The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 45 NO. 4
DECEMBER 1989

DR. IRWIN M. YARRY EDITOR
DR. ALLAN BOUDREAU PUBLISHER

ON THE COVER
Freemasonry may be practiced again in Hungary! The Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary was reestablished, effective September 1, 1989. After 40 years of darkness Masonic Light will shine again on December 27-28, 1989 during a Solemn Common Festive Work arranged by the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary and the Grand Lodge of Austria. Brothers from all over the world will assist. The government confiscated the Masonic Building (on the cover) in 1950 and the Masonic belongings were placed in a vault at the National Museum. The building is presently used as a government office.

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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.

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

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

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* * *
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On my last birthday my daughter Christine, knowing about my interest in nostalgia, gave me several tapes on the Golden Age of Radio. On one of the tapes was our Brother Will Rogers' radio show. The home-spun comedian told a joke about an Oklahoma fellow during the height of a tornado. He was looking out the window of his home, when he noticed the school teacher of the town being blown head over heels down the street. He turned to his wife and said, "That's funny, she never came down this street before."

With that in mind, if I lead the Club down a different street, it won't be done just to be different. It will be done to bring interest to the members. At the same time we may have a larger participation in all our activities.

The American Stamp Dealers Association NATIONAL '89 Show held at Madison Square Garden, November 8-11, 1989 was a big success. Many Brothers stopped by our Masonic Stamp Club Booth to say hello. Brother Joseph Nathan Kane's Book U. S. Postal Firsts was a big hit for the fifth year in a row. It sold plenty of copies, the proceeds going to the Club.
Many new ideas were discussed for us to work on for next year. I want to thank all our Brothers who helped to make the show a success and especially Vice-President Edward Scheider, Dr. Boudreaux, Dr. Yarry, Joseph Nathan Kane, Harry Melniker, Andrew Rasmussen and Bob Smith for taking time to work at our booth.

We included the 1990 dues notice with the September issue of The Masonic Philatelist and I am pleased to report that many of our members have already paid their 1990 dues. I also thank all who sent in an extra donation to help with the expenses of the Club. Our annual dues have not increased in ten years, thanks to all of you who support the club with contributions, both time and money.

The Masonic Philatelist received two awards this year; A Silver Award at the Annual Philatelic Literature Fair from the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, Inc. in Weston, Massachusetts and a Silver-Bronze medal at CHICAGOPEX '89 awarded by the Chicago Philatelic Society. Please send in your articles and suggestions. We want to keep The Masonic Philatelist the best of all the Masonic Philatelic publications!

My family and I certainly extend to all of you our sincerest best good wishes for an enjoyable Holiday season.
Lajos (Louis) Kossuth
By Dr. Allan Boudreau

Louis Kossuth was born in Monok in 1802. His family were Lutherans and their roots went farther back in the Danube's soil than history remembered. His education was the traditional one for the landowning class of his day, classical instruction at the Piarist School at Satoraljanjhely, followed by a legal course at Eperjes. These were the most liberal Protestant institutions of his day. They gave Kossuth not only the inspiration to be free, but the basic thoughts that freedom belonged to all men, that it was an inherent property, not a granted right.

Kossuth was elected to a proxy seat in Parliament where he served from 1832 to 1836. This was followed by his election as a full-right voting member. Kossuth preached the Washingtonian ideals which were diametrically opposed to the authoritarian government of the Hapsburg dynasty and resulted in a four year sentence for Kossuth. During his confinement he procured a Bible, a copy of Shakespeare's Works, and an English Dictionary. With these as his only tools, Kossuth taught himself English.

In 1841 Kossuth became editor of the Pesti Hirlap, one of Hungary's most prominent dailies. Through its pages he presented the liberal views of the Opposition Party. As Finance Minister in the Government of 1848 he was the leader of the Opposition Party. Hungary declared its independence from Austria but could not resist the Russian troops introduced by Austria to put down this
revolution. Kossuth fled to Turkey where he was held prisoner until intervention from a sympathetic United States resulted in his release. The U. S. S. Mississippi was dispatched to bring him to free soil. He went first to London, and arrived in New York City on December 5, 1851, on the S. S. Humboldt.

Reliable contemporary observers stated that Kossuth's welcome in New York City equaled that of Admiral Dewey after his victory at Manila Bay. Kossuth spoke before Congress and proclaimed his intentions to seek financial and political aid for the freedom and independence of Hungary.

Of special interest to American Masonic Philatelists is that Kossuth was made a Mason in the United States, in Cincinnati, in Cincinnati Lodge No. 133, on February 20, 1852. He visited many Masonic Lodges throughout the country. At St. Louis, Missouri, on March 3, 1852 Kossuth said, "Oh, if all men were Free Masons, what a worldwide and glorious republic we should have."

True to his oath, Kossuth never returned to Hungary alive, so long as a Hapsburg sat on Hungary's throne. On March 20, 1894, at Turin, Italy, Kossuth died. The people of Hungary immediately arranged that the earthly remains of their national hero be restored to the bosom of his beloved soil. His body was taken to Pest where he was buried amid the mourning of the whole nation on April 4, 1894.

The United States issued two Special Stamps to honor this great "Champion of Liberty." The FIRST DAY OF ISSUE was September 19, 1958 in Washington, D. C. Our Masonic Stamp Club of New York Cover featured both the 4 cent and 8 cent values.
A Mason's Visit to Philexfrance '89

by E. E. Fricks, FRPS,L
Haddonfield Lodge No. 130, New Jersey
Editor Collectors Club Philatelist

Philexfrance 89, held in Paris 7-17 July, represented one of the most outstanding philatelic achievements of the decade. Meticulously planned, the show seemed to function effortlessly. Staged in the Parc d'Expositions, the exhibition consisted of some 6,000 frames; needless to say, it would have taken any viewer all of two weeks to see it in detail in its entirety. One of the common complaints about exhibitions, no matter where they are held, centers around the hard (usually concrete) floors that render a showgower footsore long before he reaches the end. Evidently the organizers have experienced this, for the floor was covered with carpeting.

More importantly, perhaps, was the lighting (generally good) and the climate control that prevents damage to exhibits. The frames were of the vertical type, which made viewing relatively easy. The mylar or plastic page covers used by all the exhibitors made, in some cases, for glare that interfered with close examination of some pages.

While the thematic section occupied a large area, there were no exhibits with a Masonic theme. However, Freemasonry abounded. The "Egalitie" stamp, issued setenant with Liberte" and "Fraternite" during the exhibition, shows a plumb-level held by a classical figure of a woman.

La Philatelic Francaise, the magazine of the Federation des Societies Philatelicques
Francaises, contained a color spread devoted to the Revolution that included a segment on La Franc-Maconnerie, with the observation that:

The Masonic lodges contributed significantly to the diffusion of philanthropic ideas. Little by little, the philosophy of the enlightenment (or the philosophy of those who worked by the light of the candle (there seems to be an attempt at a pun in French) undermined the ideological foundation of the established order.

When one visits Paris, one should not miss the museum of the Grand Orient de France. Located in a modern building on the rue Cadet, a number of the museum's displays, including the design from which the "Egalité" was taken, were organized around the theme of French Masonry and the Revolution. To one not well-versed in French Masonic history, I was surprised to learn that many revolutionary leaders were Freemasons.

Because it was to be the meeting site for the leaders of the Western nations, the lower reaches of the Louvre were largely off limits to visitors. The July 1989 issue of National Geographic had shown Masonic symbols cut into the foundation stones by the builders and only recently found during the construction and restoration of the facilities.

The parade on the evening of Bastille Day rivaled any that I have seen. The press estimated the crowd at around 800,000. While many Parisians left the city for the extended weekend, their places were taken by a host of visitors from around the world, including many from the United States.

When one travels to another country with a non-collecting spouse, one should not expect to spend all the time at the exhibition. We didn't but traveled first to the Loire Valley...
and then to Provence. The Loire is most famous for the many chateaux and castles that once guarded the frontiers for Kings Henry IV and Francis I. At Chinon, we visited the castle where Jacques DeMolay was imprisoned with other Templars. The carvings on the walls of the cells, representing profiles of DeMolay, have been preserved amid a host of graffiti. Here too, Joan of Arc first appeared to the Dauphin, whom she would help place on the throne of France.

In the south of France, Freemasonry is not visible. No temples or lodge buildings sit on the main streets, nor are there any announcements that tell a visitor where a lodge might be found. The only Masonic presence to be found was a square and compass that had been carved into one of the stones of the Pont du Gard, the incredible Roman aqueduct that displays the skills of operative masons of 1700 years ago.

The Masters’, Wardens’ and Deacons’ Council of Oneida and Herkimer Counties are working together to raise money this year for L.E.A.F. and the Robert Livingston Museum.

We are going to plant a Masonic Forest in Trenton Falls, N.Y. We’re asking for a FIVE dollar donation per tree. Eighty percent of profit will be for L.E.A.F., twenty percent for the Robert Livingston Museum. All that donate will have their names recorded on a scroll which will be placed at the Robert Livingston Museum.

CHECK ONE: □ Spruce □ Fir

Make checks payable to:
MASTERS’, WARDENS’ AND DEACONS’ COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 617, NEW HARTFORD, N.Y. 13413
Musée du Grand Orient de France
et de la Franc-Maçonnerie Européenne
16, rue Cadet · 75009 Paris

A History of Venezuelan Coins

By Herbert Zander

Lodge Sol de America No. 37
Gran Logia de la Republica de Venezuela

Philately and Numismatics are companion interests and I hope that this report will be of interest to the Brothers of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. The Venezuelan President Antonio Guzman Blanco, who governed during the latter part of the nineteenth century was an active Freemason and built the existing Masonic Temple, now a national monument. His successor, J. A. Paez, was an active Freemason also and protector of the Fraternity. Today there are more then 100 active Masonic Lodges in Venezuela.

Venezuela is a Latin American Republic situated on the northern part of the South American continent, above the equator and on the Caribbean Sea. It has a tropical climate and more than 17 million inhabitants. The name "Venezuela" which means "Little Venice" came from a comparison of the canals and lake huts in Maracaibo to those in Venice, Italy.
The numismatic history of Venezuela began when the first coins were struck in 1802, in the Caracas mint. This mint was in operation from 1802 until 1830 when it was closed.

Today there are plans to open a new mint in Venezuela with the assistance of the firm of De La Rue. The new mint will produce coins and also paper currency which has not been printed in Venezuela in modern times.

The first silver coins with the name of the Republica De Venezuela were minted in England in 1842 and placed in circulation after 1858.

With the law of 1842 the Peso Fuerte was divided into 100 cents. The previous system consisted of reales, quarter reales, and one eight real. Today there are two types of design for the Venezuelan coins. One of Venezuelan Mint origin and the second for coins minted by European coin producers who supply the Venezuelan government with coins.

Bartolome Salinas of Spain executed the first coins in Colonial times and was followed by Barriga and Tablantes. The very few of these early coins existing today command very high prices. Captain General Manuel De Guevara Y Vasconcelos ordered the striking of copper currency of one-fourth and one-eighth Real to unify currency circulation.

Venezuela was considered a poor and unimportant colony, deserving only to be a "General Captaincy," not deserving to have a Viceroy such as Peru, Mexico, and others. Venezuela had no known mines of copper, zinc, silver or gold. The established currency was pearls found in the waters of Margarita Island (now a famous resort) and near Cubagua which was destroyed by an earthquake. Recently
gold has been discovered in Venezuela but the ore is exported and not minted locally.

The designs of the colonial epoch of Venezuela were baroque style and showed the escutcheon of Caracas surrounded by fruit, flowers, and leaves. Caracas was founded in 1567 by Diego de Losada and has been successively capital of the province of Caracas, of the captaincy-general of Caracas and Venezuela, and of the Republic of Venezuela. Simon Bolivar was born in Caracas and during the years between 1843 and 1868 the coin designs were dominated by artistic conceptions of the prevalent theme of those times, namely liberty.

William Wyon, a Birmingham, England designer and medalist was the author of the first copper coin produced in Venezuela after its separation from the joint State of Gran Colombia. In 1858 the first silver coin was designed by the famous French medalist, Albert Desire Barre who also designed the first nickel coins.

By 1873 Barre had made the first proofs of coins with the likeness of Simon Bolivar which appears on nearly all Venezuelan coins. Bolivar is the national hero of Venezuela and is called "The Liberator," having liberated Venezuela, Columbia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia (formerly High Peru) from Spain during the wars of independence. Simon Bolivar was an ardent Freemason as was his predecessor, Francisco de Miranda.

During difficult times, civil wars, liberation wars, and revolutions, coins of many countries circulated in Venezuela. Some individuals and especially the plantation owners produced tokens which were accepted as currency in the stores operating on their property. Mr. Gorgias Garriga has written extensively on this subject. Mr. Thomas Stohr
has written an interesting and enlightening book on Venezuelan coins as has Mrs Pardo of the Central Bank.

Today Venezuela has nickel currency in denominations of 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents and 1, 2, and 5 Bolivares. Some years ago one dollar US was the equivalent of 4.30 Bolivares but today, as this is written the rate is about $1 US to 38 Bolivares.

This short report does not cover all aspects of Venezuelan coinage and is not as precise as I would have liked, but it opens a door for those who might be interested in the study and collection of Venezuelan coins. Quite a few Venezuelan fortunes were begun by detecting treasures of coins hidden in the walls and grounds of houses or farms by Spaniards who were forced to flee during revolutionary times. The hidden treasure went to the finders.

EARLY POSTAGE STAMPS OF VENEZUELA
AL G. D. A. D. U.

GRAN LOGIA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE VENEZUELA
LIBERTAD — IGUALDAD — FRATERNIDAD

S. F. J.

CONMEMORACIÓN DEL
SESQUICENTENARIO DE LA
MUY RESP. GRAN LOGIA DE LA REPÚBLICA
DE VENEZUELA

24 DE JUNIO
1824 - 1974
October 11th, 1989.

Mr. Herbert Zander
c/o The Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.
46 W. 24th Street
New York City, New York
10010

Dear Mr. Zander & Fellow Masons,

The Collectors Club
Acknowledges With Thanks And Appreciation
Your Gift Of

VENEZUELA:
"Catalogo Especializado de Estampillas"

with sincere thanks,

Bruce Rutherford
Librarian
Origins of the Postal Service

by Dr. Allan Boudreau

The American Lodge of Research

The origins of the postal service are lost in that mist where history and legend blend. The Book of Job speaks of "a post" and that it moved swiftly, indicating that a mail service existed as early as the sixteenth century B.C. Esther, Jeremiah, and II Chronicles refer to the postal service. According to II Chronicles, XXX, 6, 10, "the posts went with letters from the king and his princes throughout all of Israel and Judah, and ...passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulon." This King was Hezekiah, who ruled Judah from 726 to 715 B.C. Confucius reports that there was a royal post in China in the fifth century B.C. that went by stage and courier.

Some two hundred years later Cyrus, who built the Persian empire, established a postal system. Herodotus stated, "now there is no mortal thing faster than these messengers ... men and horses are stationed at intervals, one man and one horse for each day's journey for whatever time it may take. And neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift accomplishment of their appointed routes. He who sets off first passes the message on to the second and the second to the third and so on from the next to the next just like a torch race which the Greeks hold in honor of Poseidon. The Persians call this course of the horses 'post riding.'"
Centuries later the Roman Emperor Augustus organized a service of couriers to carry messages and letters. *Mansiones*, or post houses were built along the military roads where the couriers could rest and obtain fresh horses. Rome also initiated the first sea-post to carry mail to distant colonial ports, and it was Rome that provided the Latin root word *posita*, from which we have derived our post office, postage, and postage stamp.

In the Western Hemisphere the Aztecs created a group of messengers who were employed in distributing fish among the upland villages, perhaps the first parcel post system, and the Incas in Peru used their messengers as mail carriers.

Charlemagne followed the Augustan system and further developed the postal system in the Holy Roman Empire. The first mention of a courier service in England was during the reign of Henry II, 1216-1257. Two hundred years later Edward II founded a postal system that extended from York to Edinburgh.

These early mail systems were not available to the public. Private persons in Rome could only use the Imperial Post under a special dispensation from the Emperor. This was no particular hardship as only the priests and a very few princes knew how to write. As the art of writing spread correspondence increased. At first, correspondence was carried on by the government, church, merchants, courts, and lawyers. Each of these groups had their own messenger of courier service. The Fugger family of Germany, international merchants and bankers of the Middle Ages, had a communications system that covered the whole of Europe.
In the 13th Century the University of Paris had messengers who carried letters from students to their families, and in Spain at that time there were walking mailmen who would deliver letters for a fee. Small merchants and commoners entrusted their letters to drovers, peddlers, and others who chanced to pass through their towns.

The early postal service in Asia was observed by Marco Polo who described for us the remarkable postal system of Kublai Khan, the Mongol leader who conquered all of China in the thirteenth century. This system probably began in the royal courier system mentioned by Confucius and was developed by the great Genghis Khan, Kublai’s grandfather.

England’s General Post Office dates from the early 1500’s when Brian Turke was appointed "Master of the Posts" and commanded by Henry VIII to set up posts "in all places most expedient." In 1567 Elizabeth gave the title of "Chief Post-Master" to Turk’s successor, Thomas Randolph. Elizabeth insisted that letters addressed abroad would be carried by the Royal Post and no other. Her purpose was not public convenience but a means of censorship and to detect treasonable plots. In 1603 James I extended the royal monopoly to domestic correspondence as a further step toward discovering conspiracies and other matters of interest to the crown. John Lord Standhope was appointed "Master of the Posts and Messengers" in 1607 and was the first English postmaster to face the private competition controversy that continues to this day.

London in the seventeenth Century was the locale of many industrious merchants and refugees from the various religious
persecutions on the Continent. These individuals conducted an extensive correspondence with France, Spain, the Low Countries, Hamburg, Germany, and elsewhere. They soon determined that Standhope's rates were excessive and his services inefficient. They were not satisfied that government letters and other official items were always given preferential treatment while their letters were constantly delayed and subject to inspection by the King's agents.

Supported by the enterprising merchants, Matthew deQuester and his son established a private company to carry mails, and offered a far cheaper and more efficient service. Standhope, who had made the postal service a lucrative source of personal income, was threatened by the private competition and appealed to the King. King James surprisingly legalized the merchants company and appointed deQuester to handle the foreign mails under the title of "Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts out of the King's Dominions."

In 1688 an Order in Council fixed the rates on mail for the West Indies at sixpence for a single letter, one shilling for a double letter, and two shillings per ounce thereafter. These high rates were based on the theory that postage should be charged according to the distance the mail is carried, assuming that the costs of mail service increased in proportion to the distance.

In America, in 1657, the Virginia Assembly ordered that letters be conveyed from plantation to plantation as directed. In 1692 Thomas Neal was authorized by the Crown to set up post offices in America. Neal stayed in England and appointed Andrew Hamilton, a Scot, to operate the colonial
service. Hamilton established weekly delivery in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and in Maryland and Virginia. In 1707, both Neal and Hamilton had died. The Postmasters-General appointed John Hamilton, son of Andrew, their deputy for America.

Benjamin Franklin became Postmaster in Philadelphia in 1737 and in 1753 Franklin was appointed by the British Post Office as the Deputy Postmaster-General for America. By 1761 he sent L 500 to the Postmaster-general in London, the first money they ever received from the American postal service.

George Washington was a man of letters. His earliest known letter that survives was dated May 5th 1749 and written to his half-brother, Lawrence Washington, who was in England at that time, seeking medical treatment for his illness. Washington wrote continuously during his lifetime and over 100,000 letters written by Washington have been located, identified, cataloged, and included in the new edition of The Papers of George Washington, published by the University Press of Virginia.

During the American Revolution, George Washington was well aware of the importance of the postal service. Ebenezer Hazard was appointed to receive and forward mail by the New York Provincial Congress on May 3, 1775. On July 26, 1775 the New York Provincial Congress passed a resolution, addressed to the Continental Congress, that Hazard should be made Postmaster at New York. In November 1776 Hazard wrote Congress asking for an increase in compensation, stating that he was not able to employ an assistant and that he was obliged to leave the city of New York to keep near the headquarters of the army "who
are almost the only persons for whom letters now come by post." Hazard went on to describe the extraordinary difficulties he was subjected to including that, for want of a horse which could not be procured, he was obliged to follow the army on foot from place to place, apparently with his post office sacks carried by a servant.

Critics of the postal service did not hesitate to let Washington know of their dissatisfaction. Richard Henry Lee wrote to Washington on June 13, 1776 "that a certain Mr. Eustace, now in New York, but some time ago with Lord Dunmoor, is acquainted with the practice of taking letters out of the post office in Virginia and carrying them to Lord Dunmoor for his perusal." Lee, at that time a member of the Continental Congress Post Office Committee, asked Washington to give him in writing "all the knowledge he has about this business."

General Anthony Wayne, General Gates, and others criticized the postal service to the American army in 1776. In Pennsylvania, the Tories were troublesome to mail deliveries and Gates complained that while mail was free to the enlisted soldiers the officers did not enjoy this privileged and he wrote, "as gentlemen and officers, we expect it."

George Washington recommended in his first annual message that the Congress facilitate "intercourse between the distant parts of our country by a due attention to the post office and post roads."
# Masonic Stamp Club of New York

## OUR SPECIAL MASONIC COVERS

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>POSTMARK</th>
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<td>Claremore, OK</td>
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<td>Bicentennial of George Washington Inauguration</td>
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<td>4-30-89</td>
<td>MSCNY CANCEL (Set of 3)</td>
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<td>St. John's Lodge No. 1 Bible - Dual Cancellation</td>
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<td>Inauguration Bicentennial New York, NY</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Masonic Stamp Club of New York Cancellation</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S.Postal Firsts (Pamphlet by Kane)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHECK OFF THE COVERS YOU WANT, ENCLOSE PAYMENT AND

#10 (LEGAL SIZE) ENVELOPE WITH 25 CENTS POSTAGE ATTACHED

MAIL COMPLETED ORDER TO; Nicholas Batalias
27-05 Urban Place, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 USA