Brothers George Wettach, Irwin M. Yarry, Victor Fabian, Nicholas Batalias and Allan Boudreau in the Doric Room, Masonic Hall, New York City on October 14, 1987.
ON THE COVER

Brothers Wettach, Yarry, Fabian, Batalias, and Boudreau in the Doric Room, Masonic Hall, New York City on October 14, 1987 when the Master of Philately Degree was conferred.

President Batalias is holding a twelve inch rule presented to the Masonic Stamp Club by Victor Fabian, Titirangi Lodge No. 204 in Avondale, New Zealand.

Brother Fabian travelled an air distance of 7,672 nautical miles to receive the degree, a distance record that will be very difficult to top.

The twelve inch rule presented by Brother Fabian includes fourteen of the indigenous New Zealand timbers, from kahikatea to towai.

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

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
How I Built My
All-American Topical Collection

By Warren B. Bezanson

William Pitt Lodge No. 734 — Greenville, North Carolina

When I was a boy, my idea of stamp collecting was to fill as many spaces in a cheap worldwide album as possible, using earnings from a paper route to finance the hobby. Finally I gave up and the stamps wound up in my kid brother's hands.

Many years later my interest revived when I discovered that several friends were "into stamps". But what to collect? Having done graduate work in American Studies, I decided to concentrate on our national history and civilization as depicted on U.S. stamps. A stamp dealer to whom I mentioned my plan suggested that I join the American Topical Association. This I did and found both Topical Time and a number of the unit handbooks very useful.

Other publications have also been helpful. Among them are Bloomgarden's American History Through Postage Stamps, the Collectors Institute Pictorial Treasury of U.S. Stamps, annual editions of the Postal Guide to U.S. Stamps (available from post offices or the Philatelic Sales Division), as well as the Scott and Minkus catalogs. Two handy references on my bookshelf have been Scribner's Concise Dictionaries of American History and American Biography. But I depend most of all on the descriptive announcements of new issues in Linn's Stamps News and in Stamps The Weekly Magazine of Philately, founded by Harry Lindquist, a Charter Member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

With few exceptions, most of my stamps are 20th century issues, mint or used depending on availability or cost. I acquire them from Kiloware (for the fun of sorting), from dealers' lists, from stamp club swaps, and from the gifts of friends; current issues I buy at the post office or from the Philatelic Sales Division. For me, the hobby means personal enjoyment rather than investment or exhibition.
The collection has two parts, American History and American Civilization, currently mounted in eight albums, with few writeups — I let the stamps tell the story — except in the “spin-offs”, Masonry, (2 albums) and Religion (1 album) which have accompanying texts.

Many stamps appear several times, under different topics. Definitive and commemorative stamps honoring men and women prominent in American history or noted for their accomplishments and commemoratives celebrating historic events or depicting scenes, paintings, buildings, various artifacts, and all sorts of activities provide an almost endless supply of topical ideas.

To many collectors, my stamps would probably appear to have been mounted at random, for the layouts vary from topic to topic, and in multileaf entries from page to page. For historical subjects, I start by mounting stamps according to the chronology of events commemorated or the life-span of persons depicted. in the thematic albums, I try for a balanced layout. However, in both collections my basic patterns are affected by stamp size, periodic acquisition of new issues, and limited space. As I make up new pages for existing topics, systems seem to vanish.

The American History collection currently fills two albums, the first devoted to the following topics: Discovery and Exploration; Native Americans; Native Names on the Land; Settlement, Conquest, and Colonial Life; The American Revolution; Statesmen of the Revolutionary War Period; The Declaration of Independence; The Constitution; Other Historic Documents; The American Government: Presidency, Presidential Also-Rans, Congress, Supreme Court; and the first 13 states in order of entry into the Union.

The second American History album begins with the topic Territorial Growth, with succeeding pages for each of the states in order of admission, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone. Also in their proper chronological order are pages bearing stamps commemorating
the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. With the Civil War pages are two others, one of Lincoln stamps, and the other of Confederate counterfeits (the "Springfield facsimiles"), clearly labelled as such.

The American Civilization collection, not including the Masonry and Religion albums previously mentioned, covers 60 different topics, arranged alphabetically from Agriculture to Writers on American Stamps. A few topics, such as Bridges, or Canals, or Dams, take only one page each. Others range as high as 16 (Occupations) or 17 (Transportation: Air, Space, Land, Water). Part of the fun is discovering a topic I have never seen listed anywhere or thought of before until I spotted its possibility while looking over my duplicates, finding the nucleus there, checking the catalogs, and putting what I would need on my want list. Three of these topics were Historic Documents (which went into the first American History album), Slogans, Maxims, and Propaganda (242 stamps on 12 pages), and Domestic Animals (cattle, sheep, horses, poultry, dogs and cats). Look at the dog on the 100th Anniversary of Mail Order commem (Scott #1468, Minkus #CM694) — he’s pointing the cat!
29 December 1987

Bro. Irwin Yarry
Secretary
Masonic Stamp Club of New York
Masonic Hall Box 10
46 West 24th Street
New York, New York 10010

Dear Bro. Yarry,

This is a very much delayed reply to your letter of June 2, 1987 inviting contribution of materials for our magazine on Philippine Masonry.

Herewith are a couple of First Day Covers commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and a brief sketch of Philippine Masonry which may be useful in our publication.

Philatelic studies seem to indicate that this is the first Masonic stamp in Asia.

These FDC's are available at US $1.00 each air mailed upon receipt of order with remittance. As a collector of Masonic First Day Covers I'd exchange covers on a one to one basis.

Fraternally,

Carlos L. Inductivo
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
POSTAL SERVICES OFFICE
Manila

PHILIPPINE STAMPS NEWS

The Postal Services Office will issue on 19 December 1987 the stamps commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

PARTICULAR OF THE STAMPS

KIND OF ISSUE : Commemorative

SIZE : 27 x 37 mm. printed size of stamps

DENOMINATION & QUANTITY : P1.00 - - 125,000

SHEET COMPOSITION : 50

PROCESS OF PRINTING : Offset-Litho

NUMBER OF COLORS : Four (4)

PRINTER : APO-NEDA, Diliman, Q.C.
The first Masonic Lodge in the Philippines was established in Cavite in 1856 by two Spanish Navy Lieutenants, Jose Malcampo and Carlo Mendez Nunez, under the auspices of the Grand Oriente Lusitano de Portugal. They named their lodge La Primera Luz Filipina. It only admitted Spaniards as members, thus prompting Filipinos to join Masonic lodges abroad.

After sometime, the German residents in Manila organized their Scottish Rite Lodge under the Hong Kong charter and admitted the first Filipino Mason, Jacobo Zobel y Zangraniz. Then the British residents also set up their own lodge in the Pandacan district of Manila, having the more illustrious Filipinos of the period. Seeing that Filipinos were being admitted to other foreign lodges, the Spanish lodge finally opened their doors to Filipino Masons.

In 1891, the Filipino Masons in Spain decided to extend Masonry to the Philippines where lodges existed only for those of Spanish blood. Antonio Luna and Pedro Serrano drew up plans for this purpose. When Serrano arrived in the Philippines, bringing with him the authorization from Gran Oriente Espanol, he, Moises Salvador, Timoteo Paez and Jose Ramos organized the first Filipino lodge, Nilad, on January 2, 1892. This constituted the “Mother Lodge” from which other lodges were quickly set up around Manila and the provinces. One of their brethren was to be revered later as the greatest Filipino hero, Jose Rizal.

By 1897, due to relentless persecution by the Spanish authorities, all the existing lodges ceased their work.

With the coming of the Americans at the turn of the century, the lodges were reorganized by the surviving members. The lodges that emerged came under the Grand Lodge of California as well as the Grand Lodge of Scotland. On 19 December 1912 the three (3) lodges under the Grand Lodge of California formed the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Later on 13 February 1917, eleven (11) lodges under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and 28 Lodges under the Gran Logia Regional de Filipinas were unified.
BOOK REVIEW

Masonic Philately (Part 4)
By Trevor J. Fray

Once again it is my privilege and pleasure to comment on the fine work and scholarship of Trevor Fray in producing Part 4 of Masonic Philately, covering S to Z. Those who attack Freemasonry are always on about how secretive we are concerning our membership, yet if anyone really wants to know if someone is a freemason they only have to ask decently to find out. I am a Methodist and a freemason, and am proud to belong to both organizations. Yet my own Church in its so-called report stated that there are no public lists of lodges or of freemasons. They can quibble about the word public if they like, but the fact remains that the only public lists of both lodges and the officers of Grand Lodge, and of Methodist Churches and Methodist clergy, are in their Year Books, both of which are obtainable from their respective headquarters and you do not have to be a freemason or a Methodist to purchase copies.

There the difference ends, since the Masonic Year Book contains a very comprehensive list of EVERY ONE OF THE 9000 ODD LODGES IN THE WORLD OWNING ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, giving the names and numbers of the lodges, their location, the dates of meeting, with a special notation of the Installation (ie Annual General) meeting, and much more. Every lodge appears THREE TIMES. One list is in numerical order (semi-chronological) a second is divided into London lodges, Provincial Lodges, District (ie overseas) Lodges etc. The ‘Minutes of Conference and Methodist Year Book’ on the other hand only lists the main Churches without much detail. It is quite small, where as the Masonic Year Book is over 700 pages. It was at one time over 1000 pages until printing costs made this prohibitive. The third set of lists is Geographical, each Province and District in detail, including the names of the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy, Assistant and Secretary, with the towns arranged alphabetically, and the lodges in each, numerically.
Lists of freemasons: the Masonic Year Book lists every living officer of Grand Lodge, over 8,000 names. The Provincial/District Year Books cover Provincial officers plus the Masters, current lodge officers and all past Masters of every English lodge in the world with the exception of small isolated lodges overseas not in districts. In addition the 'Historical Supplement to the Masonic Year Books' gives a list of EVERY GRAND OFFICER WHO EVER LIVED, from 1717 onwards. I do not think the Methodist Church, (not so old as Freemasonry) can give us the names of every Methodist minister since they first split from the Church of England.

Other Grand Lodges have similar Year Books, but these are not so easily come by in this country. Trevor Fray has, by his scholarship, years of hard work and perseverance given us a vast amount of worldwide information about hundreds and hundreds of freemasons from all quarters of the globe at a ridiculously cheap price. Although sales of his book will in the main go to freemasons, there is nothing to stop anyone from purchasing his works. I for one, am grateful to him and I strongly recommend everyone to avail themselves of the opportunity of a set of excellent classic Reference Books.

_Terry Waghorn 1.12.87._

(From the Masonic Philatelic Club
Newsletter No. 39, January 1988)

Copies of Bro. Fray’s book can be obtained directly from the Publisher. The U.S. Price is $9.50 surface or $11.50 airmailed.

Harry Hayes, Publisher
Philatelic Literature, Journals and Handbooks
11 Chatsworth Drive
Towthorp Road, Haxby
York, England Y03 8QS
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MAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM TO:

**Nicholas Batalias**

27-05 Urban Place

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
January 8, 1988

Treasurer
MSC of NY

Dear Sir & Brother,

Enclosed is my Dues for 1988. Also some of my pennies that I have passed out, over 4,000 to our good Grothers. (the pennies have a square and compass engraved above the date)

Also a cover (illustrated above) when I was made Grand Patriarch of Grand Encampment of the I.O.O.F. of West Virginia.

I used the pennies as a calling card when I visited other Lodges.

Yours in FHC

Charles A. S. Hickman
Sat. Jan 9, 1968

To the Officers of the Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.

Dear Brethren:

Just a short note that enclosed you will find my dues payment for 1968 and a small donation.

I enjoy receiving and of course reading the Masonic Philatelist. Congratulations on making it the most informative quarterly for the Masonic Stamp and First Day Cover buffs.

Keep up the fine work.

Fraternally,

George E. Johnson
Long Distance Member, St. Cecilia Lodge # 1169
Im Jahre 1743 gibt die Bruderschaft ihrer Loge den neuen Namen „ABSALOM“.
Möge der Große Baumeister aller Welten uns noch viele Jahrzehnte gewähren, in denen freie Männer von gutem Ruf im Lichte der Freimaurerei nach Wahrheit suchen.

Günther Wedderien
Meister vom Stuhl

Alfred Mantzow
Zug. Meister vom Stuhl
der Johannifreimaurerloge
ABSALOM ZU DEN DREI NESSELN

- Hamburg, im November 1987 -
Sondermarke der Deutschen Bundespost „FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE“.
Herausgegeben zu seinem 200. Todestag im August 1986
Freemasonry in Roumania

The earliest evidence of organized Freemasonry in Roumania occurred when the Grand Orient of France warranted Star of the Danube Lodge at Bucharest in 1856. Other Lodges soon followed warranted by the Grand Lodges of Italy, Germany and Hungary. Roumanian intellectuals longed for an independent Roumania and many, including Bratianu, Balcescu, Alexsandri, Ghica, Kogalniceanu, and others studied elsewhere in Europe, especially in Paris. Many of these idealists were back in their native Roumania in 1848 and participated in the revolutionary movement that was suppressed and they were forced to flee from Roumania. Many found asylum in Paris.

In Paris there existed the Lodge “Athenee des Estrangers” that initiated many expatriates and it was in this environment that the newspaper La Roumaine Future (The Future Roumania) came into existence with Balcescu, Kogalniceanu, Alexsandri, and others contributing articles and sharing in the publication efforts.

In Roumania Masonry could only develop at a late moment. During the Turkish and later the Russian rule there could be no question of Masonry. The Roumanian intellectuals, led by well-known authors, aimed at an independent Roumania. Many young Roumanians, Bratianu, Balcescu, Alexsandri, Ghica, Kogalniceanu and others studied abroad, especially in Paris and there they took note of Western ideas. In 1848 they were back in their native country and took part in a revolutionary movement that however, was knocked down by the tyrants. This was why the leaders were forced to flee from the country. Many of them found asylum in Paris.

In this town there existed the “Athenee des Etrangers Lodge”, that from 1820 on initiated many foreigners. It was in these circles that the newspaper “La Roumaine Future” (The Future Roumania) came into existence in which Balcescu, Kogalniceanu, Alexsandri and others cooperated.

The refugees saw their wishes coming true in 1856 when,
after the Crimean War the Russian protectorate over Roumania was put to an end by the Treaty of Paris. Of course they continued their Masonic work in their native country. Under the jurisdiction of the “Grand Orient de France” Ion Bratianu founded in Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia, the “Steaua Dunarei” (Star of the Danube Lodge) and became its first W. M. In Jassy, capital of Moldavia, and also in Galatz, lodges were founded under the same name. Immediately the members took part in the social and cultural life; so for instance a theatre was founded in Jassey by Kogalniceanu, Alcesandri and Negruazzi.

Soon the Masons played a prominent part in political life. The members of the lodges mentioned above achieved that in elections, both in Jassy and in Bucharest, Colonel Alexander Cuza was elected sovereign, by which Moldavia and Wallachia were united in one principality Roumania. This Alexander Cuza was perfect of Galatz and W. M. of the Lodge in that town.

Cuza instructed Kogalniceanu to form a government. Several other members of the Paris Lodge “Athenee des Entrangere” held posts as ministers during the Cuza administration: Alcesandri, Bolintineanu, Ghica and others.

Alexander Cuza, however, aimed at a totalitarian government after the model of Napoleon III of France. This earned him many opponents, especially in the circle of his Brethren. In 1862 this led to an action against Cuza, which he answered by closing the “Star of the Danube Lodge” in Bucharest. But the members were not prosecuted and founded another Lodge named “Alexander-Ion Cuza I Lodge”. In 1866 Cuza was forced to abdicate. After his fall many Masons stepped back from social life to dedicate themselves to their literary work, others are seen playing a part in the political life of Roumania after 1866.

For our Masons on Stamps collection the following are important.


In 1880 a National Grand Lodge of Roumania was formed by twenty Lodges then under the Grand Orient of France and other Grand bodies. Constantin Moroiu assumed the office of Grand Master and soon involved the Fraternity in, as Ossian Lang put it in his report of 1926, “an amazing mesh of extravagencies . . . he trafficked in occult degrees of one kind or another — anything and everything that appealed to mystery mongers and the petty ambitions and vanities of men as imper-
vious as himself appears to have been to the root principles of Freemasonry.”

By 1925 the Grand Lodge of New York had authorized the establishment of a District or Provincial Grand Lodge in Roumania with General George Solacolu as District Grand Master. These lodges became the core of the Grand Orient of Roumania which was established a few years later. By 1930 the anti-masonic and anti-semitic agitation broke into the open and on December 11, 1929 a mob invaded the Masonic temple in Bucharest “wrecked the temple and destroyed the archives of the Lodge.” The violence was reported to be plot against Dr. Gherogian the Grand Master and also the Mayor of Bucharest.

By 1937 Masonry in Roumania was totally suppressed and it did not survive the Second World War. The Grand Orient was reactivated in 1944 but was again closed by the communists in 1948.
October 26, 1987

Mr. Nicholas Batallas
2703 Urban Place
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Nicholas,

A short note to thank you and the other Brothers of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York for your conferral upon me the Degree of Master of Philately, on October 14, 1987.

I appreciated all of the work - jewels of office, sign of degree, secretary "mistake", and the good brotherhood.

If additional help is required on the next conferral, please give me a call. I enclose my business card and home address.

Please express my thanks to all the members of the conferral team.

Fraternally yours,

George W. Fieser

GWF/jk
Encl.

(Geo)

GEORGE W. FIESER, P.E.
Management Consultant
1001 Maple Hill Drive
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-4111
(201) 634-5218

A Century of Engineering Excellence
COMPUTERS AND PHILATELY

Computers are part of our every day life. From the microwave oven to the VCR on the television set to the dashboard of our automobiles. Our standard of living has been substantially improved by the application of computer technology.

The Brothers of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York are applying this new computer technology to their Philatelic hobby and thereby finding more pleasure and profit thereby.

Robert Domingue in Massachusetts, Alexander Bleimann in Florida, and Allan Boudreau in New York City are among the Stamp Club members who are using their home computers to write letters, prepare mailing labels, address their letters, compose articles for publication, and even to inventory their collections.

Brother Christopher Murphy in British Columbia has applied his expertise with the computer to produce his excellent book on Masonic Philately.

How about you? Are you working with a computer yet? Do you want to share your experiences with your fellow Masonic Philatelists. We hope so!! Our Club Computer Expert is awaiting your inquiries and/or your contributions for publication. Just send in your computer questions to:

Computers & Philately
Masonic Stamp Club
Masonic Hall - Box 10
71 West 23rd Street
New York, New York 10010
Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is an old saying that "Money makes the mare go." Money also makes other things go. To be specific, it makes the Masonic Stamp Club of New York go. A Club, like any other undertaking, cannot be successful unless it is supplied with sufficient funds for carrying on its activities. Our Club is not a business venture. It is not organized for profit and no member is paid for his labors in carrying out the activities of the Club, but our Club does have a business side which is of the utmost importance.

Included with your December 1987 issue of the MASONIC PHILATELIST was a MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE and many of our Members have already sent in their dues. PLEASE act NOW and SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY. The cost of follow up mailings and reminders is an unnecessary expense that costs our Club money that can be better spent on more productive activities.

Brothers, please help keep our Club solvent. Send in your 1988 dues today. Remember the benefits of membership include the MASONIC PHILATELIST four times a year, the EMPIRE STATE MASON four times a year, current Masonic cachets, special programs and events, and support for the leading Masonic Stamp Club in the world.

-------------------------------------- Clip and Mail Today --------------------------------------

The Treasurer
Masonic Stamp Club of New York
Masonic Hall - Box 10
71 West 23rd Street
New York, New York 10010

Enclosed herewith for 1988 dues ....................... $ ______

Donation .................................................. $ ______

Total $ ______

Name ________________________________

Street & No. ____________________________

City _______ State ___________ Zip _________