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Nicholas Batalias
27-05 Urban Place
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The MASONIC
PHILATELIST

VOL. 47
SEPTEMBER 1991
NO. 3

Copyright Masonic Stamp Club of NY

President Nicholas Batalias
Vice-President Edward J. Scheider
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ON THE COVER

Gutzon Borglum (1871-1941) was a Past Master of Howard Lodge No. 35 in New York City. His large sculpture of Lincoln's head is in the rotunda of the Capital in Washington, D.C. (Scott #1114). His memorial statue symbolizing the colonization of the West (Scott #837) is in Marietta, Ohio. Borglum's best known work is the Mount Rushmore National Memorial (Scott #1011) carved in the Black Hills of South Dakota. His son Lincoln Borglum, a member of Black Hills Lodge No. 92, Hermosa, SD completed the Mount Rushmore project.

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
Louisville-DeMolay Commandery
Number 12, Knights Templar
Louisville, Kentucky
July 22, 1991

Masonic Philatelist
Masonic Stamp Club of New York
Masonic Hall, Box 10
46 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10010

ATTN: Dr. Allen Boudreau

Louisville-DeMolay Commandery, No. 12, Knights Templar, of Louisville, Kentucky, will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on September 17, 1991. Louisville Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar was chartered on that date at the VIII Triennial Conclave of the General Grand Encampment, in the city of New York. To commemorate this event, Louisville-DeMolay Commandery No. 12, Knights Templar, is issuing a special cachet cover. The covers will be cancelled at the Knight Templar Station, at the Annual Grand York Rite Meetings, held at Executive West Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, and at the Masonic Home, Kentucky, Post Office.

The covers can be obtained by sending the cost, $2.00 each, and a SASE to C. T. Stigger, 7601 Wesleyan Place, Louisville, Kentucky 40242-4037, indicating which cancellation desired. There will be a limited number of envelopes with both cancellations at a cost of $4.00. Contributions will be made to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation from the profits of this special cover.

It is requested that, if possible, that you make this known to the recipients of your publication.

Fraternally

Cliff Stigger, P.C.
MASONIC POSTCARD COLLECTING
Howard Lasker
Washington Lodge No. 85, Albany, N.Y.

Stamp collecting with all its various avenues to explore, is so fascinating, how could anyone ask for anything more in a hobby? Being a very active and dedicated Mason for the past 38 years and being a philatelist even longer, I thought seeking out Masonic personages and Masonic buildings and symbols on stamps, and finding them, was as interesting and absorbing as a hobby could get.

Then I saw my first Masonic Temple on a postcard. It was a gift from a friend who knew that I collected Masonic memorabilia. This one card started me looking for others. Then, when I learned that there were not only Masonic Temples but also Scottish Rite Temples, Shrine Temples and Mosques, Masonic Homes and Hospitals, Masonic Emblems and themes on postcards, I saw an entire new world of collecting opening for me. I started visiting antique stores, flea markets, any place where I thought I might find a collection of postcards to leaf through, looking for a "Masonic" card.

Something that I discovered was that during World War II, a number of Temples opened their doors to servicemen, operating centers and canteens for them in their buildings. These cards are of particular interest to me as I am of that vintage. The Grand Lodge of the State of New York operated twelve such centers. There is a set of twelve postcards picturing these. I have seven of them and am still hunting for the missing five. What a thrill it will be for me when I locate them.

I also found out that years ago, many Lodges printed meeting notices on post cards. How would you like to be reminded of a meeting on a picture post card of your Lodge?

Then there is a group of cards with Masonic Emblems and Aprons, Shriner's Emblems, O.E.S. Emblems, etc. to look for. These are especially interesting and attractive, but also hard to come by.

As my collection grew, in order for me to make sense of it, I had to start categorizing it. I now have about 900 different postcards, divided into categories such as Masonic Temples, Homes, Hospitals, Scottish Rite Temples, Shrine Temples and Mosques, Servicemen's Centers, National Shrines, Government printed postcards,
Foreign postcards, and my favorite topic, Humorous postcards. There is a British set of "Are You A Mason?" cards that is outstanding. The U.S. has a whole group of "I love to love a Mason" cards, (because a Mason won't tell) that is also worth seeking out.

Once I had exhausted all my local dealers' stocks of Masonic postcards, I started writing to collectors wherever I could locate them, to swap duplicates. Through my collection of these cards, I have made friends with brethren, not only throughout the United States, but also throughout the world - brethren from England, Ireland, Scotland, brethren from France, Austria, Spain, Italy, The Philippines, etc. It is always a thrill when the mailman hands me my mail and I see a letter with some exotic, foreign stamps on it. Also when you see some of the foreign Lodge rooms that are pictured on these cards, you will find it hard to believe such magnificent, ornate rooms exist today. The Lodge room in the Tokyo Temple is absolutely breath-taking. The Lodge rooms in London, Dublin, Vienna, etc. are outstanding. A Trading postcards has created for me lasting and rewarding friendships.

At one point in time, it was relatively easy to find Masonic post cards. However, with more collectors joining the hunt, these cards are becoming scarce and more difficult to obtain and more expensive. The law of supply and demand has taken over. Accordingly when you are fortunate enough to locate a few, the pleasure in finding them is that much greater. You will find collecting these cards a most interesting and rewarding hobby. Also your views on Freemasonry will expand when you see small one-room Masonic Temples that appear unable to seat more than fifty brothers, and the other extreme, Temples that are magnificent, Cathedral-like structures that can seat several thousand brethren.

If just purchasing stamps and placing them in albums is losing some of its thrill for you and you are looking for something additional to collect, try hunting for Masonic postcards. You will not be disappointed with this new and most intriguing source of enjoyment in collecting.
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*Registration Optional
SIR ALEXANDER FLEMING
by Nick Batalias

As I was perusing through my *Ten Thousand Freemasons* books, doing some research for our Masonic Stamp Club, the name of Alexander Fleming caught my eye. Memories of an illness I had as a young sailor quickly came to mind.

I was very proud of the fact that I had just received my Able Bodied Seaman papers and was on my way to pick up my ship SS Marine Leader, which was a charted ship with the Standard Oil Fleet. On the way to Bayonne, I felt pain at the base of my spine, but thought nothing of it. The SS Marine Leader left on a foreign voyage that evening, as tankers never stay in port long. I was on the four to twelve shift at the helm, and never gave much thought to the pain at the base of my spine that evening as I was busy getting acquainted with the crew. The pain had become much worse by the next morning’s watch, and I could barely stand up. Captain Nagel came to the bridge, and quickly asked the second mate what was the matter with me. I was a little embarrassed, because this was my first cruise as an Able Bodied Seaman, but the pain soon became unbearable by the end of my watch. As soon as the Captain saw the swelling at the base of my spine he called the purser, who knew First Aid, up to the bridge. He diagnosed it as a pionide cyst, and administered a shot of penicillin. By the end of the voyage my cyst was completely dried up and the purser was able to lance it as well as give me several more shots of penicillin. The miracle drug killed any infection, and allowed me to heal properly so that I could continue my duties on the ship.
The Brother Mason who discovered penicillin was born August 6, 1881, on a small farm in Ayrshire, Scotland, where he had to walk eight miles every day in order to attend school. He later moved to Kilmarnock, Scotland, where he attended an academy school. Fourteen year old Alexander finished his technical education in London where he was living with an older brother. Working for a steamship line kept him busy while attending college. Graduating with honors from St. Mary’s Medical School in 1908, the newly created Doctor accepted a position with Sir Almoth Wright, one of the great medical men at that time.

While still in medical school, Alexander Fleming found the time to join the London Scottish Rifles, a regiment of volunteer soldiers and became an expert rifleman. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Dr. Fleming was made a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps. While continuing to work with Almoth Wright, Dr. Fleming studied wound infections.

Fleming became a Mason in Sancta Maria Lodge on June 8, 1909, #26082. He was installed Worshipful Master in 1924 and later served as Secretary. He received Distinguished Achievement Award from the Grand Lodge of New York in 1953. Brother Fleming joined Misericordia Lodge #3286 in London in 1925, became its Worshipful Master in 1935, and its Treasurer in 1942. He was exalted by the Royal Arch Masons of England, Chapter #2410 on July 27, 1923, and was their High Priest in both 1931 and 1942.

Brother Fleming died of a heart attack in his home in London on March 11, 1955.

When I was a young man, I did not realize that it was Brother Alexander Fleming who discovered penicillin and helped me become an "Able Bodied Seaman" again.
THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES

8120 FENTON STREET
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910
(301) 588-4010

July 26, 1991

Dr. Allan Boudreau
Library and Museum
Grand Lodge of New York
71 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

Dear Allan:

As mentioned on the phone MSA has been presented with a certificate of Silver Award for Masonic Philately, the United States of America & Canada prepared by Christopher Murphy.

We thought you might be interested in this award and have enclosed a copy of the letter and of the certificate for your information.

Thanks again for your help in encouraging Christopher Murphy to prepare this Digest for MSA. Hope all is going well.

Most sincerely and fraternally,

[Handwritten signature]

RICHARD E. FLETCHER, PGM
Executive Secretary

REF/pg
It is with a great deal of pleasure that we enclose our Certificate of Award for your publication(s) entered into the competition of our recent Philatelic Literature Fair.

We certainly appreciate your participation and continued support.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Joseph W. Mullin
Executive Director

JWM/rk

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<td>Hubert H. Humphry</td>
<td>Minneapolis MN</td>
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