The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 46  NO. 1
MARCH 1990

DR. ALLAN BOUDREAU
PUBLISHER

Copyright Masonic Stamp Club of NY

President Nicholas Batalias
Vice-President Edward J. Scheider
Treasurer Aydin Y. Turkmen
Chaplain Joseph Nathan Kane
Historian David Deutsch

CORRESPONDENCE:

International George H. Wetachi
Canada Christopher L. Murphy
New Zealand Victor Fabian
Domestic Dr. Allan Boudreau

COVERS:

New Issues Nicholas Batalias
Back Issues Louis Bernstein

Printing by Quiz Graphic Arts, Inc.
Ord, NE 68862

* * * *

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.

OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

Arthur W. Deas* 1934-1938
Ralph A. Barry* 1938-1939
Henry W. Holcombe* 1938-1941
Carl E. Pelander* 1941-1943
Dr. George Cannitzer* 1943-1945
Sam Brooks* 1945-1946
Jacob S. Glaser* 1946-1948
Ferras H. Tows* 1948-1949
Russell B. Roune* 1949-1951
Arthur I. Heim* 1951-1953
Carl H. Phl* 1953-1955
Thomas Phillips* 1955-1957
Dr. Irwin M. Yarr* 1957-1959
Emanuel M. Reggel* 1959-1961
Dr. S. Dufferfield Swan* 1961-1962
Shelton W. Osterlund* 1962-1963
Norman H. Sehlmeyer* 1963-1965
Stanley A. Salomon* 1965-1967
Joseph Munk 1967-1969
Edwin Mayer* 1969-1971
Emanuel M. Reggel* 1971-1972
Robert A. Smith 1972-1973
Louis Bernstein 1974-1976
Joseph Nathan Kane 1976-1980
Dr. Allan Boudreau 1981-1982
George Wetachi 1983-1984
David Deutsch 1984-1985
Nicholas Batalias 1986 – Deceased

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
Sorrowful announcement is made of the passing of

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

Secretary of the Masonic Stamp Club
Saturday, December 23, 1989.

Brother Yarry was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1905. He graduated from Boys High School, Brooklyn, 1922, Washington Square College New York University, BS 1925, and New York University Dental School, D.D.S. 1928. He joined the Masonic Stamp Club in 1936 and served in many capacities; President in 1957–59, Secretary and Dinner Chairman for many years, and as Editor of The Masonic Philatelist.

He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club of New York; Charter Member Hong Kong Study Circle, London; The Royal Philatelic Society, London, Philatelic Research Society; The Society of Australasian Philatelists; British Empire Study Circle; Kappa Phi Sigma Fraternity; and a Life Member of Harry S. Truman Lodge No. 1171 F. & A. M.

Brother Yarry was an active philatelist and won many major awards with his fine Hong Kong, Jamaica, Fiji and British West Indies collections. He collaborated in producing an outstanding philatelic book, Hong Kong and Treaty Ports of China and Japan. He frequently lectured on philately and served as a Judge at many shows and exhibitions. He was a pioneer in the field of postal history and led in the development of this important and educational aspect of philately.

He is survived by his son Mark of West Sussex, England and daughter Lynn of Brooklyn.
To: Nicholas Batalias
71 W. 23rd St. Box 10
New York, N.Y. 10010

From: CHICAGOPEX '89
P.O.Box A-3953
Chicago, IL 60690

Dear Exhibitor,

Congratulations on your recent award at CHICAGOPEX '89. Enclosed is your certificate of participation, your award ribbon, and copies of the CHICAGOPEX '89 Program and Palmares.

Due to an engraving error, more medals had to be ordered, and will be engraved with the correct date, and forwarded to you as soon as possible.

We wish to thank you for your participation in CHICAGOPEX '89.

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Herdenberg
Awards Chairman

RSH/bh
CHICAGO

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Certificate of Award

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

DR. IRWIN M. YARRY, EDITOR

HAS BEEN AWARDED

A Silver-Bronze MEDAL

FOR AN EXHIBIT OF

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST, MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

AT THE CHICAGOPEX EXHIBITION

CHICAGOPEX '89 DATE NOV. 5, 1989

JURY CHAIRMAN

PRESIDENT
Dr. Allan Boudreau, Publisher
"The Masonic Philatelist"
Masonic Stamp Club of New York
Masonic Hall
Box 10
46 West 24th Street
New York City, New York
10010

Dear Dr. Boudreau,

I am writing this letter to you this morning for three reasons:

1) to thank you and the rest of the Masonic Stamp Club for the generous gift of twenty-five dollars, with which I was presented on the occasion of the last meeting of your club.

2) to wish all of you at the Masonic Stamp Club as happy a holiday as possible, under the circumstances, and

3) to extend my personal sympathies, as well as condolences on behalf of the entire Collectors Club, on the sad occasion of the death of Dr. Irwin H. Yarry, who was (in my opinion) one of the nicest members of the Collectors Club. He will be sorely missed!

In spite of this, it is my hope that the coming year will be a happy and a fruitful one for you and all your friends and associates.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rutherford
Librarian CC
MASONIC STAMP CLUB
of South Australia Inc.

P.O. Box 83,
Ingle Farm,
South Australia,
5098.

Masonic Stamp Club of New York,
Masonic Hall, Box 10,
46 West 24th. Street,
New York,
N.Y. 10010,
U.S.A.


Dear Sir & Brother,

Please find enclosed my subscription for 1990. Perhaps in a later edition of your magazine you
might care to give space to an ongoing project which is undertaken by our club, throughout the year we collect stamps (either donated by our club members or obtained from business houses) these are then packaged and sold at the annual Masonic Fete, all proceeds of course going to the Masonic Homes Trust. If any readers of your magazine would care to obtain Australian stamps and so assist the Masonic Homes Trust I would be delighted to supply them, I am able to supply 100 different Australian stamps for $3.00 AIR MAIL POST PAID, payment should be made in bank notes (bills) as the cost of bank charges on drafts or personal cheques is excessive.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

With Fraternal Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Allen Downes.
GRAND LODGE
Free and Accepted Masons
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ten Corona Avenue
Nashua, NH 03063
December 19, 1989

Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y.
Masonic Hall - Box 10
46 West 24th Street
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Sirs and Brethren:

We in the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, F. & A.M., would be most appreciative of your consideration in printing the enclosed notice of our Commemorative Postal Cachets in an upcoming issue of The Masonic Philatelist magazine. I have also enclosed a set of the cachets for your reference and later inclusion in your "archives" if so desired.

Sincerely and fraternally,

George D. Van Dyke
Sr. Grand Warden,
Grand Lodge of N.H., F. & A.M.

ANNIVERSARY COVER: To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, F. & A. M., a set of two Masonic postal cachets has been issued. One cachet depicts the "William Pitt Tavern," the birthplace of the Grand Lodge; the other bears a reproduction of the 200th anniversary logo and each features "The Old Man of the Mountain" New Hampshire statehood stamp with a special July 8, 1989 200th anniversary cancellation from the "Strawberry Banke Station," Portsmouth, N.H., the site of the William Pitt Tavern. The cost is $5.00 per set. Make checks payable to the "Grand Lodge of New Hampshire," enclose a self addressed, stamped $10 envelope and address orders to: Commemorative Sets, Secretary, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, 813 Beach Street, Manchester, N.H. 03104-3109.
GRAND LODGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

WILLIAM PITT TAVERN
Birth Place of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of New Hampshire F. & A.M.
on July 2, 1789.
Dear Brothers,

thank you for "THE MASONIC PHILATELIST" Vol.45, No.4 Dec.1989, with the picture"Masonic Building Budapest. I was in Budapest at the consecration und here a cover cl... from our PHILAMASONICA-ZIRKEL.

And also a "First Day Cover" showing the Austrian stamp of Bro. Alfred H. Fried, winner of the Nobel-Price for Peace, 1911.

Information about his life is in german, translation in english for you.

Please could you announce the publication in your magazine?

Sincerely and fraternally

Herbert Schmid
SecretaryMozart Lodge Wien and
Philasonica Zirkel Q.C. Wien

COVERS US$ 2.00 Dr. Herbert Schmid
Hackenberggasse 29/33/3 A-1190 Wien, AUSTRIA
PHILAMASONICA-ZIRKEL
QUATUOR CORONATI WIEN

CONSECRATION of the GRAND LODGE of HUNGARIA
by the GRAND LODGE of AUSTRIA Dec. 27. 1889

PHILAMASONICA-ZIRKEL
QUATUOR CORONATI WIEN

ERSSTTAG - FIRST DAY - PREMIER JOUR

Pazifist und Friedensnobelpreisträger
Alfred Hermann FRIED (1864–1921)


Mäzenische Daten:

A.M.
K.S.
MASSONIC DELTIOLOGY

Patrick C. Palmer
Oleeta Lodge No. 145
Miami Springs, Florida

It was the summer of 1983 and I was biding my time in one of the large shopping malls in Miami that my wife likes to frequent. She holds a black belt in shopping, and is a member of the Master Card hall of fame! Boredom had set in, so I started browsing the mall and headed for one of my favorite hangouts, the bookstore at the opposite end. Nearing the center of the mall, I came upon an area where several rows of tables were erected, laden with what appeared to be shoe boxes full of items that people were pulling out and examining.

Being an inquisitive creature, my curiosity got the best of me and I made a beeline for the first table to discover the object of everyone's attention.

Postcards!! Thousands upon thousands of picture postcards!!

of course I suffer from that incurable and often fatal disease of chronic collectivitus!! Needless to say, I was enthralled for the next hour or so. Oblivious to the activity in the mall, I searched through box upon box of postcards, of every subject and from virtually every country in the world.

The deltiology bug was nibbling at my toes and I was fast becoming a new convert. I was enjoying the thrill of discovering a new hobby, yet wondering how I would explain to my wife that I was on the brink of delving into yet another line of collectibles!

So even though the bug was toying with me, it
hadn’t really sunk its fangs, not that is, until that exact moment I picked up a handful of postcards under the Fraternal category and discovered that sepia postcard with the photo of a kitten perched upon a square, with the square and compasses around its neck. That’s when I felt the death grip and knew that I was hooked.

That afternoon a new and exciting world was revealed to me. All other interests took a back seat and I dove into my new hobby with enthusiasm. It has been a most enjoyable and informative pastime.

I’ve found that Masonic postcards contain a wealth of Masonic history. For instance, I know that the Masonic Temple in Flint, Michigan was dedicated on May 16, 1911, that the annual election of the Masonic Club of Turtlecreek, PA, was held on Groundhog Day, February 2, 1909, that the Past Masters of Mission Lodge conferred the third degree at Fairmount Lodge on May 29, 1914 in San Francisco, California and that the cornerstone of Ancient Landmark Lodge in Portland, Oregon was laid on August 29, 1910.

I also know that at one time, James B. McGregor of Newport, NH, was reputed to be the oldest Freemason in the world at 105 years old, that Brother Bernard Mitchell, Junior Warden of Ishpeming Lodge #314 of Ishpeming, Michigan passed away at Boothby, Maryland on January 14, 1876 and as a consequence all the members of the Lake Shore Masonic Relief Association were assessed one dollar and ten cents.

If you asked me who baked 6 apple and coconut pies for Webb Lodge #24 of Richmond, Indiana for
their meeting of March 26, 1947. I could answer; "Mrs. Howard Carman, who billed them a dollar a pie, and I’ve got the postcard to prove it!"

Since that afternoon of discovery, I’ve bought and traded Masonic related postcards at every opportunity. As a result my collection has grown to a total of over 1900 different postcards. It encompasses Masonic, Shrine, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite and Eastern Star postcards. Even the Order of DeMolay and the Rainbow Girls are represented.

As far as I know, no catalog or pricing guide of Masonic postcards exists. Hence, we Masonic deltiologists must, (If I may borrow a bit of airline phraseology) “Fly by the seat of our pants.” You can never be sure if that next acquisition is a common postcard of little value or possibly the only one of its kind in the world!

Dealers are not much help. Just recently I saw a Masonic Labor Day card listed in an auction as extremely rare with a suggested bid of $75.00. Just a few days prior I had purchased two of these cards for a total price of $3.00! A deltiologist must necessarily exercise common sense and restraint.

As my collection grew it became necessary to computerize in order to have an up-to-date and accurate inventory and to avoid accumulating duplicates. I have categorized my collection by the following subjects:

1. Buildings. - This category includes temples, homes, hospitals, etc.

2. Comical. - A wide selection of postcards exist which poke fun at the Fraternity.
3. Ceremonies. - Included in this category are parades, funeral processions, cornerstone laying ceremonies, etc.

4. Square & Compasses. - In this category I include those postcards that depict the square & compasses as its main theme.

5. Notices. - Meeting notices, dues notices, benevolent fund assessments, visitation notices, etc.

6. Miscellaneous. - Catchall category for all others.

These basic categories are further subdivided to indicate the type of postcard, i.e., real photo, linen, hold-to-light, etc.

Masonic postcard collecting has been an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for me. I now correspond with brethren of similar interests from various countries of the world. Trading postcards and information, at the same time developing close and rewarding friendships.

So watch your local newspaper for a notice of the next postcard show at one of the local malls. Then offer to take your wife shopping. She’ll probably give you a questioning look and think that you’ve finally gone over the edge. If she’s like my wife, she’ll take advantage of the situation anyway and jump at the opportunity to participate in her favorite pastime. Once you’re there, completely amaze her by telling her to take her time. Then amble over to the nearest dealers table, start thumbing through the Fraternal category and join the club!
# Masonic Stamp Club of New York

## OUR SPECIAL MASONIC COVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>POSTMARK</th>
<th>COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-04-79</td>
<td>Will Rogers</td>
<td>Claremore, OK</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-05-80</td>
<td>Obelisk in NYC</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-04-81</td>
<td>Everett M. Dirksen</td>
<td>Pekin, IL</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-13-81</td>
<td>James Hoban</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-22-82</td>
<td>Touro Synagogue</td>
<td>Newport, RI</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-13-84</td>
<td>50th Anniversary</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-26-84</td>
<td>Harry Truman (WITH TRUMAN MEDAL)</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$6.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-23-84</td>
<td>Douglas Fairbanks, Jr</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-31-84</td>
<td>Richard B. Russell, Jr</td>
<td>Winder, GA</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-06-84</td>
<td>Horace Agustus Moses</td>
<td>Bloomington, IN</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-23-85</td>
<td>Jerome David Kern</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-11-85</td>
<td>Harry C. Stutz</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-18-85</td>
<td>Frederick Bartholdi</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-27-86</td>
<td>Hugo Lafayette Black</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-19-86</td>
<td>William J. Bryan</td>
<td>Salem, IL</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-04-86</td>
<td>Statue of Liberty</td>
<td>Liberty Island, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-11-87</td>
<td>Canal Boat-Clinton</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-23-87</td>
<td>Flag over Capital</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-06-88</td>
<td>Buffalo Bill Cody</td>
<td>Cody, WY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-26-88</td>
<td>200th Anniversary NYS</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-14-88</td>
<td>Richard E. Byrd</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20-88</td>
<td>Irving Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin, NH</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-05-88</td>
<td>Henry &quot;Hap&quot; Arnold</td>
<td>Gladwyne, PA</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-20-89</td>
<td>George Bush Inauguration</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-30-89</td>
<td>MSCNY CANCEL (Set of 3)</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. John's Lodge No. 1 Bible - Dual Cancellation</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-20-89</td>
<td>Bush Inauguration</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-16-89</td>
<td>First Day of Issue</td>
<td>Mount Vernon, VA</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. John's Lodge No. 1 Bible - Dual Cancellation</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-20-89</td>
<td>Inauguration Day</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-30-89</td>
<td>Masonic Stamp Club of New York Cancellation</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Postal Firsts (Pamphlet by Kane)</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></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
John Marshall

(September 25, 1755 - July 6, 1835)

Brother John Marshall was born in Germantown, Fauquier County, Virginia in 1755. He was the son of Thomas Marshall and both father and son served in the revolution. His father was a major in the same regiment in which John Marshall was a lieutenant. They saw action at Brandywine, Monmouth, Stony Point, Valley Forge, and Yorktown. Following the war John Marshall served in the Virginia House of Burgesses 1782-88, as a member of the United States House of Representatives 1799-1800, and as the United States Secretary of State 1800-1801.

John Marshall was appointed Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1801. He presided over the court for thirty five years, until his death in 1835, and firmly established the character of the Supreme Court and the federal constitutional system. Marshall is credited with raising the Supreme Court to a position of equality with the Legislative and Executive Branches of the federal government.

The exact dates he received his Masonic degrees are not known. Marshall stated that he had "become a Freemason in the Revolutionary Army." He was a member of Richmond Lodge No 13 (now 10), Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19, and Richmond Chapter No. 3, R. A. M., all in Richmond, Virginia. He was appointed Deputy Grand Master on October 27, 1786 by Grand
Master Randolph and served two terms as Grand Master (1793-95) of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Marshall Lodge No. 39, named for him during his lifetime (a practice now forbidden in most jurisdictions) had its dispensation issued by John Marshall who also signed its charter.

He was active in Masonic affairs throughout his life. In 1785 he helped promote a lottery for the Masonic Building in Richmond and in 1822 he was appointed to the committee to further the object of a "general grand lodge."

John Marshall died July 6, 1835. He was interred with Masonic honors in Richmond by Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19, on July 9, 1835. Legend has it that the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia cracked while tolling a requiem for John Marshall.

Marshall has appeared on the following U. S. Postage stamps;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCOTT #</th>
<th>DATE ISSUED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>263</td>
<td>$5 December 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>278</td>
<td>$5 August 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>$5 June 5, 1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480</td>
<td>$5 March 22, 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1050</td>
<td>40c September 24, 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25c February 2, 1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FRATERNITY POST NO. 612

On October 3, 1918 a group of Masons assembled in the home of Bradford Butler on Dean street in Brooklyn, New York and placed their signatures on an application for a "Post of the American Legion" under the provisions of the American Legion Constitution adopted at the St. Louis caucus of the American Legion on May 8-10, 1919.

Having served in the military forces of the United States during World War I these veterans were entitled to membership in the American Legion. They requested a Charter for the formation of a Post at Brooklyn, New York, to be known as Fraternity Post, State of New York, Number 612.

The dream of these Brothers was unique! An American Legion Post ready to assist the veteran in need and the veteran’s family and survivors, that would be composed of Masons! And that dream exists today! Fraternity Post No. 612 is composed entirely of Masons and may well be the only organization of its kind.

Fraternity Post is open to every Master Mason, wherever dispersed, in good standing in a Masonic Lodge and jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, who has served in the armed forces of the United States in wartime. U. S. war service dates are:

World War I  April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
World War II  December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
Korea June 23, 1950 to January 31, 1955
Vietnam December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975

Fraternity Post is involved in many activities that strive to emphasize Brotherhood, Fraternalism, Americanism, and Patriotism. The American Legion stands tall defending the American way of life. Today the American Legion has nearly 2 million members in over 16,000 Posts covering every state in the Union and some of the foreign lands that were defended by Legionnaires.

Benefits of American Legion membership are many, too many to be listed here. The monthly magazine alone is well worth the membership dues. The importance of adding your support to the national organization that speaks for the veteran, his widow and other survivors is beyond measure.

Dues in Fraternity Post No. 612 are only $15.00 annually and bring back a large return; the American Legion monthly magazine, and all the programs offered by the American Legion including the special low cost life insurance.

Perhaps the most important benefit of membership is being counted on the list of those who did not shirk responsibility when their country called, those who gave their time and effort, and made a personal commitment to defend the United States of America.

Brothers eligible for and interested in American Legion Membership are invited to send a SASE to:

Fraternity Post No. 612
Masonic Hall - Box 208
71 West 23rd Street
New York, New York 10010
RECONSTRUCTING
FORT DUQUESNE

(Scott # 1123)

by

Christopher Leo Murphy
Zenith Lodge No. 104
North Burnaby, British Columbia

One of the most remarkable stamps in a Masonic collection, or any collection for that matter, is Fort Duquesne, Scott # 1123. The stamp depicts the British forces arriving at Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) which the French had abandoned and left in flames on November 24, 1758. This French stronghold had long been a threat to the Virginia frontier. Its capture had been continually urged by Colonel George Washington, then 26 years old. The stamp is intended to convey the jubilation of the British (and Virginia) troops in putting the French to flight.

Five of the figures on the stamp are said to be as follows:

- Doctor and Col. Hugh Mercer (extreme Left) (Mason)
- General John Forbes (on stretcher or "litter")
- Col. George Washington (central figure, mounted) (Mason)
- Col. Henry Bouquet (background figure, mounted)
- Major James Grant (back view, mounted (Mason)
It is interesting to note that in this campaign, Washington and Grant were on the same side, fighting for the British. Also, in 1768, Grant became Provincial grand Master over the lodges in the Southern District of North America. He therefore probably became Washington's Grand Master. Eighteen years later, both men became opponents in the Revolutionary war. Grant commanded British brigades on Long Island, Trenton, and Princeton. He became a Major General in 1777 and fought at Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth.

These facts further confirm the tremendous responsibility Washington undertook in leading the Revolutionary forces. His strength and firmness of purpose was, no doubt, amazing.

The scene on the Duquesne stamp stirs the imagination and sparked me to do a little research. Originally, it was thought that the arrangement was inspired by Henry Marcus Moran's painting, The Capture of Fort Duquesne. Direct similarities include the flag raising, the burning fort, the man on a stretcher, the possible identification of Hugh Mercer, and the stance of the horse in the foreground. The general theme is certainly there. Moran (b. 1877) created this painting after 1940. It is presently owned by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Further investigation, however, disclosed that the stamp is after an engraving by T. R. Smith, which was patterned from a painting by J. R. Chapin. The engraving was popular in the 1850's and was probably made to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the event it portrays.
Curious as it may seem, the engraving does not show the burning fort, nor is old General Forbes on his "litter" in the foreground. The details which are in Moran's painting, were probably taken from this source for the stamp design. The whole picture assembles quite nicely by incorporating these details in the engraving. The reconstruction brings together the combined thoughts of the artists, engraver, and stamp designer.

It is also very interesting to note that some of the characterization on the stamp is quite different from the engraving. On the engraving the second figure on the left is a Scotchman. He is wearing a kilt and checkered socks. He is probably one of General Grant's men, Grant being a Major in the Montgomery Highlanders. The same figure on the stamp gives the impression of a scout, possibly dressed in buckskin. The corresponding figure on the right side of the engraving is a young man dressed in a kind of tunic with a sash. The stamp figure is definitely a seasoned woodsman with traditional buckskin garb.

Exactly how the scene looked on that eventful day in 1758 is, of course, lost in history. We can however, certainly muse and speculate; for after all, who is going to say we're wrong?

LINCOLN PENNIES WITH SQUARE & COMPASS STAMPED OVER DATE, ALSO EASTERN STAR OVER DATE - ROLL OF 50 - $5.00 Plus $1.50 POSTAGE.

CHAMP A. S. HICKMAN
ROUTE 2 - BOX 287
FAIRMONT, WV 26554
(304) 825-6270