



# The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY

VOL. 48

MARCH 1992

NO.1



## MASONIC GOVERNMENT ISSUES

By Dr. Allan Boudreau

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 48

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**WHERE TO WRITE:** For information regarding articles, manuscripts for publication, new member applications or renewals write The Secretary, MSCNY, 22 East 35th Street, New York, New York 10016.

**REGULAR MEETINGS:** 2:00 p.m., Second Wednesday each month except June, July, and August at:

**THE COLLECTORS CLUB**  
22 East 35th Street  
New York, New York 10016  
Telephone (212) 683-0559



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.

## Masonic Government Issues

By Dr. Allan Boudreau

As we philatelists know, postage stamps inform, educate, and influence people. The regular issues do not attract much attention. The commemorative issues are the ones that often create a stir. Recently we have had United States postage stamps urging people to register and vote, support youth, support public libraries, and a variety of other causes the government endorses. We have also had a Martin Luther (Scott #2065) commemorative that certainly pleased the Lutherans. The commemorative for St. Francis of Assisi (Scott #2023) issued in 1982 raised the question of how proper it was for the United States to honor a religious figure on its postage stamps. Does this violate the letter and/or the spirit of the First Amendment? Neither Martin Luther nor Giovanni di Bernardone had any connection with the United States of America.

The United States has never issued a Masonic Government Issue. Masonic symbols can be found. Keystones (#724); Hourglass (#998); Bible (#1099); All Seeing Eye (R014); Square and Compasses (R0106); Scales of Justice (#1186); and Dove of Peace (#1326). George Washington taking the Oath of Office as the First President of the United States (#854) and the Williams Portrait of Washington with his Masonic Jewel (#714) are the only United States postage stamps with Masonic overtones.

The rest of the world has been equally reticent in honoring Freemasonry on its postal issues. The first

country to issue a Masonic stamp was the Republic of Honduras. The stamp was issued in 1935 and depicts the Masonic Temple in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. "Templo Masonico de Tegucigalpa" is prominently printed thus qualifying this stamp, printed by the American Bank Note Co. as a Masonic Government Issue.

England, notwithstanding her eminent position in Freemasonry has never issued a Masonic commemorative stamp. Most Masonic philatelists include under the heading "Masonic Philately" the Peace and Reconstruction 3d value of 1946 (SG#492) because the design includes certain tools and symbols relating to Freemasonry. A similar situation exists with the Suriname issue of 1961 which includes a 20c multicolored stamp that Scott lists as "Concordia Lodge (Masons)." However, there is no identification on the actual stamp to indicate its Masonic connection.

Christopher L. Murphy has clearly established classifications of postage stamps that may be connected with Freemasonry. Class I — Masonic symbols; Class II — Persons who were Freemasons; Class III — Monuments to Freemasons and places named after a Freemason; Class IV — Commemorating an event or undertaking in which a Freemason played a major role; Class V — Postage stamps designed by a Freemason; Class VI — Postage stamps that inadvertently show symbols that may be associated with Freemasonry. Masonic philatelists are encouraged to purchase a copy of Brother Murphy's recent publication from the

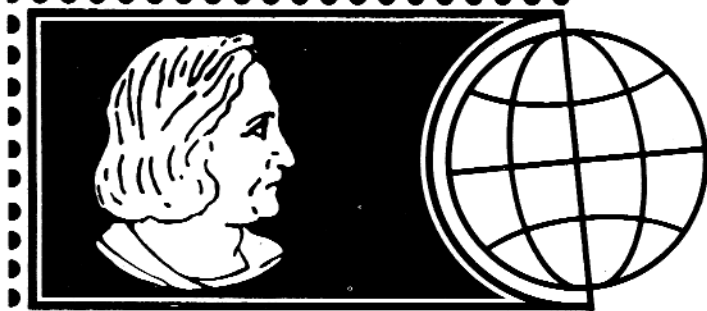
### A Preliminary list of Masonic Government Issues

Year	Country	Subject
1935	Honduras	Masonic Temple, Tegucigalpa
1941	Serbia	Anti-Masonic, Set of 4 Stamps
1956	Cuba	Masonic Temple, Havana
1970	Dominican Republic	Masonic Symbols
1972	Honduras	Surcharged Anniversary Gran Logia
1973	Brazil	Grand Orient de Brazil 1822/1973
1973	France	Grand Orient de France 1773-1973
1976	Barbados	Prince Hall w/Square & Compass
1977	Brazil	Cinquentenario de Fundacao des Grand Loja Brasileiras
1978	Luxembourg	175th Anniversary Grand Lodge
1983	Dominican Republic	125th Anniversary La Masonia Dominican
1983	Belgium	Grand Orient de Belgique
1985	Netherlands Antilles	Lodge de Vergenowging 150th Anniversary; Set of 4 stamps
1985	St. Kitts	150th Anniversary Mount Olive Lodge, S.C.; Set of 4 stamps
1987	Republic de Guinee	Lafayette, Churchill & Washington w/Square & Com- pass; Set of 3 stamps
1987	Republic of the	75th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines
1988	Brazil	150th Anniversary Death of Jose Bonifacio — Masonic Apron & Symbols
1990	Mexico	XIV Conference Supremos Consejos del Mundo 1990
1992	Jamaica	(not yet released)

Masonic Service Association, 8120 Fenton Street,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910.

A preliminary checklist of Masonic Government Issues is presented here. Also included, on the following pages, are illustrations of many of these issues "on cover." We have just received a note from Trevor Frey, our England Correspondent, that Jamaica has scheduled a new stamp issue to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the First Provincial Grand Master of English Freemasonry in Jamaica. A first day cover is planned and the scheduled release date is May 1992. For full details on this forthcoming issue write directly to the Head Postmaster, Philatelic Service, Kingston, Jamaica.

## **WORLD COLUMBIAN**



## **STAMP EXPO '92**

**MAY 22-31, 1992 — CHICAGO**









# Le Grand Orient de France



La Fayette, le portique du temple de la Grande Loge et le G symbole de la puissance créatrice

Editions J.F. - Courbevoie



PREMIER JOUR  
D'ÉMISSION  
FIRST DAY COVER

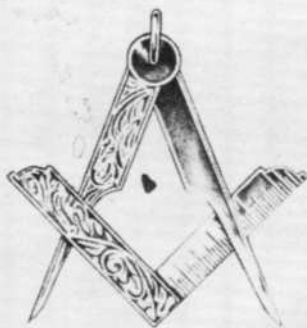






Dr. Al  
New Yc  
100 Wa

**Freemasonry  
in  
BARBADOS**  
1740—1990



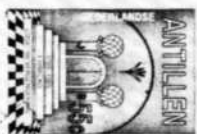
Official first day cover

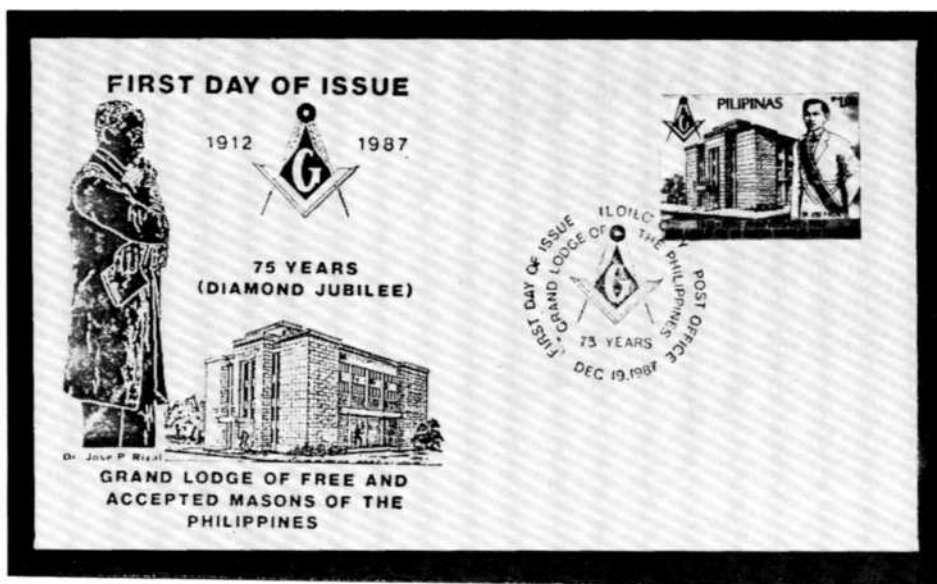
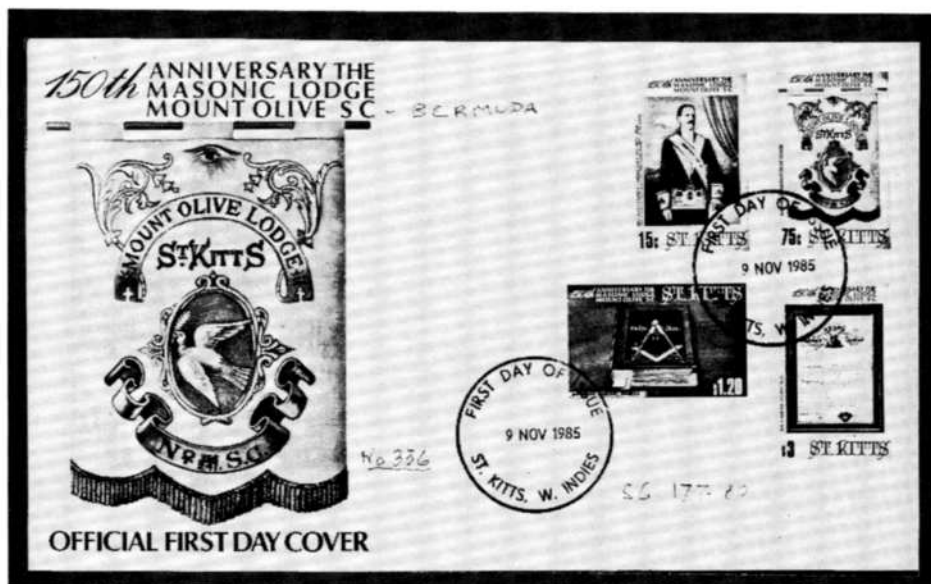


Allan Boudreau  
York University  
Washington Square East



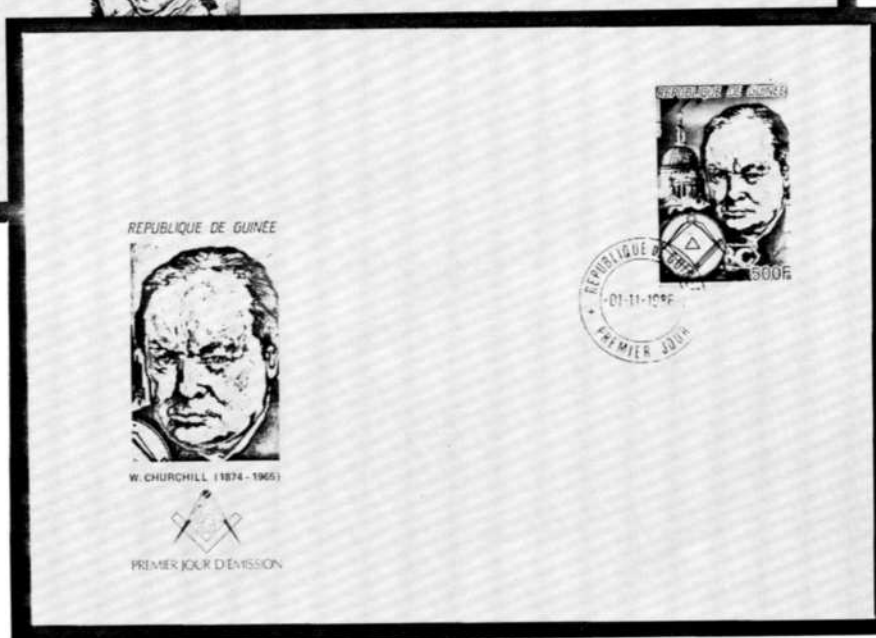
200 JAAR LOGE "DE VERGENEGING"

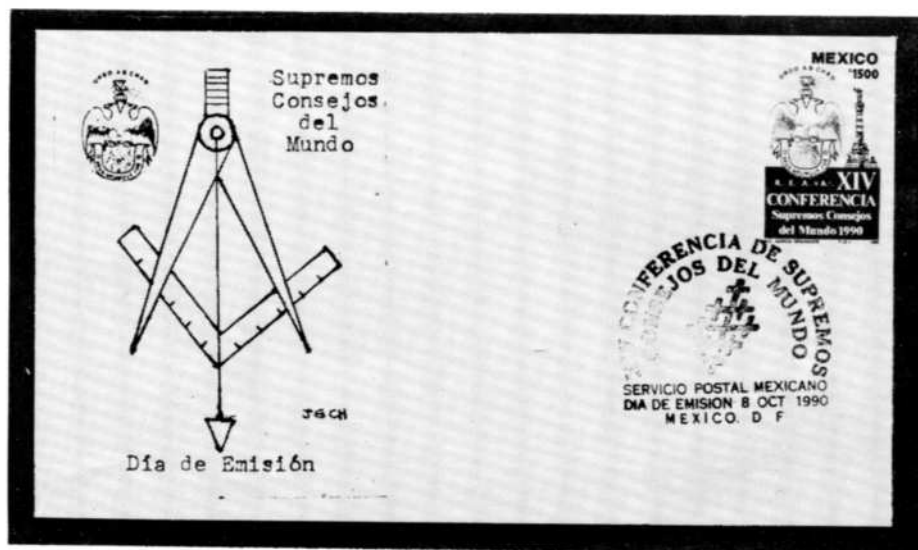












## WHY JOIN THE COLLECTORS CLUB?

1

### Philatelic Fellowship

The *regular meetings* at the Club place you among gatherings of enthusiastic collectors of all levels and interests. The Club sponsors *programs and lectures* during which outstanding collections are displayed and discussed in a friendly atmosphere.

There is also an *annual competitive exhibit*, limited to the membership, to encourage you to share your collecting interests with others.

The meeting rooms of the Club are used by many *specialist study groups* for their meetings, thus promoting association for the mutual exchange of ideas and information.

The annual Governors' party caps the year in a most festive and entertaining way.

HERE ARE  
FOUR  
GOOD  
REASONS!



*Postmaster Ben Franklin greets visitors  
in the foyer of The Collectors Club.*

## 2

### A Philatelic Home in New York



The Collectors Club is located in an attractive

1901 landmark building designed by famed architect Stanford White.

It is in an accessible midtown location, and *you are invited to visit*, whether in connection with the regularly scheduled meetings, or just to relax in a comfortable chair in the library or members' lounge.

## 3

### A Philatelic Resource



The Club houses one of the great *philatelic research libraries*. Whether it is the unique 1840s letterbook of New York Postmaster Robert Morris, or the latest specialist journal, tens of thousands of informative items are available to anyone desirous of learning more about almost any facet of the hobby, from the serious student to the merely curious.

This material treasure nicely complements the opportunities afforded you by the meetings, lectures and study groups, and promotes the best interests of philately through fellowship and scholarship.

## 4

### Philatelic Publications

The Club's bi-monthly publication, *The Collectors Club Philatelist* contains articles and news from all over the world, and is recognized as a primary source of information by experts and novices alike. It is a major bonus of your membership.

The Club also sponsors philatelic research leading to publication of monographs, handbooks and scholarly texts of value to the hobby in general.



## AND ONE BAD ONE

## 5

### Sheer Vanity

The Club's membership has included the most respected and distinguished individuals in philately, and membership in the Club is a recognized cachet of *prominence and achievement*.

The Alfred E. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for service to philately is a medal of international significance, and the other medals and certificates of merit awarded by the Club are deemed to be among the most *prestigious* in philately.

In joining the Club, you place yourself among a dynamic group which emphasizes all that is best in the hobby.

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## HOW TO JOIN THE COLLECTORS CLUB

A membership application will be sent to you upon request to the Executive Secretary or Membership Chairman of the Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016

## The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

On January 13, 1934 a group of Masons gathered together in the Grand Lodge Library and Museum on 23rd Street in New York City and it was not for Masonry alone. All had another interest in common; they were philatelic enthusiasts. It wasn't long before the original small group was joined by many more Brothers and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was well on its way. The meetings were for the purpose of friendly discussions on the subject of philately, stamp collecting, postal history, and especially the many Masons involved.

Late in 1938 the Club petitioned President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mason, stamp collector, and member of the Club, to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington (another Mason) as the first president of the United States. The following year this stamp (Scott's #845) was issued. When it became known that the stamp would be released, the Club prepared a special envelope as a Masonic souvenir. On the day of issue, April 30, 1939, first day covers were mailed to Masons all over the world, who paid the sum of ten cents for each cover. The proceeds of this effort were contributed to the George Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan, New York.

The Club outgrew various subsequent meeting rooms at Masonic Hall and in 1944 initiated meetings at the Collectors Club in New York City where they meet today through the courtesy of the Collectors Club. In March 1944 a small Club publication was begun and entitled, *The Masonic Philatelist*. This magazine has grown to a substantial quarterly magazine and a well respected authority in the field of philately. Membership now numbers over 600 and is scattered all over the United States and on six continents. In the early 1940's members of the Club initiated the serious study of Masons on postage stamps and the term Masonic Philately was born.

The first such topical collection to draw a major prize was the Masonic Philately exhibit during the May 1947 Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition (CIPRX) in New York City. Interest in this area of philately has grown to the extent that Masonic Philately is now a regular specialty and exhibited at many of the major stamp shows. The Masonic Stamp Club of New York continues its long standing practice of participating in the major American Stamp Dealers Association show in New York City.

Over the years the Club has sponsored many first day cachets honoring Masons and Masonic events. George Washington, Fiorello La Guardia, Harry S. Truman, and the St. John's Lodge No. 1 in New York City Bible are some of the more popular cachets issued. Many of these attractive souvenirs are given away and thus develop such positive interest in Freemasonry. All proceeds from the donations received for Masonic Cachets are give to Masonic Charities. The Club has encouraged the establishment of other Masonic Stamp Clubs and a source of pride was the establishment of the George Washington Chapter No. 1 in Washington, D.C. (now the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club).

It may be well to mention at this point, that the Club is open to every Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge and jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of New York who has an interest in stamp collecting and especially to those interested in Masonic Philately. Brothers interested in membership which includes *The Masonic Philatelist* are invited to send a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) to The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, New York 10016.

## ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC., 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.

Membership is open to all Master Masons throughout the World who are in good standing in a Lodge and Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of New York.

The dues of \$10.00 per year (\$12.00 outside North America) bring to you the MASONIC PHILATELIST which is published by the club. All members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York are eligible to receive the Degree of MASTER OF PHILATELY. This degree, which is NOT an official Masonic degree, is worked occasionally.

Address all inquiries and Applications for membership to the Membership Committee.

INCLUDE PAYMENT OF \$15.00 WHICH INCLUDES THE INITIA-  
TION FEE OF \$5.00 and \$10.00 FIRST YEAR DUES. OUTSIDE  
NORTH AMERICA PLEASE ADD \$2.00 FOR OVERSEAS MAILING.

Please Address All Communications To The  
**MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N.Y., INC.**

The Collectors Club  
22 East 35th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (Zone) (State)

Name of Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Affiliations** \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp Activities

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** To avoid delay in passing on the application, please include satisfactory proof of membership in your lodge, such as a letter from the Secretary of the Lodge, or a photocopy of your current dues card.



FREE BONUS COVERS  
WITH THE MARCH 1992 ISSUE OF  
THE MASONIC PHILATELIST