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CONSECRATED
7th APRIL 1945
50th ANNIVERSARY

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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
FAX (212) 481-1269

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.
The following is a reprint of the paper delivered by Bro. Christopher L. Murphy upon being proclaimed a Blue Friar, Washington, D.C., February, 1995.

NORTH AMERICA'S "MOST MASONIC" POSTAGE STAMPS

by

Christopher L. Murphy, 32°

Masonic Philately, or the collecting of postage stamps that may be associated with the Masonic Order, goes back to the early 1930's. Since that time, hundreds of United States and Canadian stamps have been identified as having Masonic connections.

For convenience, these Masonic stamps, as it were, are classified as follows:

CLASS 1. Stamps issued for a Masonic purpose
CLASS 2. Stamps showing a person who was (or is) a Freemason
CLASS 3. Stamps showing objects directly connected with a Freemason
CLASS 4. Stamps commemorating events in which a Freemason played a major role
CLASS 5. Stamps designed by a Freemason
CLASS 6. Stamps inadvertently showing Masonic symbols

Unfortunately, neither the United States nor Canada has issued a Class 1 Masonic stamp. Many other countries, however, have issued them, as shown by the adjacent Philippine example. And these stamps are highly prized by Masonic collectors.

Masonic collectors in North America, therefore, who wish to specialize on their own countries' stamps, must be content with stamps that fall into Classes 2 to 6. Nevertheless, this condition makes one look harder for applicable stamps and some highly unusual Masonic connections have surfaced. From my studies, there are nine stamps that top the list.
1. A Newfoundland stamp issued in 1857 is designed after a Royal Arch Masonic apron. The apron belonged to Brother Thomas Dundas, the second Earl of Zetland, who was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England from 1844 to 1870.

2. A Newfoundland stamp issued in 1910 shows King James I who arranged for the English translation of the bible, which we all know as the *King James Version*. There is evidence James I was a member of the "Lodge of Scoon and Perth" in Scotland. Our Masonic Bibles are the King James version so every North American lodge has this brother's name within its walls.

3. A United States stamp issued in 1939 shows the inauguration of Brother George Washington as first president of the United States. Brother Washington is taking his oath on a Masonic Bible which belongs to St. John's Lodge No. 1, New York City. How this Bible found its way to the inauguration has become a matter for romantic speculation. There is no question, however, that it was the Bible used. The stamp itself, was petitioned by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York in 1938. At that time Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States and also a Masonic Stamp Club member.

4. A United States stamp issued in 1928 shows Brother George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge. The Masonic association with this act is very strong as all Freemasons realize. The stamp design was selected by Brother Roger S. Regar who was with the United States Post Office at that time and who later served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.
5. Canada's first postage stamp issued in 1851 was designed by Brother Sandford Fleming. The stamp shows a rising sun in the background which has a sun-face, a well-known Masonic symbol.

6. A United States stamp issued in 1932 showing Brother George Washington was designed from a pastel portrait of Washington wearing Masonic Royal Arch regalia. The portrait, which belongs to Alexandria Lodge in Virginia, was created from life by W. Williams. The stamp designers omitted the regalia in the stamp design. Nevertheless, the United States Postal Service acknowledges the source of the design.

7. A United States stamp issued in 1985 shows Brother Frederick Auguste Bartholdi with his creation, the Statue of Liberty, in the background. This stamp is unusual because it cuts across two Masonic stamp classifications.

8. A United States stamp issued in 1974 shows Brother Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the United States. Brother Truman is the only Mason shown on a North American stamp who was a Knight Templar, 33rd Degree A.A.S.R. Mason and a past grand master.

9. The United States' first postage stamp, issued in 1847, shows Brother Benjamin Franklin who did more for Freemasonry in America than any other individual.
No. 1: Thomas Dundas was initiated in Prince of Wales' Lodge No. 259, London England, 1830.

No. 2: There is an old charter in the possession of the Lodge of Scoon, Perth, Scotland stating that King James I was a Freemason. The charter is dated April 15, 1601.

No. 3: There are seven (7) Freemasons shown on this stamp: Robert Livingston, Arthur St. Clair, Samuel Otis, Henry Knox, Roger Sherman, George Washington and Friedrich von Steuben.

No. 4: George Washington received his Master Mason's degree in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1752. He later became a member and first master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia. This lodge changed its name to Washington-Alexandria Lodge. Washington served as Master of his lodge for twenty (20) months. He was also a Royal Arch Mason.

No. 5: Sandford Fleming was a member of Saint Andrew's Lodge No. 16, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

No. 6: Refer to comments shown for No. 4.

No. 7: Frederick Auguste Bartholdi was an early member of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris, France (1875).

No. 8: Harry S. Truman received his Master Mason's degree in Belton Lodge No. 450, Grandview, Missouri. He became grand master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1941.

No. 9: Benjamin Franklin was a member of St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1732.
The remarkable Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., has strong Masonic connections, together with a number of amusing stories on its founding and journey through history.

To begin, it took the U.S. Congress over ten years to decide whether or not to accept a gift of over $500,000 from an Englishman, James Smithson, for the purpose of establishing the institution. Largely through the efforts of past U.S. President John Quincy Adams, a noted anti-Mason, the money was accepted and the project started.

At this time (1846), James Polk was the U.S. president and George Mifflin Dallas was his vice president. Both men were Freemasons, Mifflin serving as the grand master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1834.

Dallas was also chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents. He delivered the oration at the Masonic cornerstone laying ceremony for the building. President Polk was also in attendance at this event which saw the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, B. B. French, wearing George Washington's Masonic apron, lay the corner stone with the gavel Washington used for the National Capitol ceremony sixty-four years earlier. Masonic records were deposited in the Smithsonian cornerstone and are a perpetual reminder of the Craft's early involvement with the institution, (all events were certainly to the dismay of J. Q. Adams who died the following year - 1847).

The Smithsonian "Castle," as it is called, is shown on a three-cent stamp issued in 1946 (Scott #943), and a fifteen-cent stamp issued in 1980 (Scott #1838). A comparison between these stamps shows a striking difference - one of the main towers on the earlier stamp is missing its pointed roof structure. An inquiry to the Smithsonian Institution on this anomaly gives us yet another little story about the grand old building - A letter received from Richard Stamm of the Smithsonian Institution explaining the mystery accompanies this article.

The Smithsonian, which now has fourteen buildings to house its treasures, honors its founder, James Smithson, by placement of his crypt and a memorial sculpture directly inside the front doors of the Castle. Few people would fail to be impressed with the institution and its many, many stories.
(Top) USA Scott #943, issued in 1946, shows the Smithsonian Institution "Castle" with a flat roof on the left tower. The original pointed roof structure was destroyed by a fire in 1865. (Lower) USA Scott #1838, issued in 1980, shows the same building with the pointed roof structure replaced. The project was completed in 1972, over 100 years after the fire.
Thank you for your letter of March 4, 1995, it is always nice to receive such positive feedback on the Smithsonian’s programs and people.

Regarding your inquiry about the pointed roof on the smaller north tower of the Smithsonian Building, it was a restoration rather than an addition to the building. A disastrous fire destroyed the upper floors of the building, including the towers, in the mid-nineteenth century. Workmen, rearranging some paintings on an unusually cold January day in 1865, unknowingly inserted a stove pipe into the brick lining of the building, rather than into a flue; smoke and embers collected for a number of days in the space under the roof, and the resulting fire was burning fiercely before it was discovered. The fire utterly destroyed the second floor of the building and the upper floors of the towers. The distinctive pointed roof of the north tower was not replaced during the reconstruction following the fire, presumably to save money. It remained flat-roofed for over 100 years until 1972, when it was restored to its original appearance.

I hope this answers your question adequately. If there is anything further you would like to know about the building, please don’t hesitate to inquire.

Sincerely,

Richard Stamm, Keeper,
OAHP Castle Collection

March 28, 1995
May 10, 1995

Masonic Stamp Club of New York Inc.
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Brother Secretary

I wish to announce that Armstrong Lodge No. 26, A.F. & A.M. Newport Delaware U.S.A. has issued a limited edition collectors cachet cover to commemorate our 125th Anniversary. While this item is of special interest to stamp collectors the cover should also be of interest to any Mason interested in collecting documents related to Masonic history.

The covers are available for $3.00 ea. please send orders and correspondence to the P.O. Box address below. Subscribers should send a self addressed stamped envelope large enough to hold the number of covers desired. Please make checks payable to; Stephen D. Potter.

Stephen D. Potter
Junior Warden, Armstrong Lodge No. 26
P.O. Box 9700
Newark, DE 19714-9700
ARMSTRONG LODGE NO. 26 COMMEMORATIVE CACHET COVER

6 1/2 x 3 1/2 ENVELOPE

STEPHEN D. POTTER
PO BOX 9700
NEWARK, DE 19714-9700
302-737-9036
Brother Pat Herst writes a note reminding us of the booklet that he put out on the Barrett collection of Masonic postmarks on covers that was sold on auction a lifetime ago. Pat will be glad to send a copy of the booklet gratis to any member of the Club who sends him a stamped, addressed envelope with 55c US postage affixed. Two or three copies are available, if sufficient postage is affixed.

Pat reminds us that the selling price for this booklet is $3.50 each and he would prefer that any members getting copies remember what they cost them and not offer them for sale.

Club members can write directly to Pat Herst, POB 1533, Boca Raton, FL 33429-0494 (Phone 305-391-8869).

Grahame West writes from West Sussex, England to thank the Club for publicizing the recent Masonic Philatelic Club (England) cover. Brother West has sent along another cover for the Viatores Royal Arch Chapter Number 4254 commemorating the 50th anniversary. The Chapter was formed in 1945 with an unusually high number of 17 companions being founders when normally a minimum of 9 is required to establish a new Chapter.

The Chapter was to meet, and still does, in Sussex, and was consecrated in the Sussex Masonic Temple in Brighton. There were 13 officers of Supreme Grand Chapter present, also 20 officers of Past Provincial Rank, and 79 Companions.

The cost of each cover is $5.00 US, which includes airmail postage with commemorative stamps. Any amount realized beyond the actual costs will be given to Masonic.

Send your order to G. A. West, 12 Dean Way, Storrington West Sussex, England RH20 4QN.
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Commendative Stein to Benefit Demolay

Knights Templar stein to benefit Demolay on their 75th Anniversary. This is the second stein in a series of eight. The Demolay stein is numbered to 1000 pieces only. This stein is a 16 oz. white ceramic body with a pewter lid, embossed with 22c gold and 10 other colors to make the rich, beautiful images on this stein. From each stein sold a $5.00 donation will go to Demolay International for their different funds that they support. This stein also comes with a certificate of authenticity. The purchase price of the stein is $47.00 which includes shipping and handling.

If you are interested in ordering one of these steins please submit your order as soon as possible, with check payable to: Stanley C. Buz and mail to: P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA. 18052.
Dear Bro. Boudreau:

The Brazilian Post Office has recently published two stamps of Brazilian Freemasons: Duque de Caxias and Barão do Rio Branco, which I am enclosing with my compliments.

With best regards, I remain

fraternally,

Mario R. Krausz
R. Vicente Leporace 42
04619-030 São Paulo, SP
NEWS RELEASE

PARK RIDGE, IL. 60068

May 20, 1995

1995 is the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima.

The U. S. Postal Service backed down on printing a postage stamp with the A-bomb on it because it was not politically correct.

During the past few years, U.S. Postage stamps depicting U.S. MILITARY DEFEATS have been issued without any public outcry, because it was a part of the war history.

I cannot produce postage stamps, but I can offer a commemorative envelope seal.

The Japanese started the war and the United States ended it. We were not the aggressors.

It is time to show our Victory even if winning is not politically correct.

Every future enemy should be reminded that we will use all of our technology and might to destroy them if we are attacked.

If we don't forget the past we may be ready for the future.

U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS THAT WERE ISSUED.

1990....Stamp shows the Destroyer Reuben James sunk Oct 31, 1941.
It shows a burning ship that was hit by an enemy submarine, the ship is shown still in the cross hairs of a periscope.
It shows the mass destruction as the ships burn.
1991....Yorktown Lost at Midway, 1942
It shows a ship burning.
1991....Japan Invades Aleutian Islands June 1942
It shows U.S. barracks and buildings burning.
1991....Corregidor Falls to Japanese May 6, 1942.
I shows U.S. servicemen with their hands in the air as prisoners.
1994....U.S. Postal Service and the Clinton Whitehouse decides NOT to publish a stamp with the bombing of HIROSHIMA because it is not politically correct.

Seals are available by mail: Reliable Graphics,
Box 250
Parr Ridge, Il 60068
3 sheets (60 seals) for $6.00 or 8 sheets (160 seals) for $11.00.
Dealer prices available.

I hope you find this information newsworthy.

Sincerely,

Jerry V. Herr
MASONIC AND PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

BY

CHRISTOPHER L. MURPHY 320, BF

MASONIC BOOKS

POSTAGE STAMPS & FREEMASONRY - GUIDE AND COMPENDIUM, UNITED STATES & CANADA

A fully illustrated hard-cover book of over 400 pages on Masonic philately. It includes over 300 illustrations, 80 biographies and "keys" to individuals on major "group" stamps. Book autographed if requested. PRICE: $22.50 U.S., POST PAID.

BROTHERS OF THE DIAMOND - FREEMASONRY & PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

This unique book explores the lives of fifty-six Masonic brothers who achieved the highest honor in baseball - election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The work is 146 pages, soft cover, metal coil bound. A picture of each player introduces his biography. Book autographed if requested. PRICE: $10.00 U.S., POST PAID.

THE MASONIC SPECIALIST - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA

The most comprehensive work on Masonic philately ever compiled. It is provided in customized three-ring binders so that it may also be used as a stamp album (sheet size 8.5" x 5.5"). This is a major, fully illustrated work which comprises ten (10) volumes and is sold on a subscription basis. Book autographed if requested. PRICE: $30.00 U.S., per volume, POST PAID.

PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

VENDOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The vendor quality management process detailed in this work draws upon the knowledge of many experienced professionals in the supply operations field. All aspects of the relationships between a vendor and a customer are analyzed to arrive at a fair and meaningful performance evaluation process. A computer system based on the concepts detailed in the book was developed in 1987 for BC TEL, the major telecommunications company in British Columbia, Canada. The system was thoroughly tested at BC TEL using real evaluation data and then modified based on feedback. The system has been adopted by all major telephone companies in Canada. For those who may be interested in purchasing professionally created software, the book publisher, Pyramid Publications Inc., is an authorized BC TEL agent for systems sales and welcomes your inquiries. The work is hardcover with high quality binding; 168 letter size pages; fully indexed. Book autographed if requested. PRICE: $52.00 U.S., POST PAID.

INTERNAL VENDOR QUALITY PROCESS

All business processes are, in effect, individual people or groups of people providing products and services to other people. Very often, we use the term "internal customer" to refer to people on the receiving end of a business transaction within a company. Chris Murphy takes this concept to the next step and reasons that if we have "internal customers," then we must have "internal vendors." These vendors, as with outside vendors, need to have their performance continually monitored and measured to ensure they provide the required level of product or service quality. In this work, Chris Murphy provides a complete process for measuring the effectiveness of internal vendor performance. Full details are provided for computer applications and the book contains a "getting started" chapter with step-by-step instructions and blank form samples. The process has been adopted by many major telephone companies in Canada. Hardcover with high quality binding; 113 letter size pages; fully indexed. Book autographed if requested. PRICE: $45.00 U.S., POST PAID.
PURCHASING PROCESS MANAGEMENT

This work is divided into discussions on five (5) major purchasing functions - a total of 32 chapters. The functions discussed are BUYER COORDINATION, POLICIES AND PROCESSES, DEPARTMENT MEASUREMENTS, LEGALITIES AND AGREEMENTS, VENDOR QUALITY. The information is straight-forward, direct and applicable to the purchasing functions in all industries. Basic manual processes are detailed with supporting charts and graphs. The work is intended to provide a solid, practical knowledge base for the purchasing process. This knowledge is invaluable for the development of computer systems. Hardcover with high quality binding; 253 letter size pages; fully indexed. Book autographed if requested.

PURCHASING PERSPECTIVES

Drawing upon over thirty years' direct and indirect experience in purchasing functions, Chris Murphy provides in this work his candid, no-holds-barred opinions and advice on contentious purchasing issues. A direct quotation from the FOREWORD in this book sets the tone of the work: "When I started in purchasing in 1958, there was virtually no upper management recognition of purchasing. Thirty-five years later I would call the recognition marginal, if it exists at all. Where do I put the blame? I would say 75% on purchasing people for being so timid and conventional; 25% on executives for being so short-sighted." Hardcover with high quality binding; 92 letter size pages; fully indexed. Book autographed if requested. PRICE: $38.00 U.S., POST PAID.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Murphy, an independent publisher and consultant, was employed with B.C. Telecom Inc. (BC TEL) from 1958 to 1994. He advanced in the Company, holding management positions in business systems, purchasing, material control, warehouse & distribution and vendor quality. Highly interested in business processes, Chris designed and implemented many manual and computerized systems in BC TEL's supply operations department. While in the position of purchasing manager (1987), Chris was asked to pioneer the Company's vendor quality process. Over the next two years, Chris developed and implemented a comprehensive vendor quality management process for BC TEL which was subsequently adopted by all major Canadian telephone companies. In his spare time, Chris is an avid philatelist. Three of his books have won Silver Awards at the Cardinal Spellman Literature Fair, Massachusetts. U.S.A. Chris' articles on philately are often featured in the Scott Stamp Monthly magazine, (Ohio, U.S.A.). Chris is a member of Zenith Lodge No. 104, A.F. & A.M., Grand Registry of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, Canada, and is currently secretary of his lodge. He is also a Shriner, Grizzi Temple, Burnaby, B.C., a vice-president of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and a member of The Society of Blue Friars.

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Now with seven (7) installments completed, this work is the most detailed and extensive work ever compiled on North American Masonic Philately. Research for the work has included, and continues to include, a review of all major Masonic publications (both active and inactive) since their inception. In addition, a highly critical analysis has been conducted on all applicable postage stamps, bringing to light errors and anomalies which have never been exposed. Enlarged photographs of stamps and photographs of related material augment many of the subjects, providing highly interesting information for philatelists. The work also includes illustrations of North American paper money which depicts Masons.

Arranged for use as either a reference work or a stamp album, *The Masonic Specialist* is guaranteed to please even the most particular collector. The author, Christopher Leo Murphy, is a noted authority on Masonic Philately. He is a member of the *Society of Blue Friars* and a vice-president of *The Masonic Stamp Club of New York*. Books are autographed if requested.

The work is available on an installment basis whereby one (1) installment is provided each quarter at a cost of $30 (U.S. or CDN) post paid, which includes a high quality customized binder. More frequent shipments of completed installments are provided upon request. Personal cheques or Visa payments are accepted. Please send your order to the following address.

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Par le R.F. Jean PROUTEAU

TIMBRES-POSTE ET SYMBOLISME

En certain nombre de timbres portant d'une manière ostensible des symboles maçonniques existent. Ils ont été émis dans un but précis. Ils ont fait l'objet d'études antérieures. Nous devons nous intéresser aujourd'hui seule­ment aux timbres reproduisant d'une manière acciden­telle des symboles. Cette liste ne se prétend pas exhaustive.

CANADA N° 303

Le timbre le plus représentatif de cette caté­gorie est le Canada n° 303 consacré à l'édu­cation. Nous avons relevé une douzaine de symboles maçonniques : maïs, nymphe, fil à plomb, voile et lune, études, temple grec, alpha à omega, homme, mathématique, globe, ... 

Vient ensuite énumérées d'une part l'alphabet alphabétique : l'albelle - symbole du travail - Trévire n° 158, l'acciaia (Renaissance, immortali­tait) Australie n° 119, l'astronomie (un des arts divins, soleil et lune) Philippines n° 1608, l'aumônier (microcosme du sacré) Canada n° 197, le bateau (cécité du profi­me) Mexico n° 596, bible et coran (flèches sautent) Philippines n° 1479, Gwiana n° 1401, le blé (abondance) Monténégro n° 575.

Citons en outre : le cèdre (incrémentabilité) Liban n° 97, la charité (vœu maçonnique) U.S.A. n° 518, colonne cartésienne (beauté) Grèce n° 1646, colonne dorique (force) Grèce 1644, colonne ionique (sagesse) Grèce n° 1645, le cyprès (éternité cosmique) a 0.6. 10, les enfants de la veuve (les France-Maçons) Philippines n° 574, l'épervier (tentation mortelle) France n° 1756, le fil à plomb (voie du milieu) Suisse n° 370, la liste "G" (génien­cne) Gwiana n° 52 et le pêlican (symbol de la parade) Libéria n° 28, etc.
PHILATÉLIE

Par le R.F. Jean PROUTEAU

LES NOUVEAUTÉS

ALLEMAGNE


BELGIQUE


ITALIE

Une très belle oblitération maçonnique a été mise en service à Cosenza le 16 juillet pour le 150ème anniversaire du martyre des frères Attilio et Emilio Bandiera. Amis de Mazzini ils étaient membres du mouvement de la « Jeune Italie ».

En 1841 ils fonderent en Grèce une société secrète « La Esperia ». Passé ensuite à Malte ils lancèrent dans la « Gazette de Malte » un célèbre manifeste dans lequel ils condamnaient l'abandon du territoire national à l'Étranger.

ÎLES MARSHALL


ÉTATS-UNIS

Une intéressante oblitération maçonnique de Roland (X) en date du 14 octobre 1994 a marqué le bicentenaire de la Franc-Maçonnerie dans l'État du Vermont.


PHILIPPINES


Les frères Bandiera furent invités à Gorou à la Loge « Fenice » (Le Phénix).
STAMPS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

British Library Exhibition Galleries
Great Russell Street, London WC1
31 March - 22 September 1995
Monday - Saturday 10 - 5, Sunday 2.30 - 6
[Closed Good Friday (14 April) & Monday 8 May]
Admission Free

Further information: 0171-412 7111

Stamps of the American Civil War is organised jointly by the British Library Philatelic Collections and The Eccles Centre for American Studies.

The British Library is one of the world’s greatest research centres. Its Philatelic Collections are the National Philatelic Collections of the UK and comprise material from most countries and periods, and are available to students by appointment. Further information is obtainable from the British Library Philatelic Collections, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, telephone 0171-412 7635/7636; fax 0171-412 7745. E-mail: philatelic@bl.uk.

The Eccles Centre for American Studies was established at the British Library in 1991 with a generous gift of £1 million from the British Library’s first Chairman, Viscount Eccles, and his wife, the former Mary Hyde. The Centre identifies, publicises and augments the North American holdings of the British Library; develops academic connections with British, European and North American higher educational institutions and collaborates with other libraries and bodies that have interests in North American studies. Further information is available from the Director, Professor R Burchell, telephone 0171-412 7551.
STAMPS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Stamps of the American Civil War, a small exhibition at the British Library, offers an opportunity to see rare examples from the Library’s Philatelic Collections of stamps used by both Union [Northern] and Confederate [Southern] States during the American Civil War.

Among the most unusual items on display are the provisional stamps issued by postmasters of various cities and towns in the Confederacy before general issues were made. The Confederate Government general issues included the 1862 five cents value, printed in London by De La Rue, which evaded the Union Blockade: also included in Stamps of the American Civil War is the master steel die.

Exhibits from the Union side include the 15 cents stamp from the 1862-66 series. Issued in 1866 after the assassination of President Lincoln, it shows his image in grey-black.

Stamps of the American Civil War is in the British Library Exhibition Galleries, Great Russell Street, London WC1 until 22 September. Opening hours are Monday – Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 2.30 - 6pm; closed Good Friday (14 April) and Monday 8 May. Admission is free.
Philatelic Displays at the British Library

Visitors to the British Library Exhibition Galleries in Bloomsbury now have the opportunity to see a series of changing exhibits from the Library’s outstanding Philatelic Collections. Every three months there is a new display of selected stamp issues from the Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive, showing artwork, essays, proofs and issued stamp illustrating the development of the designs.

From 3rd July to 1st October the display will feature the four designs of stamps from Ascension Island for the 1982, 150th Anniversary of Charles Darwin’s Voyage issue, designed by Leslie Curtis.


The British Library Exhibition Galleries in Great Russell Street, London WC1, nearest tubes Holborn and Tottenham Court Road. Opening hours are Monday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 2.30 pm to 6 pm. Admission is free. The Galleries are closed on New Years Day (1st January).