



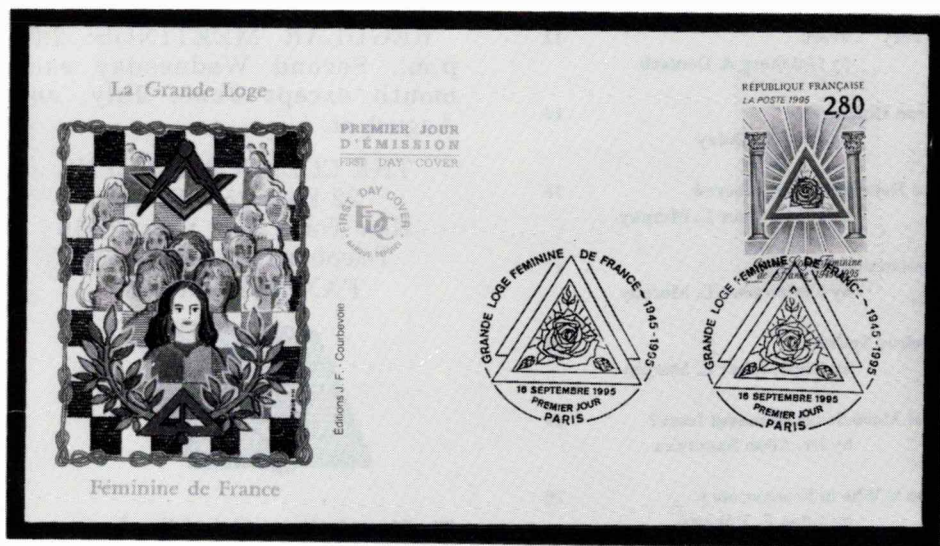
The Masonic Philatelist

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DECEMBER 1995

NO. 4



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The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL 51

NO.4

DECEMBER 1995

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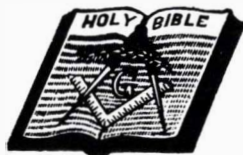
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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved 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.

Knights of St. John of Jerusalem

"The Sovereign Military Order of Malta

By. Andrew Allan

From time immemorial men have been captivated by the lofty ideals and high principles of knighthood. Fraternal organizations have repeatedly based their rituals and defined their stated aspirations in terms of some legendary or biblical event, an incident that demonstrates ardor, devotion, loyalty, or fidelity, such as that exemplified in the tale of Daemon and Pythias, whose loyalty to each other so impressed Dionysius of Syracuse that it became the eternal symbol of true friendship.¹

Masonic ceremonies and ritual abound with such tales of lofty ideals attributed to historical figures. The Cross of Constantine, the figure celebrated in Christian tradition, which the Roman Emperor Constantine saw in a dream, is a prominent insignia of the Commandery of Knights Templars in the United States. The trials of the Grand Master of the Knight Templars, Jacques DeMolay, who was burned at the stake in 1314 are a focus of the Order of DeMolay, a Masonic youth group.²

An event of particular interest to Philatelists and Freemasons occurred on May 20, 1966 when the Postal Administration of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was approved by the Sovereign Council of the Order. The first set of stamps was released on November 15, 1966. The value of the stamps is expressed in the currency of the Order, i.e. Scudi, Grani, and Tari. The approximate sterling equivalent is Scudo = 12 Tari = 240 Grani = 32 pence.³



What is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta? As George Saqqal stated in his article *The Maltese Frank*, "you can't find it on any map and yet its sovereignty is recognized by 25 nations. It makes no territorial claims and has no borders or indigenous population and yet it issues passports that are accepted everywhere. Its diplomatic corps is skilled and effective, It has no postal service and yet its stamps are valid for postage on mail going to 42 nations with whom it has signed postal conventions.⁴

And John Strausbaugh wrote in *White Knights, Dreams of Mother Russia*, "Chivalry isn't dead but it's sometimes delinquent. In Europe, and more recently in America, there are any number of chivalric orders in operation, still dubbing people knights and dames. They run the whole gamut from 'real' chivalric orders with histories going back to the Middle Ages to surrealistic fantasies, mystic brotherhoods, and outright scams."

Stausbaugh goes on to say that, "the largest, realest, and best known is the Knights of Malta, or to give their full name the Sovereign Military Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta,-aka the SMOM. This is the international Catholic organization with the Pope as its spiritual head, which has an American Association with a New York office in the archdiocesan Catholic Center on 1st Avenue. American Knights and Dames include the cream of Catholic high society --John Cardinal O'Connor, financier J. Peter Grace, Alexander Haig, and William Simon, for instance.

After the S. M. O M. things get murky. There are numerous other chivalric organizations in New York going by some variation on the name 'Knights listings in the Manhattan White Pages, for example, and none of them is the real S M. O. M. One expert estimates there are maybe 25 Orders of St. John in the U.S. currently, and dozens of others around the world. A few are sincere, well-intentioned claimants . . . Others are real life Dirty Rotten Scoundrels using the Order's image to scam unsuspecting wannabees for tens of thousands of dollars at a clip. Their business is knighthoods for sale . . . The craftiest of them put up enough pomp and circumstance not only to con rich folk with more pretensions than brains, but to confuse the press as well!"⁵

How accurate is Strausbaugh? He seems to have missed some important facts when we take a closer look. History establishes the fact that a refuge was established in the 11th century in Jerusalem by merchants from Italy for the purpose of assisting the increasing number of pilgrims then visiting the Holy Land. The City's Muslim rulers approved the establishment of a Latin rite church in Jerusalem and in connection with this church a hospital for ill or infirm pilgrims was established. When the Crusaders took Jerusalem in 1099 the master or rector of the hospital was Gerard de Martignes, who created a separate Order, the Friars of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. In 1113, Pope Paschal II recognized the Order. Gerard's successor, Raymond du Puy, reconstituted the order as a military one.⁶



Another order, the Knights Templars, members of the military and religious order of the Poor Knights of Christ, also referred to as the Knights of the Temple of Solomon were founded by Hugh de Payens and eight other knights united under monastic and military vows c. 1118. St. Bernard of Clairvaux drew up the rules and this Order was recognized by the Council of Troyes in 1128 and confirmed by Pope Honorius III. The members were divided into three classes -- the knights of justice, the chaplains and the serving brothers. Knights Templars wore a red cross on a white background and were entitled "knights of the red cross" to distinguish them from the Knight Hospitalers, "knights of the white cross," who wore a white cross on a black background.

About the same time the Teutonic Knights or Teutonic Order, were founded during the siege of Acra in the third Crusade. The order was one of nobles and the knights took monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Under Hermann van Salza, its Grand Master in the early 13th century the Order moved to eastern Europe and rose to prominence. The

Order was strongly centralized and its administration and colonization led to the foundation of the Prussian state. The fatal blow to the order was delivered in 1525 by its then Grand Master Albert of Brandenburg who accepted the Reformation, declared Prussia a secular duchy, and was invested a Duke by Sigismund I of Poland. Stripped of all importance the Teutonic Order continued in Catholic Germany until its remaining possessions were secularized in 1809. It was later revived in Austria but merely as an honorary body. The habit of the Order was a white robe with a black cross, ergo "knights of the black cross" ⁷

Jerusalem was recaptured by Sultan Saladin in 1189. The reputation that Saladin had among the Christians for his generosity and chivalry does not seem to have been a legend. When the Third Crusade came to the Holy Land in an attempt to recapture Jerusalem, Richard I of England and Saladin met in the conflict that was to be celebrated in later chivalric romance. There seems no doubt that Saladin admired Richard as a worthy opponent.⁸

With the loss of Acre in 1291 the Hospitalers first relocated to Cyprus and then to Rhodes, in 1523. On Rhodes, the members are reported to have been divided into the eight langues (languages) of Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Aragon, Castile, Portugal, England and Germany, with members of each language living and working together.

Pope Clement V dissolved the Knights Templars by Papal Bull at the Council of Vienne (1311-12). The leaders of the organization, including the last Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, were tried by ecclesiastic judges. Confessions of sacrilegious practices were extracted by torture. The property of the Knights Templars was seized by secular rulers including Philip IV of France.

When the Knights Hospitalers were expelled from Rhodes by Sulayman the Magnificent they relocated to Malta in 1530. Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (Charles I - King of Spain) reportedly gave the island of Malta to the defeated and homeless Knights, reportedly in return for the annual tribute of a falcon, hence the Maltese Falcon.

In 1798 Napoleon occupied the Island of Malta. Catholic Knights moved from Malta to Messina, Catania, and Ferrara coming, finally, in 1831, to their present residence in Rome. Czar Paul I of Russia declared

himself the Grand Master of the Order in 1798 but failed to receive the sanction of the Pope. Czar Paul I was assassinated in 1801 and his son, Czar Alexander I considered himself a "protector" of the order but never claimed the Grand Mastership for himself. In 1879, Pope Leo XIII restored the title of Grand Master with the usual powers.⁹

Protestant Knights formed organizations in sympathetic countries during the 1800s. The British reclaimed Malta, and in 1814 the Treaty of Paris legalized British possession. Malta remained British until it became independent in the 1960s. In 1888 Queen Victoria issued a Charter to the Knights of Malta to replace a previous one granted by Queen Mary. By this Charter the Sovereign of England became the Grand Master of the Order, and the Duke of Connaught was Grand Prior and at the same time Grand Master of Freemasons. This Order maintains the St. John Ambulance Association and Ambulance Brigade with a world wide program focusing on rescue boats and ambulance services.

At this point you may ask, and justly so, let's get back to philately. Sheldon Paris reports in his article in the June 26, 1993 issue of STAMPS that "since its inception as a stamp-issuing entity, in 1966, the Sovereign Order has released, through 1992, 406 definitive and commemorative stamps, 46 airmails, five special delivery, 22 postage due, and 38 souvenir sheets. Most of the stamps depict military battles and uniforms, paintings, grandmasters, buildings and other historical motifs. So far, about 50 countries have established postal cooperation with the order and have agreed to allow mail from its headquarters in Rome to enter their postal system." Should you be interested in Malta's stamps write to The Philatelic Bureau, Department of Posta, Auberge D'Italie, Merchants Street, Valletta, Malta.

On March 4, 1975 the Postal Administration of the Republic of Malta and that of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta signed a bilateral Postal Agreement which stipulated that; (a) The Postal Administration of Malta undertakes to carry to destination in its territory correspondence originating from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and franked with the stamps of the Order. (b) The Postal Administration of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta undertakes to carry to destination in its territory correspondence originating from Malta and franked with Malta Stamps.

In the execution of the above mentioned undertaking both Postal Administrations have agreed to abide by and be guided by all the Acts or Regulations of the Universal Postal Union to which they have already adhered or may be acceded to by them in the future.

The November-December issue of *Topical Time*¹⁰ contained a report on "A Remarkable Video" entitled *Sovereign Military Order of Malta Through Postage Stamps of the World*, by Father Augustine Hamilcar Serafini. This 1991, 45 minute VHS video provides a fully narrated history of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) using a wide assortment of postage stamps, postal stationery, covers, postcards, seals and photographs. Anyone interested in this fascinating theme can contact Father Serafini, Community of Our Lady, 2804 Oakwood Lake, Oshkosh, WI 54904. (No price was listed - may be for sale or loan?)



¹ *The New Columbia Encyclopedia*, William H. Harris and Judith S. Levy, Editors, Columbia University Press, Columbia University Press, New York and London, 1975.

² *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, by Henry Wilson Coil, 1961, Masonic Publishing & Masonic Supply Company, New York, New York.

³ SAID Malta Catalogue, Collections of the Collectors Club, New York City.

⁴ *The Maltese Franc* by George Saqqal, *Global Stamp News*, May 1994.

⁵ *White Knights, Dreams of Mother Russia*, by John Strausbaugh, *New York Press*, Vol 7, No. 14, April 8-12, 1994.

⁶ op.cit.

⁷ *The New Columbia Encyclopedia*, William H. Harris and Judith S. Levy, Editors, Columbia University Press, Columbia University Press, New York and London, 1975.

⁸ op.cit.

⁹ *The Sovereign Military Order of Malta* by Sheldon Paris, *Stamps*, June 26, 1993

¹⁰ *Topical Time*, November-December 1993, Volume 44, No. 6. Whole Number 262, Journal of Thematic Philately, American Topical Association.

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	Price	Members Price
The Ten Cents Stamps of 1855-59, by Neinken (1960)	\$30.00	22.50
A Census of U.S. Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882, by John C. Chapin (1983) with May 1984 Supplement	15.00	11.25
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(Price of the Kramer books includes shipping charges)	(Full Leather)	85.00
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The Collectors Club
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What is Topical Collecting?

Basically topical collecting stresses the design of the stamp, rather than the country of issue or the postal service the stamp renders. Cancellations, watermarks and varieties have their place, but only if they are essential to the topical story presented.

Topicals can be a relaxing sideline for experienced collectors, an exiting introduction for beginning collectors or a serious study for dedicated topicalists. There are no long lists of do's and don'ts in topical collecting. Individuality and personal interests can be easily expressed. More than 700 different topics are listed in ATA's current membership directory including popular topics such as animals, art, flowers, sports and space plus many unique topics from angels to zodiac.



Why Join ATA?

The American Topical Association is the best source of information, fellowship and inspiration in the topical field. Organized in September 1949 by a handful of optimistic collectors, ATA is now the largest philatelic society devoted to a specific phase of stamp collecting. The 1400 living Life Members are strong testimonial to satisfaction and faith of ATA members in their society.

PLR says: "Topical Time is chockful every issue with the most amazing and detailed complexity of topical information, checklists, questions/answers. There is no substitute for this journal." "Topical stamp collecting offers all the joy and adventure of general worldwide collecting within workable limits of a favorite subject." -JH

If you are already a member, give this invitation to a friend.

— Read other side carefully before filling in application —

To: American Topical Association, P.O. 65749, Tucson, AZ 85728 USA

Print Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Occupation _____

City/State/Province/Zip/Postal Code _____

Enclosed US \$ _____ for dues. (See other side for rate).

Send check, draft or money order in U.S. currency, drawn on a U.S. bank. No stamps or foreign currency please.

I agree to abide by the Philatelic Code of Ethics.

Check if ☐ New Member or ☐ Reinstatement

☐ \$3 has been added to purchase latest ATA Membership Directory

☐ Life Membership dues of \$500 enclosed.

I collect: _____

Please give two bank, department store, or stamp dealer references

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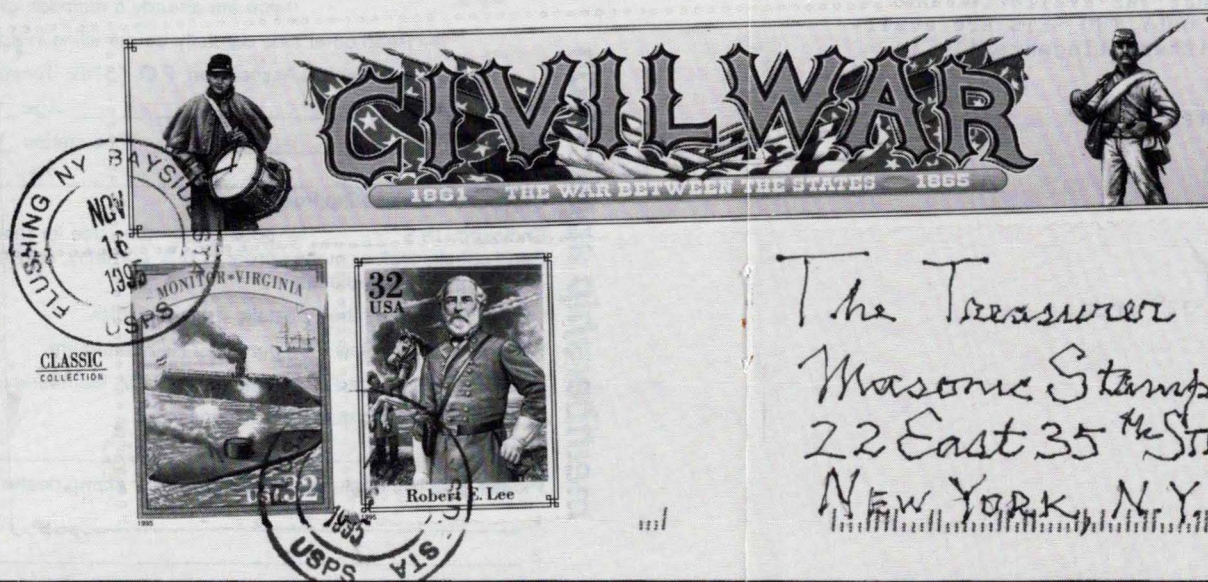
2. _____

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Sheridan, Wy 82801-0622
AN ALL AMERICA CITY

October 17, 1995

Dr. Allan Boudreau
Masonic Stamp Club of NY, Inc.
22 East 35th Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

Am enclosing my 1996 dues . . .

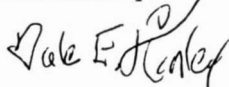
. . . along with it a cacheted cover commemorating the building of the ALCAN HIGHWAY. I realize this is not a Masonic cover but just thought it might be of interest.

I had a personal interest in the building of the ALCAN. Was a First Sergeant in one of the seven U. S. Army Engineer Regiments that built this engineering feat - the 340th Engineers. The artist who designed this cover was also in my same outfit and in my Company. He later returned to civilian life becoming famous with the State Forestry Department of the State of Oregon doing all the art work for their periodicals, brochures, etc.

I am enclosing "wrap sheet" used among the members of our 340th Engineers Renuion in letting them know what was available. Out of the fifty sets whch were put together ONLY TWO SETS are available now as described. Also some other interestingmaterila is enclosed for your information.

Always look forward to the MASONIC PHILATELIST.

Fraternally,



Dale E. Kinley, 32° KCCW

encls.





SPECIAL TO ALL SOUVENIR & STAMP COLLECTORS

This is the ALCAN HIGHWAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR. To honor this, Canada & the United States have commemorated this event with "SPECIAL STAMPS". WE WERE A PART OF THIS EVENT - remember?

A special cacheted cover has been prepared! An artist from H/S CO. - 340th Engineers has done the artwork. In a SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION a set of seven (7) Canadian Cities (thru the area the 340th helped to build) bearing a SPECIAL CANCELLATION together with a Canadian and United States FIRST DAY COVER are available for \$15.95 plus postage-\$.52. Remember these 9 covers are a LIMITED EDITION. If interested---

Cacheted Covers Available
\$.52 for postage
plus \$15.95

DAKIN OF THE BIG HORNS
P.O. Box 622
Sheridan, WY. 82801

THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED

by

Christopher L. Murphy, BF



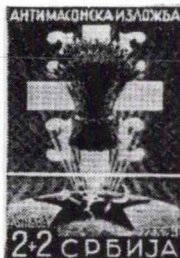
A new Canadian postage stamp remembers the holocaust with a tattered *Star of David* and heart-wrenching photographs of some of the victims whose only crime was that of being Jewish. We might also reflect that the *Star of David* measures in Freemasonry and that many Freemasons were also persecuted by the Nazi regime.

In Adolph Hitler's disturbed mind, the Jewish people and Freemasons were elements of darkness which he aimed to destroy with Nazi might. Anti-Masonic postage stamps issued by Serbia during the war years (Scott Numbers 2NB15-18) are striking reminders of Nazi anti-Masonic persecutions.

As the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II draws to a close, it is well to remember our absent brethren and the millions of other innocent people who needlessly died in this War - a few of whom now gaze at us from eternity through the window of a postage stamp.

The Serbia Anti-Masonic Symbolism stamps were issued to commemorate the Anti-Masonic Exposition of October 22, 1941.

The surtax was used for Anti-Masonic propaganda.



Presidential Designs

by

Christopher L. Murphy, 32°, BF

When we think of the life of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, it is hard to imagine how this great man and distinguished Freemason found time to enjoy his postage stamp collection. Yet he was an avid philatelist with a passion for both collecting and designing stamps. A current exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution features some of his design sketches which resulted in stamp issues. I have found, so far, a total of seven stamps designed by, or based on sketches by, Brother Roosevelt. All of these stamps should definitely be included in any Masonic collection. The stamps are as follows:



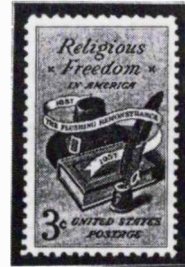
While Franklin Roosevelt himself has appeared on several stamps since his death, a stamp bearing his likeness, albeit disguised, was issued in 1933. The National Recovery Act Issue (Scott No. 732) of this year was based on a poster by Rudolph L. Bortel. Influenced by his enthusiasm for the Recovery Act, Bortel made the second figure on the left in the poster resemble Roosevelt. Upon seeing the likeness, the postal authorities added a mustache to the figure for the stamp design.

Kindred "Spirits"

by

Christopher L. Murphy, 32°, BF

The term "Religious Freedom," which is commemorated on USA #1099, had a somewhat different meaning for Brother Henry C. Potter (1834-1908), Episcopal Bishop of New York (1887). Bishop Potter, who was under some pressure to support closing down saloons, noticed an unfair double standard in this regard.

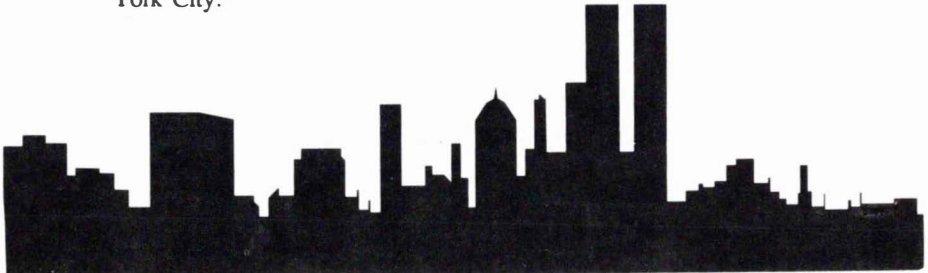


At an address to a religious convention in 1902, he stated: "You can't blame working people for visiting bars. The wealthy can afford fashionable clubs for relaxation, conversation and companionship. The poor can afford only saloons. If these are indecent, the church should try to improve them, not shut them down."

A man of action, Bishop Potter supported a group of businessmen in opening a "decent" saloon. The Subway Tavern at Mulberry and Bleeker Streets in Manhattan became an establishment where a respectable working man could take his family. In the front section, soda water and beer were served. In the rear (where ladies were not permitted) hard liquor was served. Lunch was provided free of charge. Drunkenness was prohibited.

Bishop Potter dedicated the tavern on August 2, 1904. He delivered a short speech and then led the crowd in a hymn. The venture, at the outset, was highly successful. Three of the rowdy neighborhood pubs lost their customers to The Subway and were forced to close their doors. Unfortunately, the novelty wore off and about two years later, The Subway went out of business.

Although we do not know Brother Potter's original lodge, we do know that he served as grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New York and that he was a Royal Arch Mason, Chapter No. 8, New York City.





The first Masonic Government Issue might well be a revenue stamp! The state of Louisiana imposed taxes on cotton and on lottery tickets in 1866. The cotton tax was ruled unconstitutional before stamps were issued, but lottery ticket stamps of 5 cents, 6-1/4 cents, 7-1/2 cents, and 12-1/2 cents were issued. initially, all were issued in blue, however the two higher values were printed in green in 1867. The tax was abolished in 1869.

Some years ago Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News reported on a "very old official circular titled Official Drawing of the Louisiana State Lottery which listed the prizes and winning ticket numbers with Confederate Generals G. T. Beauregard and J. A. Early listed as the supervising Commissioners of the Lottery.

The circular stated that Number 33,899 which wins a Capital Prize of \$75,000 was sold in New York City. Number 24,424 Second Capital Prize of \$25,000 was sold in Washington, D.C. Number 59,499, third Capital Prize of \$10,000 was sold in Hopkinsville, KY. Tickets numbers 35,052 and 93,442 each winning \$6,000 had been sold in Chicago and New Orleans.

Numbers 1,880, 21,288, 56,120 67,268 and 83,654 were sold in New Orleans, New York, Memphis, TN, Boston, and Toledo.

Whole tickets were priced at \$5 and fifths \$1 with remittance to be made by American Express Order, New York Exchange, or a draft on any New Orleans bank. Letters with currency were to be sent only by express :We paying Express Charges on all sums of \$5 and upwards." The address was, M. A. Dauphin, New Orleans "Address Registered Letters and Make Money Orders payable to New Orleans National Bank, New Orleans, LA.



Anchor Communications

**3102 Bradford Street
Dale City, Virginia 22193-1422**

July 10, 1995

Editor

Masonic Philatelist
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

For Immediate Release

Who Is Who in Freemasonry to be revived.

Anchor Communications announces that it is answering the request from hundreds of Masonic leaders, editors, heads of Masonic bodies, and individual Freemasons. These requests indicate the value of the previous editions. So, **Anchor Communications** will publish a third edition of **Who Is Who In Freemasonry**.

This valuable tool for the leaders of Freemasonry, Grand Lodges, Appendant bodies, Editors, Researchers, Libraries and Individuals, is the answer to the pleas for such a volume. It is scheduled for publication in early 1996.

The Freemasons (throughout the world) are eligible for inclusion in this edition if they have worked for Freemasonry in its many facets, their communities, their country, industry, the professions or charitable organizations. It will contain Masonic information that can be found no where else under one cover.

Many Freemasons included in **Who Is Who In Freemasonry** will be added to **10,000 Famous Freemasons** which is in the process of being updated. Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc., has commissioned Allen E. Roberts for this assignment.

Those Freemasons who want to be included in **Who Is Who In Freemasonry** must obtain the necessary forms for their biographical information. Write, or fax, a request to: Anchor Communications, 3102 Bradford Street, Dale City, VA 22193, or by fax call: 703/878-7770. There is no obligation involved.

[For information contact: Wayne Roberts at 703/680-9695, or Allen E. Roberts at 804/737-4498 (FAX 804/328-2386); PO Box 70, Highland Springs, VA 23075]

THE MASONIC SPECIALIST

by

Christopher Leo Murphy, 32^O, BF

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

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 group were joined by many more Brothers and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was well on its way. The Club 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 (also a 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 support the George Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan, New York.

The Club outgrew various 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 the early 1940's members of the Club initiated the serious of Masons on postage stamps and the term Masonic Philately was born. In March 1944 a small Club publication was begun and entitled, *The Masonic Philatelist*. This journal has grown to a substantial quarterly periodical and a well respected authority in the field of philately. Membership now numbers in the hundreds and is scattered all over the United States on six continents.

The first Masonic topical collection to draw a major prize was the Masonic Philately Exhibit during the May 1947 Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition (CIPEX) in New York City. Interest in the Masonic area of philately has grown to the extent that Masonic Philately is now a recognized specialty and exhibited at many of the major stamp shows. The American Topical Association (USA), British Thematic Association (England), and the American Philatelic Society recognize the Masonic Philately field of study. The Masonic Stamp Club of New York continues its long standing practice of participating in the major American Stamp Dealers Association events in New York City.

Over the years the Masonic Stamp Club has sponsored many first day covers as well as other cachets honoring Masons and Masonic events. George Washington, Fiorella La Guardia, Harry S. Truman, and the St. John's Lodge No. 1 (New York City) Bible are some of the more popular cachets issued. Many of these attractive mementos are given away and serve to develop a positive interest in Freemasonry. All proceeds from the donations received are directed to charitable objectives. The Club has encouraged the establishment of other stamp clubs and a source of Club pride was the establishment of George Washington Chapter No. 1 (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 Master Masons in good standing with 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, Inc., The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, New York 10016.

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC., was organized in 1934 for the purpose of establishing bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors, and with the goal of encouraging discussion, research and study in Masonic Philately. The need for and the usefulness of the organization has proved itself through the years with a continuing supportive membership, a developing literature, widespread interest, and increased recognition of Freemasonry.

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 the State of New York.

The Annual Dues of \$12.00 per year (\$15.00 for membership outside North America) bring to you *The Masonic Philatelist*, a quarterly philatelic journal 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

**INCLUDE PAYMENT OF \$20.00 WITH YOUR APPLICATION
TO COVER THE INITIATION FEE AND FIRST YEAR DUES.**

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC.
22 EAST 35TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

Name.....

Address.....
(Street and Number) (City) (State) (Zip code)

Name of Lodge.....No.....Location.....

Other Masonic Activity.....

Stamp Activities.....

Date.....Applicant's Signature.....

IMPORTANT: TO AVOID DELAY IN PASSING ON THIS 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



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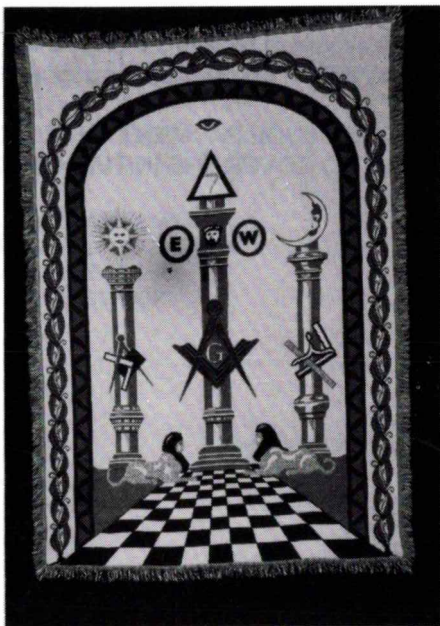
October 5, 1995

Masonic Philatelist
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Dr. Yarry,

I want to ask a favor of you, will you place an advertisement for the beautiful Masonic Afghan that was made here in the United States, in your periodical? From the sale of an Afghan, five dollars from each Afghan sold in your state will go back to *The Masonic Philatelist*

This Afghan was produced here in the United States, it is of Masonic design with six colors, three layers thick. The size of the Afghan is 48" X 60" and contains all the working tools of the Blue Lodge, and two Blue Lodge scenes. It was manufactured in Georgia and only 2,000 were made. When this design runs out, no more of this style or color will be made.



Please send your check or money order for \$49.95
made payable to Stanley C. Buz,
P. O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052
This price includes shipping & handling,
Say you saw it in *The Masonic Philatelist*