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The MASONIC PHILATELIST is published quarterly (March, June, September, December) by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc. Third Class Postage Paid at Ord, Nebraska. ISSN 1069-3580.

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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
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 Military Order of Avís

Gene Fricks

The Military Order of Avís, the oldest such order in Portugal, has been the subject of a set of commemorative stamps (Scott 913-915) issued on August 13, 1963, marking its eighth century. The Order was founded at the beginning of Portugal's national life, when the country was in the throes of fighting for the Christian reconquest of the Iberian peninsula from the Moors. Those knights who fought with Dom Afonso Henriques (Mozambique Company, Scott 201) requested him to create an order that would give proper form to the militia in which they were grouped. On the granting of permission to do so by the legate of Pope Alexander II, represented by Friar João Cerita, abbot of S. João de Tarouca, the new order was created in the city of Coimbra on August 13, 1162.

For the first few years the headquarters of the order were in Coimbra. After the conquest of Évora (Alenejo Province), it was transferred to that city in 1166 in order to be nearer the zone of battle against the Moors. The new order then became known as the Order of Évora. In 1211, Dom Afonso II endowed the friars of Évora with an elevated and desolate piece of land near the village of Viamonte, on the condition to they build there a castle and populate the village. To this place - Avís - the headquarters of the order were then moved, still under the same king's reign and still inspired with the ideals of reconquest. The designation at this time appeared as the Order of S. Beneto de Avís - of that St. Benetus whose rules the friars of the community obeyed.

The Order of Avís took as it symbol a green cross edged at each point with a fleur-de-lis.

The governing body of the order from its founding until the advent of the second Portuguese dynasty was composed of Masters elected by the body of membership. The first Master was Dom Pedro Afonso, natural brother of Dom Afonso Henriques; the last Master was Dom Fernando Rodrigues Sequeira, who was elected in 1389. After him, and at the request of the king, the Holy See accepted the suggestion that the order be governed by non-elected administrators of the nobility, albeit secular persons. The first of these administrators was the Infante Dom Fernando, appointed by his brother Dom Duarte in 1434. The last administrator was Dom Jorge de Lencastre, natural son of Dom João II. In 1550, during the reign of Dom João III, the monarchy took over the administration of the three Portuguese military orders, Avís, Cristo, and Sant'Iago. The king incorporated the cross of Avís into his coat of arms, such that only the fleurs-de-lis at the tips appear around the edge of the shield.
The Order of Cristo, or Knights of Christ, is the direct descendant of the Knights Templar in Portugal. When the Templars fell under the interdict of the Papacy between 1307 and 1314, the knights in Portugal changed the name of their order to the Knights of Christ and elected the king as their Grand Master. The Order of Cristo became a purely military order; one legend has it that the fabled treasures of the Knights Templar made their way to Portugal to become the financial underpinning of the Portuguese treasury.

The original mission of the Order of Avis was to fight the infidels and spread Christianity. Members were sworn to absolute chastity, obedience, and poverty. In 1496, Pope Alexander VI changed the vow of absolute chastity to one of marital chastity, and in 1505 Pope Julius II granted dispensation from the vow of poverty. Finally, during the reign of Donna Maria I in 1789, the military orders became secularized. Dom Carlos (Scott 67-78) reformed the Order of Avis, which then became the Royal Military Order of S. Bento de Avis. With the overthrow of the monarchy and establishment of the republic in 1911, the order was extinguished with the others. It was re-established by a decree on September 25, 1917 as the Military Order of Avis. The present regulations of the Portuguese Orders of Honor, enacted on January 30, 1912, permit the order to be awarded only to members of the armed forces - national and foreign. The latter are considered to be honorary members.

Philatelically, Scott 913-915 were designed by the Portuguese painter Cândido Costa Pinto. The set was printed in offset by the Portuguese Mint. The print run for the set was:

5,000,000 for the 1 escudo (1$00)
1,500,000 for the 1 escudos 50 centavos (1$50)
1,500,000 for the 2 escudos 50 centavos (2$50)

The PTT used a special cancellation for the first day of issue.

References:

Announcement of Luiz D'Orey Pereira Coutinho, General Secretary of the Portuguese Orders.
The Grand Lodge of British Columbia has issued this superb medallion in celebration of its 125th Anniversary, (actual size 1.5" diameter). The medallion may be obtained for $7 Canadian (money order), post paid.
Write to Jim Harrison, Grand Lodge of B. C.
1495 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, B. C. Canada V6H 1C9
Dear Brother Nathan,

A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1996 to you and all the Brothers of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York!

And now our new creation - No.21 consecration of the Lodge HELIOS with the request to announce this in your magazine. The price is US$ 3.00 (in cash) including the return postage.

Vienna, Dec.28th, 1995
Dear Brother Boudreau,

Our Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in New Zealand has celebrated its 60th year the Diamond Jubilee on the 2nd March 1996 and to commemorate the occasion the enclosed FDC was produced by the Chapter.

We would like to share this moment in history with anyone who is a collector of Masonic Philately.

The insert in each FDC tells about the Chapter and about the stamp which is the first of its kind in New Zealand.

The cost of the the FDC is:US$ 3.00; this includes postage in a separate envelope, no checks please. Orders should be sent to:

V. Fabian
8 Northgrove Ave
Northcote
Auckland 1309
New Zealand

I would appreciate it if this address is used precisely, paying particular attention to the street name.

Fraternally,

V. Fabian

Vic Fabian
George Washington Masonic Stamp Club

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club reports many interesting items in its Annual Newsletter - February 1996. As many know, the GWMSC was created as a unit of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc. Over the years the GWMSC has developed into a popular, and independent, Masonic Philatelic Organization. Any Masonic Philatelist who is not a member of the GWMSC should write, TODAY, to Ralph F. Knisley at 7400 Skyline Drive, Frederick, MD 21702-3652 or call Bro. Knisley at 301-473 7973 for full details. Life memberships used to be $10.00!

Brothers in the Washington, D. C area can attend the various meetings conveniently scheduled in April (usually in the York - Lancaster, PA area); June (Frederick, MD); and September (BALPEX - Labor Day weekend). Meetings are usually on the fourth Saturday. Each year the Annual banquet and awarding of the Master of Philately Degree at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA takes place in February and is an event that any Masonic Philatelist will enjoy.

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club has produced many marvelous Masonic Covers. On the following two pages we have reproduced the most recent list of First Day Covers available. To purchase any of these covers send your order in to;

Paul M. Williams
2364 Beaver Valley Pike
New Providence, PA 17560-9622

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GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC STAMP CLUB
FIRST DAY COVERS

7/11/61 George W. Norris
11/14/62 Higher Education
11/23/62 George Washington
3/22/63 Andrew Jackson
5/21/66 Expo'67
4/17/67 National Grange
11/17/67 George Washington
5/5/69 Apollo Genesis - 1.50
7/20/69 Moon Landing Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.
1/17/70 Dav. 50th Anniversary
1/26/71 MacArthur
3/12/71 Blood Donor
5/21/71 A. Durer 500th Anniversary German
3/1/72 Mitchel
7/4/72 Col. Crafts Paul Revere
10/13/72 Tom Sawyer - Twain's Gavel
10/14/72 Tom Sawyer - Steam Boats
11/17/72 Stamp Collecting - Ben Franklin
5/6/73 H. Truman
7/4/73 Boston Tea Party - L. Pair
12/16/73 Samuel Adams P.C.
3/4/74 Skylab
7/4/74 Continental Congress - 2.00
7/4/74 Continental Congress - Dual cancel with constitution signing - 3.50
3/25/75 Haym Salmon
7/4/77 Col. Crafts - BK/4 1.25
10/17/77 Geo. Washington at Valley Forge
12/27/77 Capt. Cook (pair) Anchorage - 1.50
1/20/78 Capt. Cook (pair) Honolulu - 1.50
5/19/78 J. Hancock Post Card
6/30/78 Fort Mchenry 150th Reg.
7/3/78 George Cohan
9/23/79 John Paul Jones
10/11/79 C. Pulaski Post Card
1/29/80 W.C. Fields
5/5/81 Isiah Thomas Post Card
10/31/81 J. Hoban U.S.
10/31/81 J. Hoban U.S. & 18th Irish - 1.50
1/30/82 Roosevelt
8/22/82 Tours Synagogue - 1.50
2/12/83 Ogilthorpe Post Card
3/24/83 Swedish/American Treaty
3/24/83 Swedish/Americans Treaty Dual cancel with constitution signing - 2.50
7/13/83 Henry Clay
9/2/83 Treaty of Paris signers
9/2/83 Treaty of Paris signers French - 2.00
9/2/83 Treaty of Paris Dual cancel with constitution signing - 2.00
4/16/84 National Archives
5/23/84 Douglas Fairbanks
5/31/84 R. Russell
9/2/84 Frank Lauback
1/23/85 Jerome Kern
3/29/85 Large flag over capitol cachet Wash. cap. Mon. & gavel (single stamp)
3/29/85 Same as above (full pane) - 2.00
5/25/85 Amperipex 86
6/11/85 Harry Stutz
7/18/85 F.A. Barholdi
7/25/85 Henry Knox - Blk. of 4
11/6/85 Washington & Monument (2 coil) - 1.25
11/6/85 Washington & Monument (3 coil) - 1.25
12/4/85 Samuel F. Clemens - 1.50
1/23/86 Stamp Collecting (pane of 4) - 2.25
1/23/86 Stamp Collecting dual cancel
2/27/86 Hugh Black
3/19/86 William Jennings Bryan - 3.00
5/2/86 Stamps - The Universal Hobby post card
5/28/86 Polar Explorers - 2.00
7/4/86 PTT Garteposte dual cancel
5/25/87 Constitutional Convention post card - 5.00
5/25/87 Constitutional Convention post card - F.D.C. with Pa. Statehood stamp cancelled 8/26/87 - 1.00
5/25/87 Constitutional Convention post card with "Lincoln" Al cancel of Constitution signing, stamp cancelled 9/17/87 - 1.00
8/26/87 Statehood PA Ratification Station
8/28/87 Constitution Drafting (full pane) - 2.00
8/28/87 Constitution Drafting single stamp or set of five singles - Set 4.00
9/17/87 Constitution Signing - also Unofficial Cancel
3/28/88 Buffalo Bill Cody Dual cancel post card - 1.50
5/4/88 Blair House post card, F.D.C. & Unofficial
9/14/88 Richard Byrd-Blk. of 4 F.D.C. & Unofficial - 3.50 each Single - 1.25
11/5/88 Hap Arnold - 1.50
2/22/89 Seal State of Washington
Olympia, WA cancel
Washington Statehood stamp
2/22/89 Birthday Anniversary
4/4/89 House of Representatives - 2.00
4/6/89 U.S. Senate - 2.00
4/4/89 Dual cancel on Monarch envelope
& 4/6/89 House of Representatives & U.S. Senate - 2.50
6/20/89 20th Anniversary Moon Landing F.D.C. - 1.00
6/6/89 Same - Priority Mail Label
6/20/89 Same - Priority Mail Label
2/2/90 John Marshall - 1.50
3/23/90 Classic Films (Blk. of 4) - 2.50
9/6/90 Clair Lee Chennault - 2.00
F.D.C. - Hand cancel and machine cancel
2/2/91 U.S. Swiss Airmail Wash. D.C. cancel - 1.50
2/2/91 U.S. Swiss Airmail Wash. D.C. cancel - 3.50
3/29/91 Flag over Mt. Rushmore, single stamp - 1.50 coil pair - 2.00, 3 pair - 2.25
6/3/91 Hubert H. Humphrey (Great American) - 2.00
7/4/91 Flag over Mt. Rushmore - 1.50
8/29/91 Comedians Bud Abbott & Oliver Hardy (Booklet Pane) - 4.00
9/7/91 F.D.C. Dist. of Columbia Bicentennial - 1.50
Blk. of 4 - 2.25
3/9/92 Earl Warren, Single - 1.50
Blk. of 4 - 2.50
4/23/92 White House Bicentennial, Single - 1.50
3 stamps - 2.25
5/29/92 Space, Blk. of 4 - 2.50, Set of 4 Singles - 3.00
8/19/94 George Washington & Andrew Jackson - $5.00 stamp
9/25/95 Eddie Richenbacker - 2.00
11/2/96 James K. Polk - 1.50
GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC STAMP CLUB

SPECIAL EVENT COVERS
7/4/59 George Washington Capitol Cornerstone Dedication P.O., Dover, PA
3/8/67 George Washington at Fredericksburg Lodge
12/4/69 Herman J. Lichten
12/30/70 100th Anniversary Scot. Rite
5/15/71 Demise of the 64 Stamp
12/7/73 50th Anniversary Phoenix
5/13/72 100th Anniversary Union Bridge, MD
1/20/73 Nixon-Agniew Inaug. Invite - 2.00
1/20/73 Nixon Inaug. Invite with 8/9/74 resignation - 2.25
1/20/73 Nixon Inaug. Picture with 8/9/74 resignation - 2.25
1/20/73 Nixon-Agniew Inaug. Pictures with 8/9/74 resignation - 2.25
1/20/73 Nixon Inaug. picture - 2.00
1/20/73 Nixon-Agniew picture Inaug. - 2.00
6/4/75 100th Anniversary Corps Engrs.
5/2/76 Geo. Wash. Mt. Vernon Fl. light bell
5/28/76 Geo. Wash. Mt. Vernon Fl. light Eagle
10/12/76 G.W.-appointed 6-star gen.
1/20/77 Carter-Mondale Inauguration
1/20/77 Carter picture
1/20/77 Mondale picture
7/4/78 B&O R.R. cornerstone
8/4/78 225th Anniversary G.W. M.M.
1/27/79 G.W. M.S.C. Mtg. Palestine Lodge
3/24/79 G.W. M.S.C. meeting - Lancaster, PA
7/20/79 10th Anniversary Apollo II
12/6/81 Reagan Inauguration
3/28/81 G.W. M.S.C. meeting - Lancaster, PA
10/24/81 G.W. M.S.C. 25th Anniversary
3/27/82 G.W. M.S.C. meeting - Baltimore, MD
5/12/82 50th Anniversary G.W. M.S. National Mon.
11/4/82 G.W. M.S.C. Meeting at Fredericksburg, VA
Washington, the Master Mason
1/26/84 H. Truman - centennial
1/20/85 Reagan Inaug.
1/21/85 Reagan Inaug.
6/2/86 G.W. M.S.C. meeting - Intercourse, PA
8/30/86 G.W. M.S.C. Mtg. Balpex Post Card
4/25/87 G.W. M.S.C. Mtg. Philanthropic Lodge
No. 168 - 1st Post Card
3/26/88 G.W. M.S.C. Meeting at Springfield, VA
Post Card - 1.00
4/30/88 G.W. M.S.C. Meeting at York, PA
199th Anniv., Washington Inauguration
1/20/89 Bush Inauguration - 1.50
5/20/89 Settlement of Oklahoma Post Card
Club Meeting, Frederick, MD
6/2/89 G.W. M.S.C. Meeting at Balpex, MD
Club Logo
9/2/89 G.W. M.S.C. Meeting at Balpex, MD
Club Logo
4/2/90 G.W. M.S.C. Mtg. Red Lion, PA
4/23/91 Bro. James Buchanan post card, Presidential
Birthday Station cancel, Mecersburg, Pa. also
Lancaster, Pa. Downtown Station - 1.00
Philatelic center cancel
1/27/92 Apollo One Memorial Station P.C.
Gus Grissom - 1.25
6/27/92 G.W. M.S.C. mtg. P.C. Bird-In-Hand, PA - 1.00
10/13/92 Cornerstone White House Bicentennial - 2.25
10/2/92 G.W. M.S.C. Mtg. Savage, Md. - P.C. - 1.50
1/20/93 Inauguration Cover Clinton & Gore - 2.25
U.S.P.S. Postal Stationary Env. and
29¢ White House stamp cancel
4/24/93 G.W.M.S.C. Mtg. Red Lion, PA
9/1/95 Louis Armstrong - 1.50

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY COVERS
2/22/63 Jewel & Cordon
2/22/67 Geo. Washington at Fredericksburg Lodge
2/22/70 Washington Mas. Medal
2/22/71 Lodge Bible
2/22/72 Geo. Washington Statue
2/22/73 Geo. Washington picture
2/22/74 Washington on Horse
2/22/75 18th c. Mt. Vernon
2/22/76 Geo. Washington commander-in-chief
2/22/77 Birthday anniversary
2/22/78 Mt. Vernon
2/22/80 Geo. Washington the surveyor
2/22/81 249th Birthday - Wakefield, VA birthplace
picture, Alexandria, VA cancel
2/22/81 249th Birthday - Washington picture
Mt. Vernon cancel
2/22/82 250th Birthday National Memorial picture
Alexandria, VA cancel
2/22/82 250th Birthday - Washington picture - Dual
cancel - FDC & birthday, Mt. Vernon - 2.00
2/22/84 Mount Vernon Ladies Association
2/22/85 Washington Cap. Mon. & Gavel
2/22/87 Home Sweet Home - Mt. Vernon cancel
2/22/87 Home Sweet Home - Popes Creek, VA
Cancel with flag or love stamp
2/22/87 Home Sweet Home - Dual cancel
Mt. Vernon & San Francisco, CA - 2.00
2/22/88 Happy Birthday Club Logo
2/22/89 Geo. Washington, Seal, State of Washington
Club cancel, Mt. Vernon, VA - 1.25
2/22/89 Also dual cancel Mt. Vernon &
State of Washington - 2.50 F.D.C.
Piece - 1.50. Also dual cancel - 2.50
2/22/91 Star cachet Mt. Vernon, VA
Birthday unofficial cancel - 2.50
2/22/91 Star cachet U.S.P.S. Postal -
Stationary Env. - 1.50
2/22/92 Geo. Wash. Mt. Rushmore - 1.50
2/22/93 Washington Crossing the Delaware - 2.00
U.S.P.S. Postal Stationary Env.
4/24/93 G.W.M.S.C. Mtg. Red Lion, PA
2/22/94 Washington National Cathedral P.C. - 1.00
2/22/95 George Washington Birthday Star Cachet
2/27/96 Bicentennial Washington’s Farewell Address - 1.50

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1994* $2.00...
1997* $3.00...
1999* $4.00...

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1" Binders - $3.50

Pages - 10¢
2½" Self-Stick Club Labels (blue on white) 15 for $1.00
1½" Self-Stick Club Labels (blue on white) 15 for $1.00

Order from: Paul M. Williams
2364 Beaver Valley Pike
New Providence, PA 17560-9622

Do not send check. I will bill you by invoice.
Pyramid Publications Incorporated is pleased to announce that arrangements are being made to reprint Roger Patterson’s classic book, Do Abominable Snowmen of America Really Exist? The reprint will be an EXACT duplication of the original work published in 1966, the year immediately prior to the actual filming of a Bigfoot creature by Patterson and Robert Gimlin. The book contains many photographs and illustrations together with numerous drawings created by Roger Patterson himself. This work is a MUST for libraries, Bigfoot research organizations, independent researchers and others interested in the fascinating Bigfoot phenomenon. Specifications: Softcover, 179 pages, 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches. Price: $20 US, $27 Canadian, all applicable taxes included, Post Paid.

In order to obtain this book, you MUST reserve your copy by sending in the following INTENT TO PURCHASE NOTIFICATION. An order form will be sent to you when the work is available. THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO PURCHASE. PLEASE DO NOT SEND PAYMENT UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR OFFICIAL ORDER FORM. Personal cheque or Visa authorization will be accepted.

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NAME:
ADDRESS:
Brother Joseph Howard, who created the remarkable cover displayed above, is collecting Masonic notices of all kinds; Lodge, Chapter, Consistory, Shrine, etc. Please send any items you can spare to Joseph Howard, 9920 Bundella Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134
THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

THE

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(C.A.S.E.)

APRIL 20-21, 1996

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THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS THE:
Central Atlantic Stamp Expo

DEAR PHILATELIC FRIEND:

I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING CENTRAL ATLANTIC STAMP EXPO. EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO MAKE THIS AN ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING EVENT FOR ALL. WE ESPECIALLY INVITE YOU TO BRING ALONG A YOUNG PERSON OR NOVICE WITH INTEREST IN BECOMING A COLLECTOR. THIS YEARS SHOW WILL BE AT A NEW LOCATION, THE FORT WASHINGTON EXPO CENTER IN FORT WASHINGTON, PA AND DIRECTLY OFF THE PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE EXIT 26. THIS LOCATION HAS MANY ADDED FEATURES WHICH WILL MAKE THINGS A LOT EASIER FOR EVERYONE. MANY OF YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH THIS VENUE FROM OTHER TRADE SHOWS HELD HERE. THIS YEARS SHOW WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER! PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS. THANK YOU.

YOURS,

JOHN G SWIDINSKY
SHOW CHAIRMAN

DIRECTIONS: FROM NJ: TAKE THE NJ TURNPIKE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE EXTENSION(EXIT 6), FOLLOW INTO PA AND TAKE EXIT 26. SEE MAP BELOW.
FROM PHILADELPHIA: YOU CAN TAKE RT'S 309 OR 611 NORTH OR THE PATURNPIKE. SEE MAP BELOW.
FROM HARRISBURG/POINTS WEST: TAKE PA TURNPIKE (276) EAST TO EXIT 26.
FROM ALLENTOWN: YOU CAN TAKE EITHER RT'S 309 OR 611 SOUTH OR THE PA TURNPIKE EXTENTION SOUTH AND GO EAST ON 276 TO EXIT 26. SEE MAP.

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*HARRIS & HARRIS(MD)  *Q STAMPS(NY)  *DARRELL YEISLEY(PA)
*QUEEN CITY STAMPS(GA)
Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Mizpah Lodge No. 639 (Missouri) has produced many Masonic Covers. Covers shown below can be obtained from Bro. Hatfield. Write to him directly at P. O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042,
Bro. Michael R. Mekenian, Wall-Spring Lake Lodge No. 73 (New Jersey) has some very attractive New Jersey Masonic covers available. The cancellation commemorates the Annual Masonic Celebration of the Feast of Sts. John at Trenton, New Jersey.

Two of the covers honor Brother and Senator Robert Dole, the guest speaker for the Feast of Sts. John at Crescent Temple in Trenton, NJ on December 2, 1995. The other three are the covers that were prepared for the 175th Anniversary of Tuckerton Lodge No. 4 on March 28, 1995. The Covers are available with the single cancellation or with the dual cancellation. The single cancellations are $5.00 each, the dual cancellations are $6.00 (Postage Included).

Send your orders directly to Brother Michael R. Mekenian, 711 5th Avenue, Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762.
Stamp Collecting Words and Phrases

Accessories
The tools used by stamp collectors, such as tongs, hinges, etc.

Adhesive
A gummed stamp made to be attached to mail.

Aerophilately
Stamp collecting that focuses on stamps or postage relating to air mail.

Album
A book designed to hold stamps and covers.

Approvals
Stamps sent by a dealer to a collector for examination. Approvals must either be bought or returned to the dealer within a specified time.

Auction
A sale at which philatelic material is sold to the highest bidder.

Block
An unseparated group of stamps, at least two stamps high and two stamps wide.

Black Jack
The nickname for the very popular U.S. two-cent black Andrew Jackson stamp, which was issued in various forms between 1863 and 1875.

Bogus
A completely fictitious, worthless "stamp," created only for sale to collectors. Bogus stamps include labels for nonexistent values added to regularly issued sets, issues for nations without postal systems, etc.

Booklet Pane
A small sheet of stamps specially cut to be sold in booklets.

Bourse
A marketplace, such as stamp exhibition, where stamps are bought, sold or exchanged.

Bluish Paper
Used to print portions of several issues in 1909; the paper was made with 35 percent rag stock instead of all wood pulp. The color goes through the paper, showing clearly on back and face.

Cachet (ka-shay')
A design on an envelope describing an event. Cachets appear on first day of issue, first flight and stamp exhibition covers, etc.

Cancellation
A mark placed on a stamp by a postal authority to show that it has been used.

Centering
The position of the design on a postage stamp. On perfectly centered stamps the design is exactly in the middle.

Classic
An early stamp issue. Most people consider these to be rare stamps, but classic stamps aren't necessarily rare.

Coils
Stamps issued in rolls (one stamp wide) for use in dispensers or vending machines.

Commemoratives
Stamps that honor anniversaries, important people or special events.

Compound Perforations
Different gauge perforations on different (normally adjacent) sides of a single stamp.
Condition
Condition is the most important characteristic in determining a stamp's value. It refers to the state of a stamp regarding such details as centering, color and gum.

Cover
An envelope that has been sent through the mail.

Cracked Plate
A term used to describe stamps which show evidence that the plate from which they were printed was cracked.

Definitives
Regular issues of postage stamps, usually sold over long periods of time.

Denomination
The postage value appearing on a stamp, such as 5 cents.

Directory Markings
Postal markings that indicate a failed delivery attempt, stating reasons such as "No Such Number" or "Address Unknown."

Double Transfer
The condition on a printing plate that shows evidence of a duplication of all or part of the design.

Dry Printing
Begun as an experiment in 1953, this type of printing results in a whiter paper, a higher sheen on the surface, a thicker and stiffer feel and designs that stand out more clearly than on more standard "wet" printings.

Duplicates
Extra copies of stamps that can be sold or traded. Duplicates should be examined carefully for color and perforation variations.

Entire
An intact piece of postal stationery, in contrast to a cut-out of the printed design.

Error
A stamp with something incorrect in its design or manufacture.

Exploded
A stamp booklet is said to be "exploded" when it has been separated into its various components for show.

Face Value
The monetary value or denomination of a stamp.

Fake
A genuine stamp that has been altered in some way to make it more attractive to collectors. It may be repaired, reperforated or regummed to resemble a more valuable variety.

First Day Cover (FDC)
An envelope with a new stamp and cancellation showing the date the stamp was issued.

Franks
Marking on the face of a cover, indicating it is to be carried free of postage. Franks may be written, handstamped, imprinted or represented by special adhesives. Such free franking is usually limited to official correspondence, such as soldier's mail.

Freak
An abnormal variety of stamps occurring because of paper fold, over-inking, perforation shift, etc., as opposed to a continually appearing variety or a major error.

Grill
A pattern of small, square pyramids in parallel rows impressed or embossed on the stamp to break paper fibers, allowing cancellation ink to soak in and preventing washing and reuse.

Gum
The coating of glue on the back of an unused stamp.

Hinges
Small strips of gummed material used by collectors to affix stamps to album pages.

Imperforate
Indicates stamps without perforations or separating holes. They usually are separated by scissors and collected in pairs.
Label
Any stamp-like adhesive that is not a postage stamp.

Laid Paper
When held to the light, the paper shows alternate light and dark crossed lines.

Line Pairs (LP)
Most coil stamp rolls prior to 1981 feature a line of ink printed between two stamps at varying intervals.

Miniature Sheet
A single stamp or block of stamps with a margin on all sides bearing some special wording or design.

Overprint
Additional printing on a stamp that was not part of the original design.

On Paper
Stamps “on paper” are those that still have portions of the original envelope or wrapper stuck to them.

Packet
A presorted unit of all different stamps. One of the most common and economical ways to begin a collection.

Pane
A full “sheet” of stamps as sold by a Post Office. Four panes typically make up the original sheet of stamps as printed.

Par Avion
French for mail transported “by air.”

Perforations
Lines of small holes or cuts between rows of stamps that make them easy to separate.

Philately
The collection and study of postage stamps and other postal materials.

Pictorials
Stamps with a picture of some sort, other than portraits or static designs such as coats of arms.

Plate Block (PB) (or Plate Number Block)
A block of stamps with the margin attached that bears the plate number used in printing that sheet.

Plate Number Coils (PNC)
For most coil stamps rolls beginning in 1981, a small plate number appears at varying intervals in the roll in the design of the stamp.

Postage Due
A stamp issued to collect unpaid postage.

Postal Stationery
Envelopes, postal cards and aerogrammes with stamp designs printed or embossed on them.

Postmark
A mark put on envelopes or other mailing pieces showing the date and location of the post office where it was mailed.

Precancels
Cancellations applied to stamps before the stamps were affixed to mail.

Registered Mail
First class mail with a numbered receipt, including a valuation of the registered item. This guarantees customers will get their money back if an item is lost in the mail.

Reissue
An official reprinting of a stamp that was no longer being printed.

Replicas
Reproductions of stamps sold during the early days of collecting. Usually printed in one color in a sheet containing a number of different designs. Replicas were never intended to deceive either the post office or the collector.

Reprint
A stamp printed from the original plate after the issue is no longer valid for postage. Official reprints are sometimes made for presentation purposes, official collections, etc., and are often distinguished in some way from the “real” ones.
Revenue Stamps
Stamps not valid for postal use but issued for collecting taxes.

Ribbed Paper
Paper which shows fine parallel ridges on one or both sides of a stamp.

Se-tenant
An attached pair, strip or block of stamps that differ in design, value or surcharge.

Set
A unit of stamps with a common design or theme issued at one time for a common purpose or over an extended period.

Souvenir Sheet
A small sheet of stamps with a commemorative inscription of some sort.

Speculative
A stamp or issue released primarily for sale to collectors, rather than to meet any legitimate postal need.

Strip
Three or more unseparated stamps in a row.

Secret Marks
Many stamps have included tiny reference points in their designs to foil attempts at counterfeiting and to differentiate issues.

Selvage
The unprinted paper around panes of stamps, sometimes called the margin.

Series
All the variations of design and value of a particular issue.

Surcharge
An overprint that changes the denomination of a stamp from its original face value.

Sweatbox
A closed box with a grill over which stuck-together unused stamps are placed. A wet, sponge-like material under the grill creates humidity so the stamps can be separated without removing the gum.

Thematic
A stamp collection that relates to a specific theme and is arranged to present a logical story and progression.

Tied On
Indicates a stamp whose postmark touches the envelope.

Tongs
A tool, used to handle stamps, that resembles a tweezer with rounded or flattened tips.

Topicals
Indicates a group of stamps with the same theme—space travel, for example.

Unhinged
A stamp without hinge marks, but not necessarily with original gum.

Unused
The condition of a stamp that has no cancellation or other sign of use.

Used
The condition of a stamp that has been canceled.

Want List
A list of philatelic material needed by a collector.

Watermark
A design pressed into stamp paper during its manufacture.

Wet Printing
Has a moisture content of 15-35 percent, compared to 5-10 percent for "dry" printings; also, has a duller look than "dry" printings.

Wove Paper
A uniform paper which, when held to the light, shows no light or dark figures.
Dear Allan:

Would you be kind enough to include the enclosed pre-publication survey in the next issue of The Masonic Philatelist. Many brethren have written to me indicating how pleased they are with The Masonic Specialist. One brother recently ordered another set to donate to his Masonic library. With some effort, I can rearrange the work and turn it into a two-volume standard library book set. However, it is just too big (1,420 pages) to go on speculation alone for the print. With orders for 100 copies, I can get the purchase price per set down to $75 U.S.

This is certainly the largest and most detailed work in the topical stamp collecting field. Having it in hardbound form will give us considerable profile.

Please let me know if you have any concerns.

Fraternally,

Chris Murphy
Pyramid Publications has recently completed publication of *The Masonic Specialist* by Christopher L. Murphy, BF. This work is presently provided in stamp album format (ring binder) and comprises nine (9) volumes. **IT IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE, MOST DETAILED AND MOST AUTHORITATIVE WORK ON MASONIC PHILATELY EVER PUBLISHED.**

**IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST,** this work can now be converted to a set of two (2) regular hardcover volumes. The specifications would be as follows: 1,420 pages (laser bond), 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches, high-quality hardcovers embossed in gold. The work contains the following sections:

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**BOOK ONE:** Subjects Associated with Masonic Philately. A total of 685 subjects (famous men) are referenced with an illustration of one applicable postage stamp, listing of other applicable stamps, facts about the stamps and full Masonic details related to the subject.

**BOOK TWO:** Subject Listing by Field of Acclaim. Each subject is listed under his particular field, (Architecture, Art, etc.) There are special sections for First and Lasts, Halls of Fame, and "Fathers," (i.e., where a subjects is considered the "Father" in his particular field.)

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**BOOK FOUR:** Reference List - *The Masonic Philatelist*. Subjects shown in Book One who have appeared in *The Masonic Philatelist* are listed in this section together with the year, month and page number of applicable issue. There is also a section listing major articles which have been featured in *The Masonic Philatelist*.

**BOOK FIVE:** Keys to Group Stamps. Enlarged illustrations of stamps that show a group of people are shown in this section with a key to the individuals in the group. The price to purchase this work would be $75 U.S. funds or $100 Canadian funds plus packaging and postage ($10 U.S. or CDN). All taxes included, if applicable. A customized matching shelf-box will be provided with each set. **The price is contingent upon a minimum run of 100 copies of the work.** The results of this survey must indicate this total purchase volume.

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