



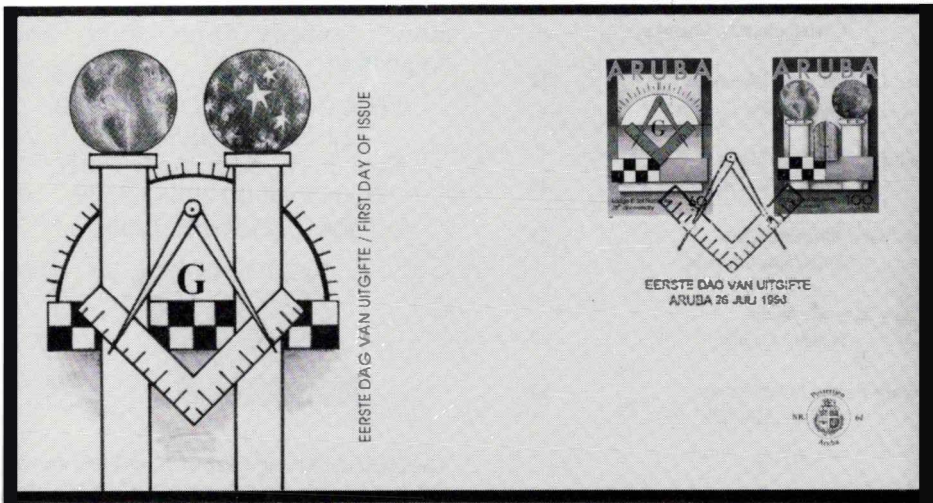
The Masonic Philatelist

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DECEMBER 1996

NO. 4



**Lodge El Sol Nacienta No. 113-75th Anniversary
Grootoosten der Nederlander
First Day of Issue-July 26, 1996**

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 52

NO. 4

Dr. Allan Boudreau
Editor & Publisher

DECEMBER 1996

CONTENTS

Lodge El Sol Naciente 75th Anniversary Posterijen Aruba	Cover
Freemasonry and the Titanic Nicholas Batalias	3
Horatio Nelson A Naval Hero Christopher L. Murphy	9
Open Letter to the Members Christopher L. Murphy	12
Producing a Cachet Cover Stephen D. Potter	15
Jose Marti Masonic Club Aureliano Corcoba	22
A True Masonic Stein Stanley C. Buz	23
Postage Stamp Mega Event ASDA - MSCNY	24

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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.

FREEMASONRY AND THE *TITANIC*
The Greatest of All Lost Ships

by

Nicholas Batalias

On April 17, 1912 the 125th Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Freemasons for the State of New Jersey was opened in form. On that cold and damp rainy day, Most Worshipful Grand Master Leslie A. Burritt brought the gavel down at 11:00 AM to deliver his Grand Master's address. His address ended with the following resolution:

By the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey in annual communication, be it resolved that the direful disaster by which a great ship of the sea has disappeared within its depths, and many hundreds of human lives have been destroyed, fills our hearts with deep dismay and profound sorrow. There is no doubt that many brethren of the Craft were among those who were so suddenly summoned from human life. And we particularly extend our sympathy to the brethren of Hope Lodge No. 124, F. & A. M., and to Mrs. William Anderson Walker, wife of Worshipful Brother Walker, Master of Hope Lodge, in these trying moments of doubt and uncertainty. Our prayers and hopes are that her husband, our esteemed and worthy brother, may be one of the survivors, and spared to her for many happy future years. May we be led to see and know, as we believe, that our Heavenly Father afflicts His earthly children not unmercifully and doeth all things well; be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Walker by telegraph.

In accordance with this resolution, a telegram was sent to Mrs. William A. Walker by the Grand Secretary and due acknowledgment expressing

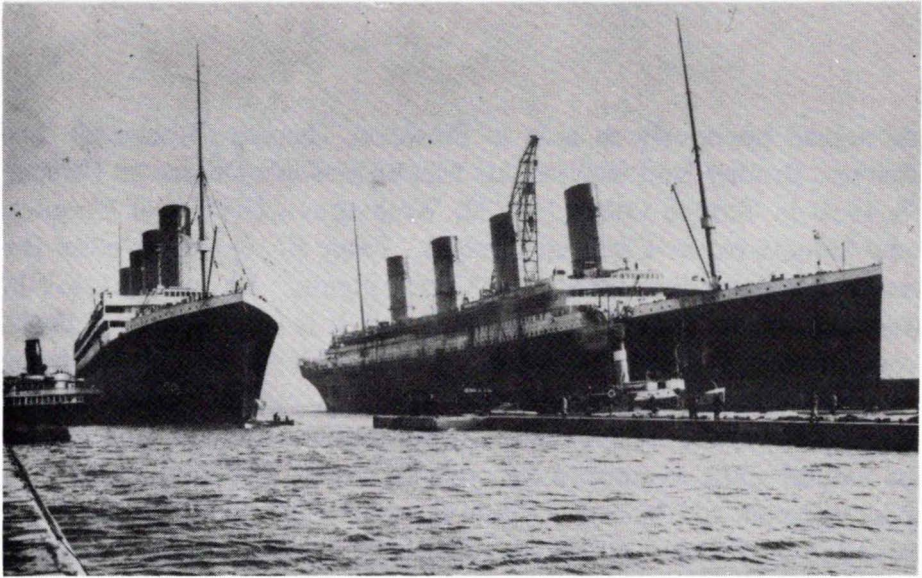
thanks was received. Unfortunately, Worshipful Brother Walker did not survive the disaster. He was listed in the White Star passenger list as W. Anderson Walker, occupying Cabin D-46, a first-class cabin. The price for his ticket, Number 36967, was 34 pounds, or about \$165 U.S. at that time. Mrs. Walker filed a claim in the amount of \$25,000 against the White Star Line for he husband's life and \$1,000 for the loss of his property. Her settlement was far less than these amounts - in all she received about four cents on the dollar.

Over the last ten years, *R.M.S. Titanic* has had considerable press coverage. Personally, I have been reading about this great ship for over fifty years. When I started reading Walter Loris's book, *A Night to Remember*, back in 1955, I could not put it down. Throughout the years, I have read every news article I could find that even mentioned the *Titanic*, and have never lost interest in this most tragic of all disasters at sea.

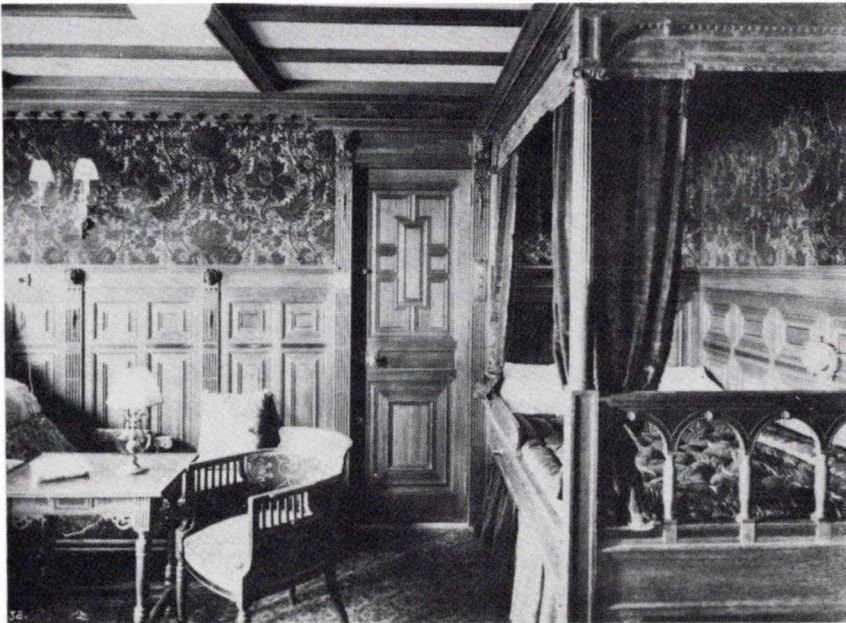
The mystery surrounding the loss of the *Titanic* was lessened to some degree when the old ship was found in her watery grave on the Grand Banks, about two miles down. In a word, it was awesome to actually see on film this greatest of ocean liners resting silently on the ocean floor.

I have often wondered about the passengers on the *Titanic*, in particular brother Masons. I have read it is rumored that most of the officers and mates were Freemasons. This assumption is very plausible as a great number of sea-going men throughout history have been members of the Order. In researching this question, I found that Harold G. Lowes, the *Titanic's* fifth officer was a Mason. Brother Lowes survived the ordeal and went on to serve in World War I in the British Navy. He died in 1944 at the age of 61 and was buried with Masonic honors in his native Daganwy, Wales.

Another *Titanic* Brother was Major Archibald Butt. This Brother, who died in the ordeal, was personal aide to President William Howard Taft,



The *Titanic* (right) with its sister ship the *Olympic* at the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Ireland. These were the first ships to exceed 40,000 gross tons. The *Titanic* was 883 feet long and had a beam (maximum width) of 92.5 feet.

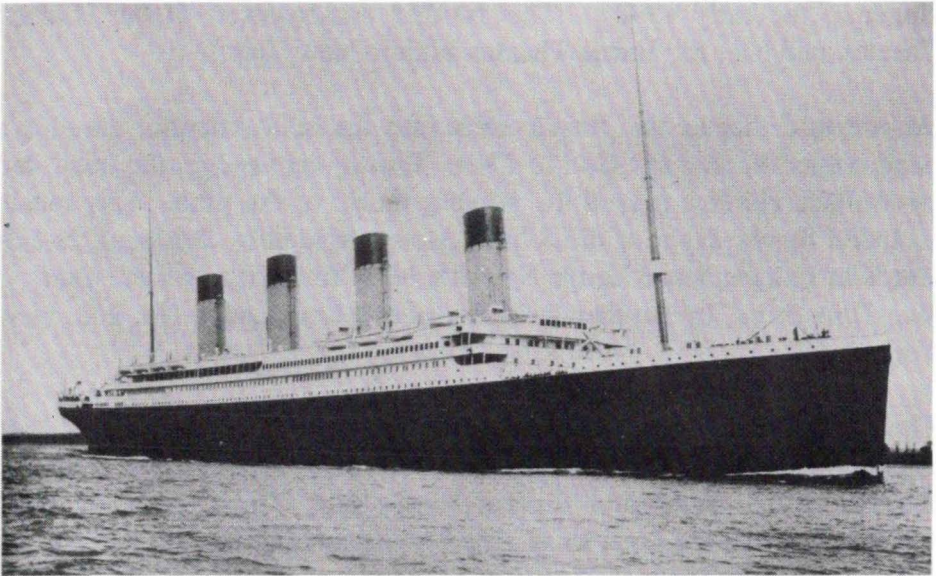


The bedroom of a first class suite (Cabin B-59) on the *Titanic*. Private baths, large closets, carved woodwork, and paneled doors and a sitting room were part of this elegant suite and intended to convey the concept of extreme luxury.

and served previously as aide to President Theodore Roosevelt, both Masons. Brother Butt received his Master Mason's Degree on February 27, 1910 in Temple Lodge No. 32, Washington, District of Columbia (now Temple-Noyes-Cathedral Lodge). From all reports, Brother Butt went to his death bravely and with great dignity. He helped lower the life-boats for the women and children and, it is said, he forced back a group of men who tried to "take over" one of the boats. While heroes are often created by circumstance, this was not the case with this Brother. From what I have read, Brother Butt acted and reacted in a true and natural spirit of concern for order in a most difficult situation - an honorable man and Mason. Of him President Taft stated, "I cannot turn around in my room or go anywhere without expecting to see his smiling face or hear his cheerful voice in greeting." Brother Butt was 45 years old when summoned to the Grand Lodge Above.

Further, another famous *Titanic* Brother, also lost, was Francis D. Millet. Born in 1846 at Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, Brother Millet was an artist and journalist. He was a member of Kane Lodge No. 454, New York City. By request of this lodge, Masonic services were held for him by Satucket Lodge in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. During his life, Brother Millet's artistic abilities had earned him considerable acclaim. He painted historic murals for the Minneapolis and Wisconsin State Capitals. Among his many portraits are those of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) and Charles Francis Adams. Brother Millet's passage on the *Titanic* was the start of his journey "West" most likely to pursue artistic endeavors. He was last seen on the ill-fated vessel in the men's oak-paneled smoking room with Brother Butt. As the two brothers undoubtedly contemplated their grim future, the last of the life-boats pushed away from the sinking ship.

We learn also that the *Titanic* claimed Brother Henry B. Harris, a member of Munn Lodge No. 203, New York City. Brother Harris, a theatrical manager, managed, among other celebrities, Lily Langtry, a famous



The *Titanic*. The four stack profile was created by adding a dummy stack. Two reciprocating engines for the outside propellers and a low pressure turbine for her single center screw produced 51,000 horsepower and a top speed of 22 knots.



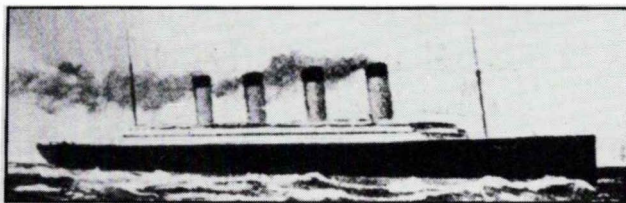
The ornate grand staircase on the *Titanic* descending from the boat deck into the A Deck first class entrance foyer. The decorative panels included an elaborate clock and a cherub holding the electric lamp.

singer of the early 1900's. This brother was manager of the Hudson Theater, and later the Harris Theater, both in New York City.

We are told that as the *Titanic* sank into the cold Atlantic, the ship's band played *Nearer My God to Thee*. During the voyage, the band, led by Wallace Hartley, played the popular music of the time. This music included *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*, written by Brother Gus Edwards of Independence Lodge No. 185, New York City, and *Alexander's Rag Time Band*, by Brother Irvin Berlin of Munn Lodge No. 203, New York City.

The 125th Grand Lodge Communication of New Jersey also heard Past Grand Master L. I. Handy from Delaware offer some thoughts on the *Titanic*. Most Worshipful Brother Handy said: "Just the other day I wondered, when the great steamship *Titanic* met her fate on the sea and only a small part of those aboard could have a chance to be saved, who's heart was the highest, and held his head high? The man who was saved with the women and children or the man who stayed on the sinking deck so that other passengers may have a chance for life? I wondered who?" Certainly, Brother Handy's question in the second instance brings us to reflect on the distinguished Masons I have mentioned.

When the *Titanic* departed from Southampton, England on her maiden voyage there were 195, first class passengers, 234 second class, 497 third class and 909 crew members, for a total of 1835 people. Of this number, only 322 people were saved. I am sure that as time and technology unravel the secrets of the disaster we will learn of many more Masons who were called to task and met the challenge of brotherly love, relief and truth.





HORATIO NELSON

A NAVAL HERO OF HIS OWN MAKING

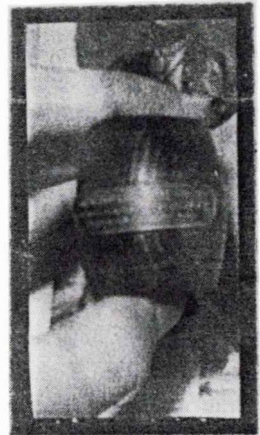
By

Christopher Leo Murphy, BF

Stories of the sea, especially those of the 18th and 19th century, never fail to stir the imagination. My mind has often wandered in gazing at a little black wooden barrel that is among my curios. This little barrel carries a brass plate that reads in neat block letters:

FROM THE BOWSPRIT OF HMS VICTORY
NELSON'S FLAGSHIP TRAFALGAR 1805
PURCHASED 2ND JUNE 1937

The barrel was obtained for me by my mother on a trip to England back in the 1950's. And while I have often prided myself with the little piece of British history, I now discover that it is also a piece of Masonic history - for Viscount Horatio Nelson was, indeed, a Freemason.



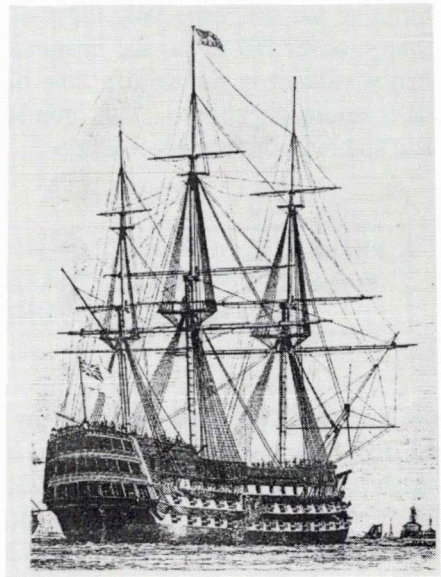


This great British naval hero was born in 1758. He went to sea at the age of twelve and demonstrated a great aptitude for that way of life. He was quite frail health-wise and during one long spell of illness at the age of fifteen, he reached the depth of despair. In this state he determined that he would make something of himself. His own words are as follows: "After a long and gloomy reverie, in which I almost wished myself overboard, a sudden glow of patriotism was kindled within me, and presented my king and my country as my patron. My mind exulted in the idea. Well then, I exclaimed, I will be a hero, and, confiding in providence, I will brave every danger."

By age twenty-one, Nelson became the youngest captain in the British Navy. He served with great distinction in the war with France, losing his right eye in action off Corsica in 1794. Then, at age thirty-nine, he was made a rear admiral.

In the war with Spain he again demonstrated his superior naval abilities, but not without sacrifice. In an unsuccessful raid on Santa Cruz, his right arm was blown off. After recuperating, he went back into service and confronted Napoleon's forces on the Nile. Wounded again in this battle, although not seriously, Nelson's victory here made him a national hero.

In 1801, he was made vice-admiral and posted to the Baltic Sea under Admiral Parker. During the Battle of Copenhagen, Nelson was ordered to withdraw, but putting his blind eye to the telescope he declared he could not see the signal. He then proceeded to cripple the Danish fleet.



Nelson's flagship, the 100-gun *Victory*.

Made a viscount, Nelson went on to engrave his name in history at the Battle of Trafalgar on October 21, 1805. Commanding his fleet of twenty-seven ships in *HMS Victory*, Nelson confronted thirty-three French and Spanish ships. His decisive victory dashed forever Napoleon's hopes of an invasion of England and established British supremacy on the high seas. This battle, however, resulted in a further and final personal sacrifice for the gallant commander. Wounded by a musket shot, he died as the battle ended.

Evidence supporting Nelson's membership in the Masonic Order comes from two sources. First, there is an inscription on a stone in the Lodge of Friendship No. 100, Yarmouth, England. It reads:

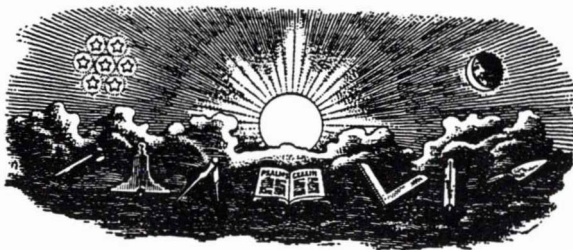
In memory of Bro. V. Nelson of the Nile and of Burnham Thore, in Norfolk, who lost his life in the army of Victory in an engagement with ye Combin'd Fleets of France and Spain, off Cape Trafalgar, Oct. 21, 1805. Proposed by Bro. John Cutlove.

Second, there is at the Masonic Hall in Reading, England a framed print showing a banner carried at Nelson's funeral by York Lodge No. 256. It bears the following words:

We rejoice with our Country but mourn our Brother.

Thus, my little black wooden barrel will now carry a tiny square and compasses as it slowly drifts further into history.

(Note: Illustrated postage stamp is Barbados, 1906, Lord Nelson Monument, Scott No. 102.)



**PYRAMID PUBLICATIONS INCORPORATED
DEPT. 291 - 720 SIXTH STREET
NEW WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA V3L 3C5**

OPEN LETTER

**MEMBERS,
MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK**

Dear Brothers and Fellow Club Members:

With the support of forty-seven Club members, I was able to publish my work *The Masonic Specialist*. This work, which was in a stamp album format, comprised nine volumes (total of 1,800 pages) on North American Masonic Philately. In all, 685 subjects, (Masons and anti-Masons) who may be connected with United States and Canadian postage stamps, were featured. In addition, I provided a complete analysis of the applicable stamps with numerous photographs. Further, the work included United States and Canadian currency that shows Freemasons.

The work is by far the most comprehensive ever attempted on this subject. Research, which spanned four years, included detailed analysis of five different publications (three now defunct) on Masonic Philately. These publications covered a time period of over fifty years.

After completion of this project, I reasoned that considerable benefit to the Craft, and our hobby in general, would be derived if the work were published in regular book format (hard-cover). In this format, the work could be reduced to two volumes comprising 1,420 pages.

In order to realize this objective, I need a minimum commitment of one hundred book sets at \$75 U.S. per set. This will enable me to produce 150 book sets. It is my intention to offer the extra fifty book sets to Masonic and public libraries, giving us a significant "presence" in these institutions. To date, I have received an "intent to purchase" from seventeen club members. If you are in a position to support this initiative, I would greatly appreciate your help. More details are shown on the adjacent **Pre-Publication Survey** which I ask you to complete and send to me if you are interested.

Yours fraternally,


Christopher L. Murphy, BF

PYRAMID PUBLICATIONS PRE-PUBLICATION SURVEY

Pyramid Publications recently completed publication of *The Masonic Specialist* by Christopher L. Murphy, BF. This work was provided in stamp album format (ring binders) and comprised 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 hard-cover volumes. The specifications would be as follows: 1,420 pages (laser bond), 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches, high-quality hard-covers embossed in gold. The work contains the following sections:

USER GUIDE: A complete explanation of how the work is arranged including definitions of stamp classes as they relate to Freemasonry.

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 subject is considered the "Father" in his particular field).

BOOK THREE: Masonic Standings. This is a chart showing all subjects, their original profession or occupation, the Masonic bodies to which they belonged (Royal Arch, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, Shriner) and if they were a Grand Master. The chart comprises nineteen (19) pages.

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 the applicable issue. There is also a section listing major articles that have been featured in *The Masonic Philatelist*.

(Continued)

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.

If you are interested in obtaining this book set, please complete and send in the following **Intent to Purchase** form. You will be notified of the outcome. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY AT THIS TIME.**

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New Westminster, British Columbia
Canada, V3L 3C5
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E-mail: cmurphy@axionet.com

This is my intent to purchase a hard-cover, standard book set edition of *The Masonic Specialist* at a price of \$75 U.S. or \$100 CDN plus packaging and postage if the work becomes available.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
SIGNATURE:

PRODUCING A CACHET COVER

by

Stephen D. Potter

INTRODUCTION

A cachet cover is an envelope upon which is placed a design that commemorates a person, place or event. A cachet must be franked which means that it has a Postage Stamp affixed to it, and which has been cancelled. Almost all cachet covers produced in the United States are designed on a standard number six 3 5/8" X 6 1/2" envelope. A first day cover is a cachet designed to commemorate the first day of issue of a stamp. It may also commemorate a person, place or event. If you are going to produce a first day cover you must know when a particular stamp of interest is going to be released. There are a number of philatelic publications which list impending stamp releases. You must be in contact with the Post Office well in advance of the date of the release of the stamp. Otherwise the design procedure is the same as with a cachet cover.

OVERVIEW

Knowing that the 125th anniversary of my lodge was only a year away, I wanted to celebrate this important event. My project had to conform to several parameters. It could not cost my lodge any money, it had to be fun, and it had to further the cause of Freemasonry in some way. Being a dedicated Masonic stamp collector I decided to incorporate my hobby into this project. Compared to the cost of pins, plates and ashtrays etc., producing a cachet cover was the least expensive project for me to attempt. Also, I have collected stamps and covers since my childhood and had always wanted to produce one. I decided to incorporate my hobby in this project. This allowed me the opportunity to follow the process of producing a cachet cover from start to finish. The cover that I designed is shown at the end of this article.

The first thing that I did was to take a look at all of the Masonic covers in my collection. I separated out the ones that had designs that I liked and looked like covers that I could make. I boiled these down to four covers that I believed captured the essence of my project. I used these as the models for my cover. I made sketches and looked for the design elements that I needed. I recommend that you obtain the book; *Masonic clip art*,* published by, The Masonic Service Association. 1 You might also consider using the cover art on your lodge's Trestle board or Lodge announcement. Canvas your lodge for brothers with graphic arts skills but don't be deterred if you must go it alone. Most of the fun is in the learning process and it's really not that difficult. I suggest that as you go along that you talk to: Post Office workers, art supply store personnel and your printer, tell them as much about your project as you can and get their best advice.

Once I gathered all of the information that I needed, I developed the design and had several copies of it made at my local copy center. It was time to present the plan to my Lodge. If you are not used to speaking to an audience write a script for yourself to follow. Have all your facts in front of you concerning the cost and benefits of doing such a project. Be prepared to give a detailed description of a cachet cover and have some samples of other lodges' cachets to show. Explain that this is a collectable item which has an intrinsic value. Present a list of all the costs involved including; paper, printing, and stamps etc. You may want to obtain a letter of authorization signed by the Secretary and Worshipful Master of your lodge. This is not absolutely necessary to the production of a cover but it does add legitimacy to your project. I have mine framed with a copy of the cover and it makes a nice display. My lodge granted me \$100.00 to start up and when all was said and done, I was able to pay back the start up money, repay my own expenses and the lodge made a few dollars to boot.

Once you have approval from your lodge contact the Post Master of your local branch of the Post Office and make an appointment to see him. Tell him what you intend to do and get his advice. Some Post Offices in major cities now have a philatelic expert available to help you. If the cancellation date of your cover is important find out how much lead time the Post Office will

need for special handling such as hand cancellation. When you have the name of the postal representative that you will be dealing with find out when he will want your covers to work with. Give him the covers to be franked and a large self addressed envelope with the proper amount of postage affixed for him to return your covers in. I suggest that you use the priority mail envelopes that are available at the Post Office for this.

If you want to have a special cancellation you will have to purchase it from the Post Office. The cancellation stamper or 'bopper' as it is called costs approximately \$100.00. I decided against a custom cancellation to keep costs down. Ask your Post Master what color ink they can use for hand franking. I was able to get red ink, which over a 'G' flag stamp and a blue design is very pretty. Stamp pads now come in a variety of colors. Ask the Post Master if you can provide them with an ink pad in the color you want. Try to get a color that contrasts with the over all color of your cover.

When you have all of the information you need from the Post Office it's time to finalize your design and make a camera ready copy for your printer. I went overboard and had 1500 covers printed, of these less than 500 were actually franked for distribution. The rest I use for official correspondence and when I order covers from others. If you want an unfranked copy of my cover send me an S.A.S.E. and a copy of your lodge's tresstleboard to my address which is listed below.

The date of commemoration of my lodge was June 27, 1995. I started to advertise the covers in March of that year. The covers were made available to lodge members by subscription for \$3.00 plus a S.A.S.E. large enough to hold a number six envelope. All orders had to be in two weeks prior to the anniversary date. I also mailed 150 copies back to myself for sales to non-members. All were post marked on the commemoration date. I'm convinced that had I started earlier and been more aggressive in advertising, we would have made more money. When I do this again I will select a committee to visit other lodges and promote the project in person. Send a sample copy attached to an advertising letter to the other lodges in your area and

to Masonic Philatelic Associations. 2 When you send your announcement to a Masonic Lodge address it to the secretary of the lodge so that he will read it at a regular lodge meeting as correspondence. The sooner you can get these announcements out the better.

While this project was not the most successful fund raiser I have ever been involved with, it was rewarding in many other ways. I learned more about stamp collecting, I came closer to the brothers in my state, promoted my lodge and developed relationships with brothers all over the world, some of whom have become good friends. Many of the people who ordered covers from outside the lodge sent me a variety of buttons, pins and covers from their lodge or jurisdiction. I continue to receive a few orders for my cover every now and then. If you undertake this kind of project I wish you good luck. If you attempt to produce a cover and find yourself in a snag please call or write to me. If you have access to a fax machine send me a fax of your design, I will be happy to make suggestions.

RECOMMENDED MECHANICAL LAYOUT METHOD

The offset printing process will produce the best results. Your printer will show you a variety of ink colors and envelope stock to choose from. If your cover is to be only one color your printer will need the best black and white image you can give him. If you are going to have more than one color you will need to supply your printer with a separate black and white image for each color used. For instance if your design is to be a blue square and compasses within a red circle you will need to provide two black and white designs; one for the square and compasses and one for the circle. Some printers can produce a full color image from a color picture, embossed or raised printing. In fact, you can have anything printed. It all depends on how much money you want to spend.

To produce the art work for my cover I used a computer equipped with a graphic art program and a scanner. This equipment allowed me to scan all the clip art images into a design program where they could be placed, arranged and sized to the desired format. With such equipment you

can also produce a variety of type faces. If you own a computer, consult a computer store sales representative about design programs. If you have Windows by Microsoft use the paint program that comes with it. If you buy a design program you don't need a very expensive one for this type of project. Small hand scanners are also available and will cost approximately \$100.00. If you do not have the use of a computer here is a brief description of the mechanical layout method.

At the start it will be helpful to get some books on layout art from the library. The first step is to make a mock up of your cover. Once your sketches have been made and the design elements have been selected go to your local copy center and have them make several copies of them. A copy center can enlarge or reduce your art to any size you want. In addition to the art work you will need lettering. There are a number of products for applying the lettering available in art supply stores. The best come in the form of plastic sheets with rub off letters. You can also use a word processor for the lettering, cut the words out of the print out and paste them up on your mock up.

Start your mock up by making an oblong square on a piece of white poster board the same size as a number six envelope. You may find it easier to make your mock up larger than this. If you do, when your cover is completed have your copy center reduce it to the proper size. This frame work will be the working field on which you will arrange all of the elements that will form your cover. You are now making what is called the 'mechanical'. This means that the various elements are physically cut and pasted to the working board. Lay everything out on the board exactly where you want them. Refer to the template which is provided by the Post Office 3. Move them around and arrange them until you are satisfied. Its a little bit like putting together a jig saw puzzle. Use rubber cement for this operation. To use rubber cement, apply a thin coat of cement to both surfaces, let them dry and then lightly press them together. Rubber cement allows you lift and move the elements after they are applied. Rubber cement can be cleaned up without leaving a trace, after it has dried just rub it off with your finger or with an eraser. When your design is finished go over your work and remove any blemishes with white out or liquid paper. Fill any pin holes and white spots with a black fine point felt pen. When you are satisfied with

your mechanical take it to the copy center and have several high quality copies made the exact size of your finished cover. you now have camera ready copy for the printer.

Equipment you will need:

A small Exacto knife, sharp scissors, Poster Board (white), fine and medium black felt tipped pens, White Out or Liquid Paper, rubber cement and thinner, a rubber cement eraser, ruler, soft pencils, a small draftsman's triangle and a compass.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I did not do this project alone and I am indebted to Brothers: Robert A. Domingue 4 editor of The Philatelic Freemason and Christopher Murphy both of whom write extensively on the subject of Masonic stamp collecting, for their invaluable suggestions and help. Thanks also need to be expressed to the Secretary (Brother Leon Elder), officers and members of Armstrong Lodge No. 26 Newport, Delaware who supported this project and to the Newport, Delaware branch of the U.S. Post office.

REFERENCES

1. MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION; Masonic Clip Art, 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-4785

* Clip art is artwork that is printed on sheets of paper. These can be cut out, or scanned by a computer and placed on your design board or mock up.

2. MASONIC PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

The Masonic Philatelist; The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016

The Philatelic Freemason; Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Road, Andover, MA, 01810

George Washington Masonic Stamp Club: Kenneth Hanson President, 6307 Pioneer Drive,
Springfield VA, 22150-1623

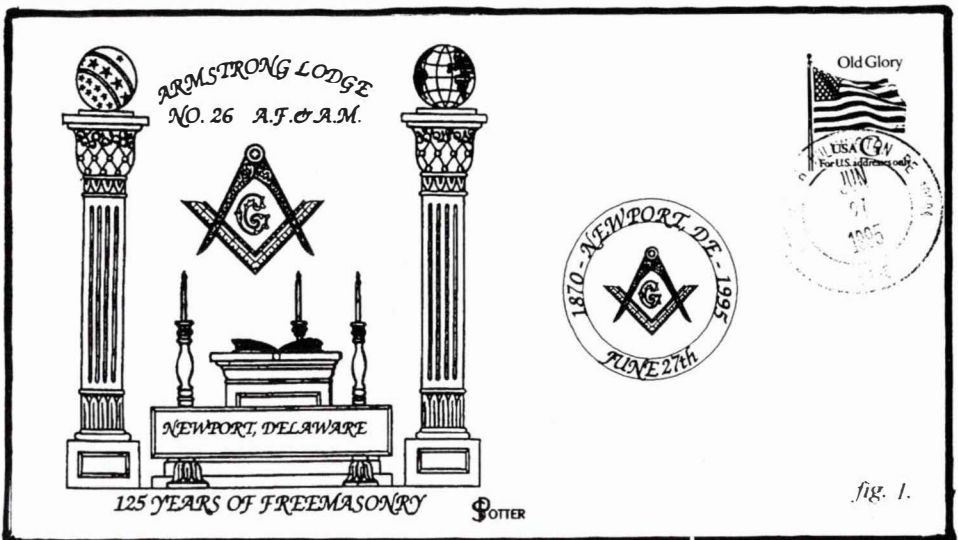
The American Topical Association, Masonic Study Unit: 3306 North 50th Street, Milwaukee,
WI 53216.

3. FREE PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE U. S. POST OFFICE;

Designing Letter Mail; Publication No. 25, August 1995. This publication comes with a plastic template which shows the exact placement of information on a cover so that it will properly go through the Post Office 'Optical Character Recognition (OCR) machine. You will not need this template if your covers are to be hand franked.

Max It. The new bulk mail guide.

4. ROBERT A. DOMINGUE, Edits The Philatelic Freemason, he also writes an excellent stamp column which appears in The Northern Light, the journal of the Scottish Rite, Northern Division. Write him at 59 Greenwood Road, Andover, Mass 01810





José Martí
MASONIC CLUB
F. & A. M. of the State of California



Aureliano Corcoba
141 W. 226th Pl.
Carson, CA 90745

MR. BERNARD NATHAN
Secretary of the Masonic Stamp Club
of New York, Inc.
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Brother Nathan:

For some years now the cuban community in this country have been requesting from the United States Postal Service the issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring the glorious memory of brother JOSE MARTI, the Apostle of Cuba's Liberty, and a meritorious member of our Craft, whose birthday, January 28, is Mason's Day in Cuba, by decree of the M.W. Grand Lodge of A. F. A. Masons of Cuba.

Actually, the nomination of Bro. JOSE MARTI is under consideration by the "Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee", which is responsible for reviewing stamps proposals.

This is the first time that a cuban patriot, and brother, of the stature of Washington, Bolivar, San Martin, O'Higgins, Sarmiento, Juarez, etc. is under consideration to be honored through the Commemorative Program of this country.

JOSE MARTI was world known as a journalist in U. S. Papers of his time, and others in Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina and Venezuela. He also gained recognition as an essayist, philosopher, economist, poet, educator and art critic, but above all as a revolutionary.

JOSE MARTI'S political and military program was instrumental in obtaining Independence from oppressing colonial Spain, and his quest for freedom and democracy for Cuba, transcends geographical borders. It was a fight in the name of humanity. It was the fight that George Washington, Benito Juarez and Simon Bolivar undertook for their respective countries.

We are hereby requesting your valuable cooperation in the name of our prestigious Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y., by addressing a petition to Mr. Marvin Runyon, Postmaster General United States Postal Service, in order to have the Postal Service, under his honorable direction, issue a commemorative stamp to honor the memory of our beloved brother JOSE MARTI, a true Champion of Liberty.

We thank you for your consideration to our request.

Fraternally yours,

Aureliano Corcoba
President

141 W. 226 Pl

Carson, CA
90745

MICHAEL R. MEKENIAN
711 Fifth Avenue
Spring Lake, N J 07762
1-908-449-2359

December 6, 1996

Mr. Bernard Nathan
Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.
22 East 35th Street
New York, N Y 10016

Dear Brother Nathan,

This Saturday, the Masons of New Jersey will celebrate the annual Feast of Saints John at Crescent Temple, Trenton, N J. To commemorate this annual event, an approved U. S. Postal Masonic cancel will be applied to five different cachet covers. All monies collected from the sale of these covers will go into the New Jersey Grand Lodge Permanent Fund. Below I have listed the five available Masonic covers, photocopies of which are attached.

1. Feast of St. John (Allen Roberts)
2. Grand Master of N. J.
3. N. J. Grand Master's Apron
4. Washington Masonic Apron
5. Feast of St. John (M. N. Bro. Fletcher*)

The above covers will cost \$5.00 each and will be autographed by N. J. Grand Master, M. W. Raymond J. Vanden Berghe, Sr. unless autographed by designated speakers (if available*). Orders for these covers should be sent to me at the above address.

Thank you.

Fraternally yours,



Dick Mekenian, P. G. C.

MRM:mlc



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