted *The Ark* and *Dove*, two ships which brought the first Catholics to Maryland. The Salvation Army was honored in 1965, no doubt as a charitable agency, but the organization is also a church.

Forty stamps portray clergymen and religious leaders. Of particular interest to Masons should be President and Brother James A. Garfield, honored philatelically in 1888 and again in 1903 on regular issues, who was also an active Disciples of Christ minister for six years. The Reverend and Brother George Fox is one of the four chaplains who gave their lives in World War II so that others might live. He and another minister, a priest, and a rabbi are shown on the 1948, 3 cent stamp inscrib-

ed "These IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS...Interfaith in Action."

Other than the four chaplains mentioned above, no clergyman is identified as such except Father Edward J. Flanagan, so titled and shown wearing a clerical collar, on the 4 cent Great American series stamp. (The \$1 stamp in this series pictures Dr. Bernard Revel, renowned Talmudic scholar and rabbinical educator, wearing the yarmulke or skullcap.) Many robed priests friars, and other churchmen, most of them only tentatively identifiable, are portrayed on various issues commemorating historic events, ranging from the 1893 Columbians to the 1951 Detroit issues. Two recent issues, the 20 cent Francis of Assisi stamp (1982) and the 44 cent Junipero Serra airmail (1985), show the untitled subjects garbed in friar's robes. The first was intended to honor the man, rather than the saint, as a humanitarian, according to its defenders; the second, despite the Postal Service's assertion that it does not issue religious stamps, received "an international award as...the best religious stamp of 1985."*

*"USPS Receives Award for Best Religious Stamp,"
Linn's Stamp News, October 6, 1986.

The Masonic Book Club

The Masonic Book Club was organized in 1970 and has produced a bookshelf full of the best of Masonic books. Membership was limited to 333 members in 1970 but the increasing popularity of their publications had led to a present membership of 1,400. Any Masonic library will be improved by the addition of the books published by the Masonic Book Club.

Dues are \$15.00 US annually. Further information is available from:

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Emanuel A. Cassimatis

They each are to be congratulated for their unswerving loyalty to Freemasonry and its principles. This specially created cacheted cover is our way, thru philately, to thank these 33° York County Masons for their service and dedication to Freemasonry.

For further information, call —

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1429 3rd Avenue
York, Pennsylvania 17403
Telephone: 854-6257

Rt. 1, Box 44 A
LaVale, Md. 21502
May 22, 1987

Dear Brother Boudreau,

Enclosed is a set of covers commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Maryland Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. Also enclosed is a News Release concerning these covers.

We would appreciate greatly if information on these covers could be published in *The Masonic Philatelist*. An illustration of one or more of these covers in the "Journal" would also be appreciated. Sets of covers are available at \$4 per set and a Self Addressed Stamp Envelope. Orders may be sent to the Grand Lodge offices as shown on the News Release.

I have been a member of the New York Masonic Stamp Club for over 20 years and enjoy *The Masonic Philatelist* very much. Thank you for your efforts to promote Masonic Philately.

Fraternally,
Charles A. Orlick

Requests for the set of covers should be sent to:

Dr. John P. Coats Memorial Lodge
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland
225 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

A remittance of \$4.00 must be accompanied by a No. 10 Self Addressed Stamped Envelope.

Dr. John Coats
Patriot, Healer, Educator,
Humanitarian, Mason
1751 - 1810



The First
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Ancient Free
and Accepted Masons of
Maryland
Founded April 17, 1787



MASONIC STATION



TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF

MARYLAND FREEMASONRY

1787 - 1987

APRIL 17, 1987

M.W. Thomas J. Shryock
Grand Master of Masons
1885 - 1918



Grand Master when Centennial
was Observed in 1887
Served 33 Years as Grand Master



MASONIC STATION



TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF

MARYLAND FREEMASONRY

1787 - 1987

APRIL 17, 1987

Bicentennial Anniversary
1787 - 1987

The
Grand Lodge
of



Ancient Free and
Accepted Masons
of
Maryland
U.S.A.



MASONIC STATION



TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF

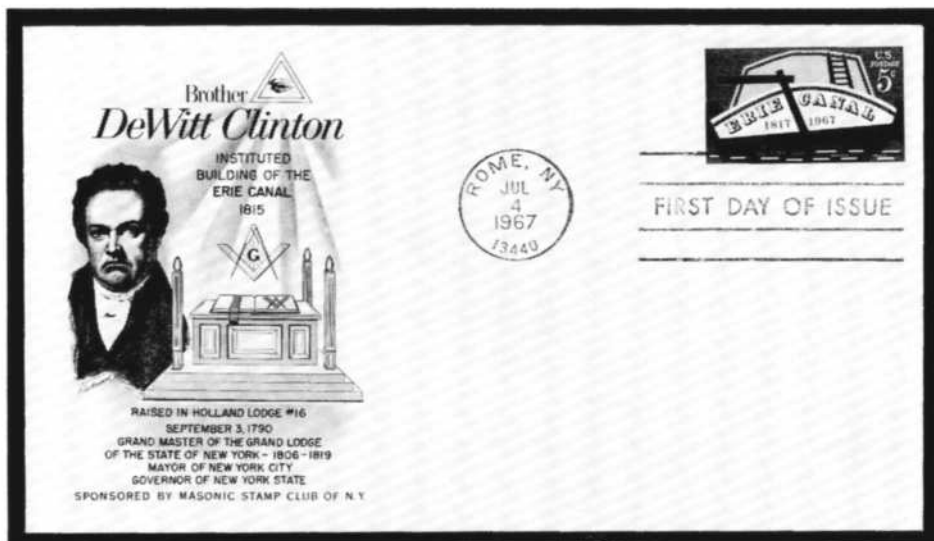
MARYLAND FREEMASONRY

1787 - 1987

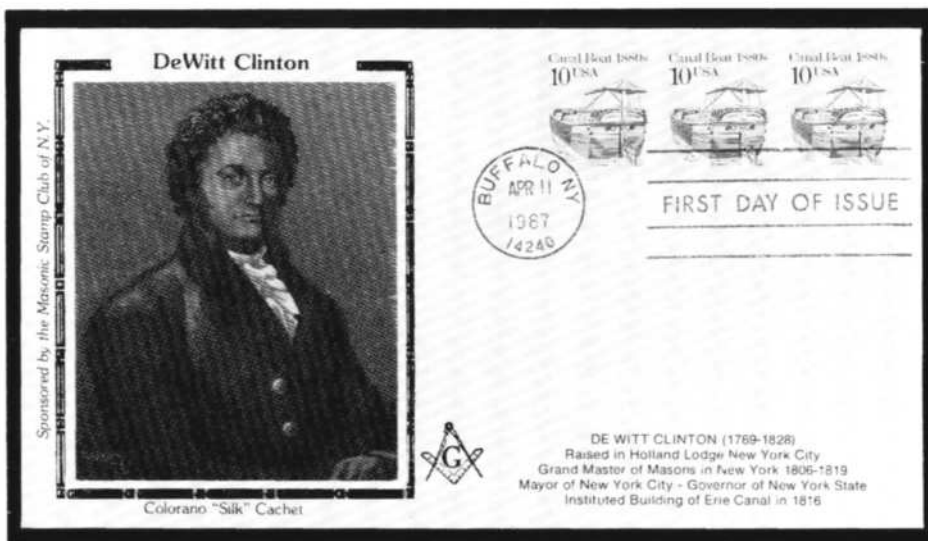
APRIL 17, 1987

**The President of
THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK
Bro. Nicholas Batalias
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, October 14, 1987 - 7:30 p.m.
in the
Doric Room
Masonic Hall - 8th Floor
46 West 24th Street
New York, New York**

**VISIT THE MASONIC BOOTH AT
ASDA
National
Madison Square Garden
EXPOSITION ROTUNDA
October 22-25, 1987
New York City**



SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS!



The 1967 Erie Canal Cover FREE!
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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York **OUR SPECIAL MASONIC COVERS**

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First Continental Congress, July 4, 1974	3.00	_____
Gerald R. Ford, August 9, 1974	3.00	_____
Paul Revere, April 18, 1975	3.00	_____
D. W. Griffith, May 27, 1975	3.00	_____
Nicholas Herkimer, August 6, 1977	3.00	_____
Articles of Confederation, Sept. 30, 1977	3.00	_____
George M. Cohan, July 3, 1978	3.00	_____
Will Rogers, November 4, 1979	3.00	_____
Obelisk, October 5, 1980	3.00	_____
James Hoban, October 13, 1981	3.00	_____
Franklin D. Roosevelt, January 30, 1982	3.00	_____
George Washington Memorial, May 12, 1982	3.00	_____
Great Seal of the U. S., June 15, 1982	3.00	_____
Touro Synagogue, August 22, 1982	3.00	_____
Masonic Stamp Club of NY, January 13, 1984	3.00	_____
Harry Truman, January 26, 1984	6.56	_____
Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., May 23, 1984	3.00	_____
Richard B. Russell, May 31, 1984	3.00	_____
Horace Augustus Moses, August 6, 1984	3.00	_____
Jerome David Kern, January 23, 1985	3.00	_____
Harry C. Stutz, June 11, 1985	3.00	_____
Frederick A. Bartholdi, July 18, 1985	3.00	_____
Hugo LaFayette Black, February 27, 1986	3.00	_____
William Jennings Bryant, March 19, 1986	5.00	_____
Statue of Liberty, July 4, 1986	2.00	_____
Canal Boat-DeWitt Clinton, April 11, 1987	3.00	_____
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WITH 22¢ POSTAGE ATTACHED

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Nicholas Batalias
 27-05 Urban Place
 Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410



The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

OUR SPECIAL MASONIC COVERS

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GEORGE WASHINGTON	January 20, 1960	\$2.00 _____
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CHECK OFF THE COVERS YOU WANT AND ENCLOSE PAYMENT

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Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

Freemasons' Contribution to the U.S. Constitution

WORDS THAT SOAR



They are only words on a piece of paper. And the old-fashioned writing is hard to read. That may be true, but what a piece of paper and what words! They soar like the American eagle, bearing aloft the essence of our democracy.

The tangible expression of one of the world's greatest ideas — that a nation might be governed by a set of rules, a mere 7,000 words.

And more impressive than the concept or the document is the fact that a great nation has lived by those rules and respected them for 200 years.

In the eighteenth century, there was no unity of government or widespread system of public communication. But there were 85 Masonic Lodges that provided the embryo nation with an organization through which people could meet and communicate ideas in friendship and trust.

As early as 1730, Daniel Cox, first provincial Grand Master of Masons in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, published a plan for the union of the colonies. In 1754, Benjamin Franklin, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, strongly advocated consideration of the Cox plan.

When the Constitution was completed, 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed it. And of them, one third were Freemasons: Gunning Bedford Jr., John Blair, David Brearly, Jacob Broom, Daniel Carroll, Jonathan Dayton, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Nicholas Gilman, Rufus King, James McHenry, William Paterson, and George Washington, the presiding officer.

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. It has thrived for some 600 years because its members cherish the goals that all people of good will seek — to live in friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

And, at its core, that's what the Constitution makes possible.

For as long as people respect the Constitution as their sufficient guide to sound and just government, that document will survive and bless future generations as it has ours and those before us.

Freemasons in New York State, and everywhere, join with all Americans in saluting the 200th anniversary of one of mankind's greatest treasures — the Constitution of the United States of America.



a message from the

*Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons
of the State of New York*