



The Masonic Philatelist

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The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 53

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SEPTEMBER 1997

Dr. Allan Boudreau
Editor & Publisher

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

THE COLLECTORS CLUB
22 East 35th Street
New York, New York 10016
Telephone (212) 683-0559
FAX (212) 481-1269



The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

The Editor invites all members to submit items of information and articles on the subject of Masonic Philately. Typewritten copy and/or camera ready items will result in the best possible presentation of your material if it is selected for use.



Brother Joseph Burr Tyrrell (1858-1957)

by
Christopher L. Murphy, BF

The province of Alberta, Canada stretches east from the Rocky Mountains for as far as the eye can see. Here, sky meets land and the soft curvature of the earth can be traced on the horizon. The traveler immediately envisions tedious miles of prairie farms and endless roads so straight they disappear in a watery mirage. He is right on all accounts with one exception - Drumheller.

One actually descends into Drumheller. The land abruptly transforms into a series of canyons that seem to take you into another world. Though not deep and magnificent, the canyons are very unusual and, in a word, eerie. One cannot help but feel *something happened here*.

It was to the Drumheller area that Brother Joseph Burr Tyrrell ventured in the spring of 1884. He was leading his first expedition for the Geological Survey of Canada. He discovered great deposits of workable coal in the region and a prosperous coal industry quickly developed. At the peak of the industry in 1948, over 30 coal mines were in operation.



Photo by Julie

Your author with Tyrrell Bust



While studying the earth formations at Kneehill Creek, Tyrrell happened across a partially exposed 70-million-year-old dinosaur skull. Realizing that this was a significant find, he had the skull and other fossil bones removed, loaded onto a buckboard and taken to Calgary. The load was so heavy the wagon axle broke several times during the journey. The find was then shipped to

Ottawa and later classified as an *Albertosaurus*. This was the first example of the genus to be found worldwide.

News traveled quickly and it was soon discovered that the whole Drumheller region was rich in dinosaur fossils. Palaeontologists descended on the area like a plague and the race for fossils was coined *The Great Canadian Dinosaur Rush*.



Tyrrell himself continued Canadian explorations and made valuable contributions to his country. During his long career, he made important discoveries on the effect of glaciation on plant life and produced a vocabulary of the Inuit language. He received many honors in recognition of his explorations. A lake and a mountain in Alberta were named after him and in 1985 the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology at Drumheller was opened in his honor. This first-class facility houses one of the finest collections of dinosaur fossils in the world.

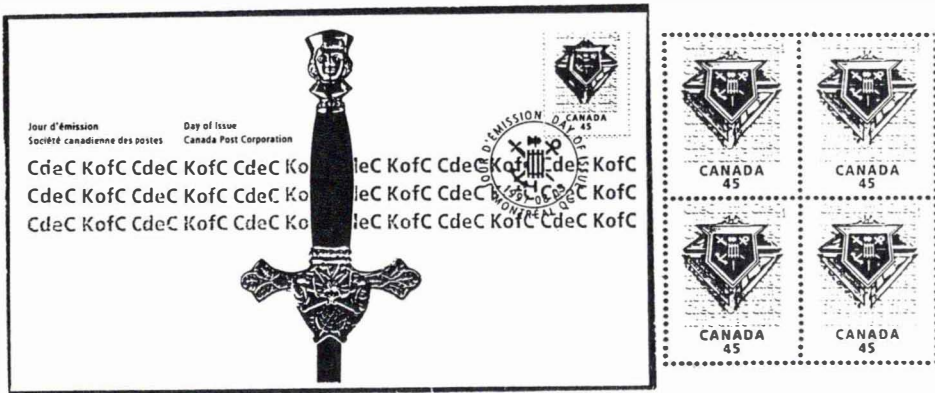
Brother Tyrrell was a member of Builder's Lodge No. 177, Ottawa, Ontario. He was initiated on May 10, 1889. He later demitted from this lodge and became a charter member of University Lodge No. 496, Toronto, Ontario. He served as chaplain at the first meeting of a Canadian lodge to be held north of the Arctic Circle (Coppermine, Northwest Territories, August 30, 1938). Our illustrious brother passed on to the Grand Lodge Above in his home at Weston, Ontario on August 26, 1957 in his 99th year.

Now, over a century after Tyrrell's discovery, Drumheller is still recognized as one of the world's foremost regions for dinosaur fossils. To say the least, a visit to Drumheller is well worth the drive. And if you do venture out that way, find a quiet spot and listen - you can almost hear the sounds of another world.

Stamps Illustrated: Tyrrell Has Another Find, CDN #1235; Albertosaurus, CDN #1497.

STAMP FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

On August 5, 1997, the Canada Post issued a stamp to commemorate one hundred years of the existence of our companion organization in Canada. From coast to coast, the K of C has 1725 councils with over 200,000 members in the 10 provinces of Canada. The stamp was released in conjunction with the annual international convention of the Order of the Knights of Columbus held in Montreal.



Founded in New Haven, CT, in 1882 by an Irish-American priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, the organization was intended to give Roman Catholic men a place to help them "remain steadfast in their faith through mutual encouragement; to promote closer ties of fraternity among them; and to set up an elementary system of insurance so that the widows and children of members in the group who might die would not find themselves in dire financial straits." The insurance plan has been the saving grace for many families and communities in North America and around the world. It has evolved into an extensive program with nearly \$20 billion of insurance in force and over \$3 billion in assets.

The Knights of Columbus was brought to Canada in 1897 by two Montrealers, J.P. Kavanaugh and Charles Smith. Having been initiated into this Roman Catholic organization in the U.S., they enlisted the aid of Dr. J.J. Guerin, a former Mayor of Montreal and provincial minister in Quebec. Together they built Council No. 284 in Montreal under the name Council Canada; it was Dr. Guerin who became Canada's first Grand Knight. The movement marched across the country at a rapid rate. In 1899 a Council started up in Quebec City and a second was founded in Montreal. By 1905, the K of C had a presence in Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall, Peterborough, Sherbrooke, St. John, Sydney and in Newfoundland.

MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB OF BRAZIL

Your Editor recently received a letter from Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, President of the Clube Filatelico Maconico do Brazil informing us that this organization was the official distributor of the various philatelic items (stamps, FDCs, blocks, etc.) for all Masonic Philatelic Clubs and interested persons. They are creating a collector's register which will be available for philatelists as well as photocopies of recently published postal seals and stamps. The First Masonic Philatelic National Exposition will be held on September 1 to 7, 1997, and 7 Masonic Commemorative Seals (cancels) will be introduced there. Also, the Stamps and Commemorative Postal Seals Register, published by the Correios (Brazilian Mail) will become available at a cost of \$50.00. Interested individuals should write to reserve a copy. All correspondence on this matter should be sent to:

Brazilian Masonic Philatelic Club
P.O. Box 3085
88010-970 FLORIANOPOLIS - SC - BRAZIL
c/o Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm - President

Dr. Schramm's letter also included Xerox copies of the seals being issued in September as well as several recently published seals and covers which are available.



RMS - 162
ZIONI Belo Horizonte - MG

Centenário da Loja Maçonica Bello Horizonte Nº 001

12 a 18-05-1997



RMS - 160
08-04-1997

50 Anos da Confederação Maçonica Interamericana

Este carimbo foi lançado no Chile. A C.M.I. está integrada por 64 Grandes Lojas, correspondentes a 21 países Latinoamericanos, dentre os quais, o Brasil.



RMS - 172
ZIONI Florianópolis - SC

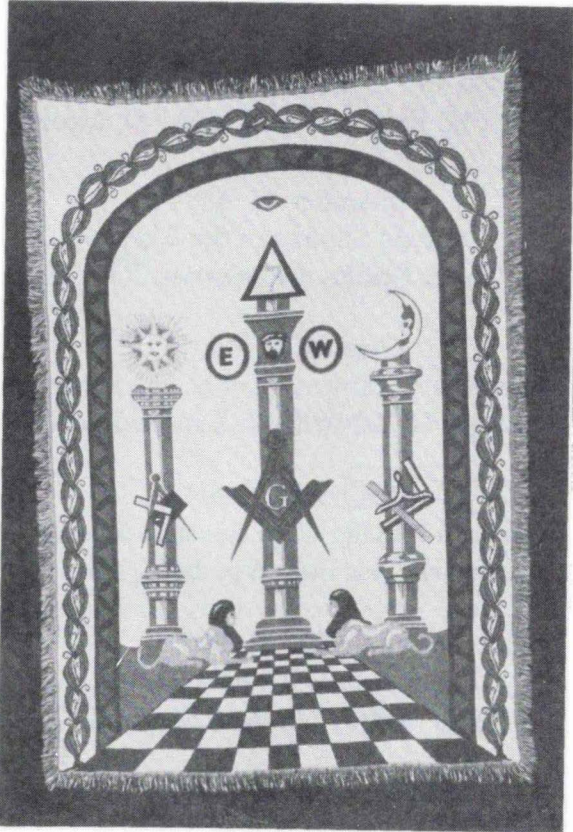
1ª Exfilma - Homenagem a Alfredo Campos (In Memoriam)

(7º Dia de Exposição)

07.09.1997

Blue Lodge Afghan

Beautiful Blue Lodge Afghan - 100% cotton triple weave throw, measuring 48" X 68 " - manufactured in the U. S. A.



When you order this Afghan mention that you saw it in *The Masonic Philatelist* and enclose the address of your Grand Lodge and a donation will be sent

Send your check in the amount of \$48.95 which included all packing and shipping costs to'

Sandra D. Knotts
P. O. Box 543
Trexlerstown, PA 18087

The Masonic Philatelist September 1997

**The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York, New York 10016**

Fall 1997 Schedule of Events

(Social Hour 5:30 PM; Exhibit Opens 6:00 PM, Meeting 6:30 PM)

September 17, 1997

Tax Paid Stamps of the World
E. E. Fricks, Clementon, NJ

October 8, 1997

Danish West Indies Rarities, Stamps and Postal History
Dr. Roger G. Schnell, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

October 15, 1997

American Playing Card Revenue Stamps
Edward Tricomi, Woodside, NY

November 5, 1997

Great Britain, Used Abroad
Hugh Wood, London, England

November 19, 1997

The Balloon Post of Paris
Steven C. Walske, Chestnut Hill, MA

December 3, 1997

Collectors Club Members'
One-Frame Competition
Dr. Edward J. Grabowski, Chairman

December 10, 1997

Board of Governors - Open House
Seasons Greetings

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.

COLLECTORS CLUB PUBLICATIONS

UNITED STATES

	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
1985 & 1986 Supplements in CCP Issues	(Cloth) 22.50 (each) 6.00	16.85 4.50
United States Telegraph Stamps and Franks, by G. J. Kramer (1992)	(Cloth) 55.00	42.00
(Price of the Kramer Looks includes shipping charges) (Full Leather)	85.00	68.00

FOREIGN

Afghanistan: Its Twentieth Century Postal Issues, by F.E. Patterson III (1964)	(Cloth) 25.00	18.75
Central America: Its Postal History & Prephilatelic Postmarks (1985)	40.00	30.00
Ecuador: Historia y Catalogo de Marcas Prefilatelicas, Spanish edition	25.00	18.75
Combined English-Spanish edition	(Cloth) 35.00	26.25
Honduras: The Black Airmail, by I. I. Green (1962)	5.00	3.75
Postage Stamps of Lithuania, by Lithuania Philatelic Societies of New York & Toronto (1979)	(Cloth) 25.00	18.75
New Zealand: 1898-99, Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post Stamps, by J. R., Walker, H. L. Chisholm and H. M. Goodkind (1969)	15.00	11.25
Postal History & Postage Stamps of Serbia, 1841-1921, by M. R. Rasic (1979)	(Cloth) 25.00	18.75

CATALOGUES

First Scott Catalogue 1868, Reprint edition	3.50	2.65
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Publications are softbound except as noted.

Please add \$2 for the first book and \$1 for each additional book for postage and handling, except where noted. For overseas orders, please inquire for the shipping charges. Address orders to:

Executive Secretary
The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

“FANTASY ON WHEELS” TO ROLL FOR MASONRY IN ROSE PARADE

1998 Float Honors Homes, Shriners and Eastern Star

The Family of Freemasonry will be rolling into the land of nursery rhymes again on its float in the 1998 Tournament of Roses Parade. It has been announced by Stanley Channon, chairman of the Masonic float committee.

Theme for the float-filled parade down Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena is “Hav’n Fun,” a motif that will be symbolized colorfully and humorously on the Masonic entry for a half-billion viewers in person and through television around the world.

Channon, a Past Grand Master of Masons in California, said the fraternity’s Humpty Dumpty float was so popular two years ago that the committee decided to call on Mother Goose once more with an entry depicting “The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.”

Only this time the flower-bedecked float will be a very modern interpretation entitled “Fantasy on Wheels.” The design by Phoenix Decorating Co. depicts a fantasy in which the old woman has the shoe converted to a roller blade-powered home so that all of the children could have fun together instead of “whipping them all soundly and putting them to bed.” as the famous nursery rhyme dictated.

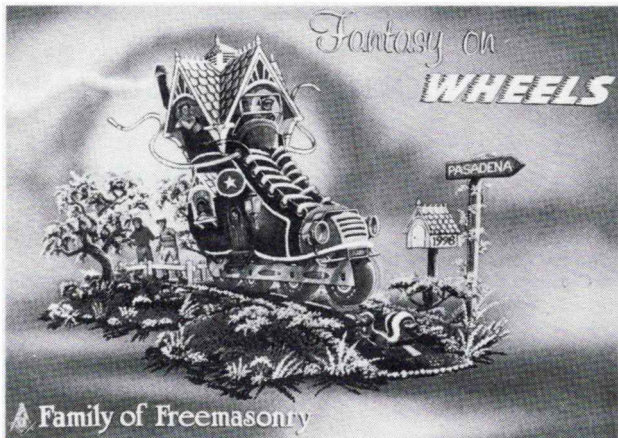
The old woman in the nursery rhyme has so many children she didn’t know what to do, but the Family of Freemasonry has an answer: “Treat them with love and care.” says Channon.

“That’s what Masons strive for, and the float provides us with an opportunity to make the public more aware of the many ways in which we support and care for children. In addition to the Shriners’ Hospitals and Burn Centers and the Masonic Homes for young people and the elderly, children are treated at no charge at the Scottish Rite Hospital and learning disorder clinics and the York Rite Hospitals and Foundation.

“Further evidence of our concern for children is the Masonic support for public education and training programs to identify children-at-risk in public schools to guide them towards appropriate counseling,” said Channon.

Masonry, the world’s largest philanthropic organization, will be observing several anniversaries in 1998, including the 100th anniversary of the Masonic Homes of California, the 75th anniversary of the Shriners’ Hospitals and the 125th anniversary of the Order of Eastern Star.

Allen B. Gresham, Grand Master of



RENDERING FOR PARADE – “The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” will be updated on the Family of Freemasonry float New Year’s Day in the Rose Parade.

PHOTO BY JIM PADDEN AND GARY GILLET

California Masons, points out that the fraternity contributes nearly \$2 million a day for charitable support, with a large percentage directed towards children.

Young people are particularly expected to enjoy the float. As depicted in the rendering, the 35-foot entry is a boot transformed into a house with a Victorian roof and mounted on four in-line roller blade wheels.

It is driven by an old woman with six children on board and four others dressed in the 1990s attire of roller bladers. The speeding shoe house is brought to a screeching halt to avoid hitting a scared skunk on the road; a sudden stop is achieved by fixing the back wheels, tilting the shoe upwards and keeping the front wheels spinning.

The illusion of power and speed is enhanced by having the float engine exhaust routed out the back of the shoe, smoke streaming from the chimney and the untied shoelaces flying in the breeze.

Traveling down a country road lined with trees and thousands of flowers, the float, accompanied by music, is passing a mail box and following a signpost leading to Pasadena.

“We are convinced that the innovative design will attract viewers’ attention just as Humpty Dumpty captivated the audience in the 1996 parade,” said Channon.

The Masonic emblem, square and compass, will be displayed on the float as always.

FLOWERS GALORE ON NURSERY RHYME FLOAT

A ventable garden of flowers will adorn the Family of Freemasonry float when it rides down the Tournament of Roses parade route New Year’s Day, 1998.

The Fantasy on Wheels entry, an animated shoe carrying the “old lady” and her children in a roller-blade rendition of the nursery rhyme, will be bedecked with roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, leather fern, tea leaves, dried rice and seed.

As required by the Tournament of Roses, the entire float must be covered with flowers and plant materials. Volunteers, particularly from the Family of Freemasonry, should contact Phoenix Decorating Co. in Pasadena to inquire about assisting in decorating the float.

Contributions Needed

Masons throughout the world are asked to contribute to the cost of sponsoring the Family of Freemasonry float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. You may do so by sending your donations to Robert C. Coe, treasurer, P.O. Box 661567, Arcadia, CA 91066-1567. Or you may write him to request an order form which describes the merchandise commemorating this float and previous entries. Pins, postcards, shirts and other items are available. Your support will be appreciated. Please note that contributions are not deductible.



Jim Dougherty

P.O. Box 1192 + Austin, TX 78767-1192

(512) 451-0637 + FAX (512) 451-8705

E-MAIL: JIMG_DOUGHERTY@prodigy.com

Member

Texas Philatelic Association - American First Day Cover Society
Masonic Stamp Club of New York - George Washington Masonic Stamp Club

July 14, 1997

Dr. Allan Boudreau
One Washington Square Village
New York, NY 10012-1601

Dear Bro. Allan:

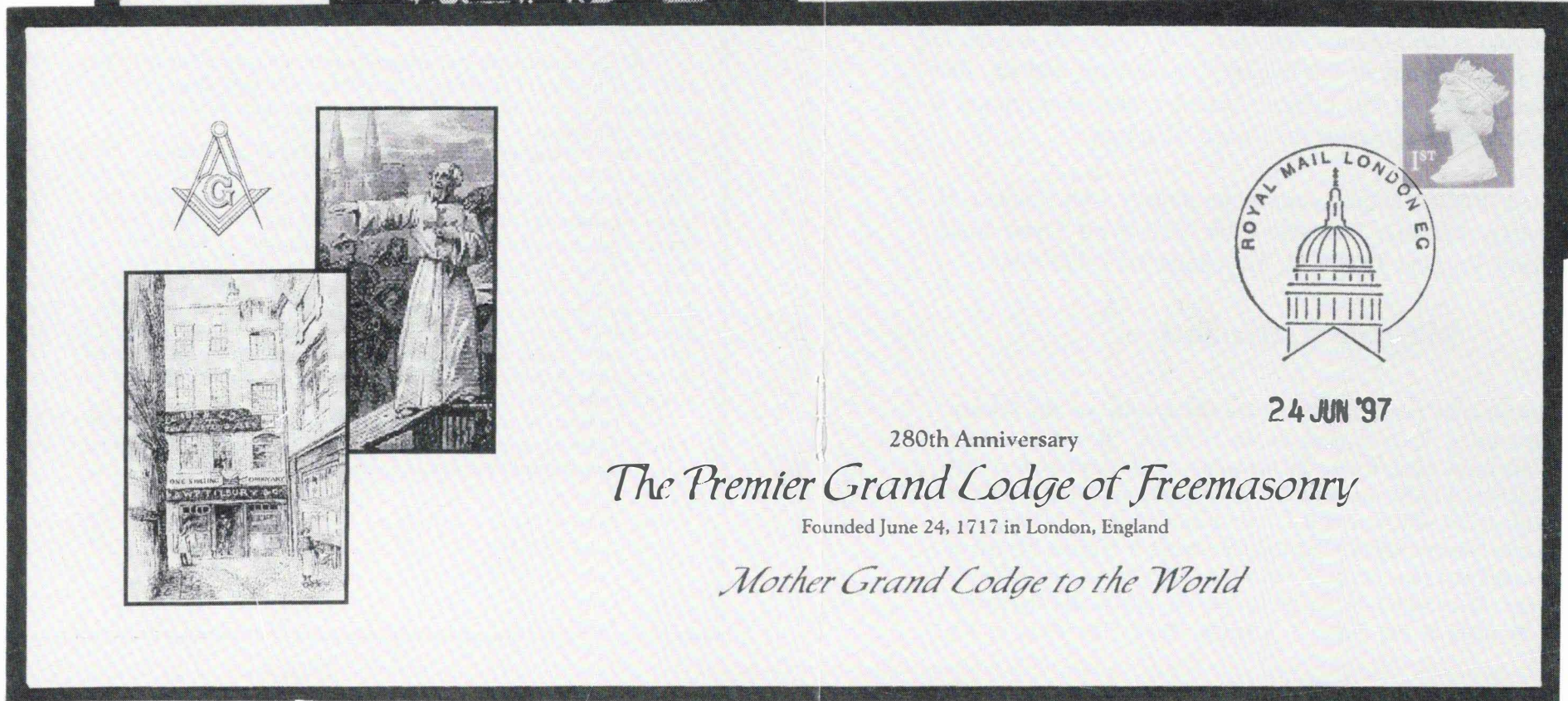
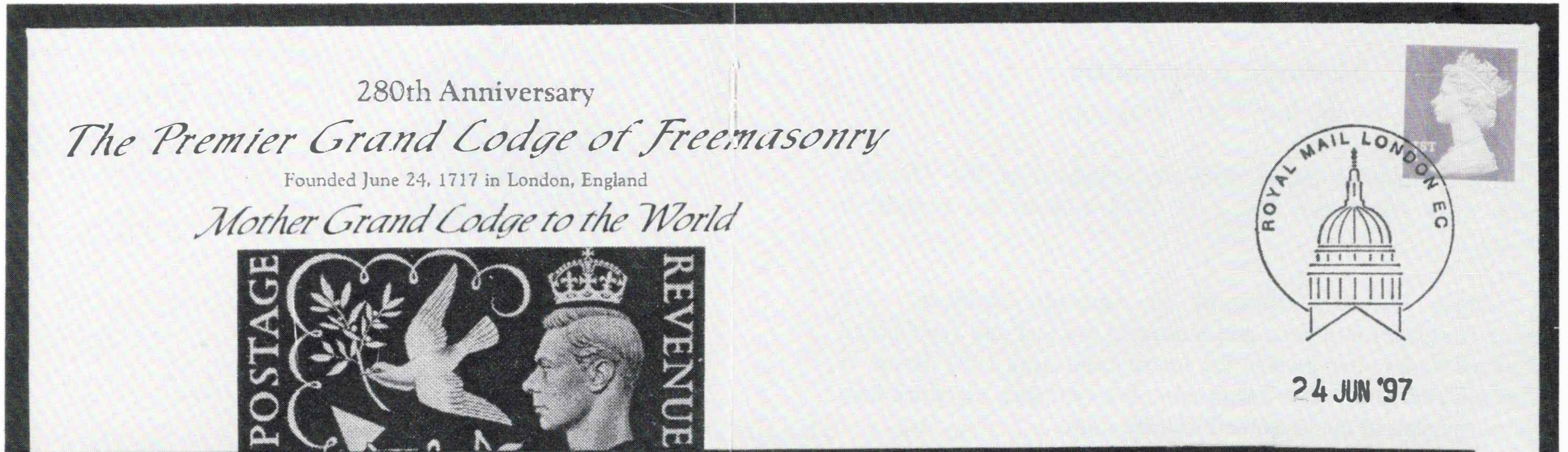
As promised, I am enclosing a pair of the covers I made in honor of the 280th anniversary of founding of The Premier Grand Lodge of Freemasonry (forerunner of the United Grand Lodge of England) on June 24, 1717 in London, England.

The first cachet features a reproduction of two images ... the first of Knights Templar Grand Master Jacques DeMolay as he is led to the stake ... and the second of the Goose and Gridiron public house, where the Grand Lodge was formed. The second cachet bears a reproduction of the 1946 3D Peace Issue, a stamp whose design was suggested by King George VI, the last reigning monarch of Great Britain to serve as Past Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. Both covers carry the newly issued gold 1st Class stamp issued in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. The unique stamp is tied with a special Royal Mail St. John's Day cancellation featuring the outline of St. Paul's, in whose churchyard the Goose and Gridiron once stood. Both covers contain interesting and informative "stuffers."

Less than 50 pairs of the covers are available to U.S. collectors and less than half that number are available in the UK. The pair is \$25.00 post paid.

With fraternal best wishes I remain,

Sincerely,



Masonic Astronauts

by the late Terry Waghorn

This outstanding article originally appeared in the *Masonic Philatelic Club Newsletter No. 2* in 1978 without the benefit of illustrations.

Graham Hornsby, Editor of the *Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine* (England) improved and illustrated the text and republished the Waghorn work in two parts in the January and April 1997 issues of the *Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine*. We republish the work here with the permission of the Masonic Philatelic Club.

Membership in the Masonic Philatelic Club (England) is open to Freemasons in good standing of the English Constitutions and all other Constitutions recognized by that body. Current annual subscription is L8.50 for members residing outside the United Kingdom.

Interested Brothers should correspond directly with Maurice H. Beazley, Secretary, Masonic Philatelic Club, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland, England TS10 4JS, Telephone 0181-924-8984.

Masonic Astronauts

Early in our Masonic career we hear of the Universality of the Science and of our Lodges being 'Even as High as the Heavens': is it that we are exaggerating, or are these things true? In the annals of the Craft we find that SCOTT, SHACKLETON, PEARY and BYRD took their masonry to the ends of the earth: LEWIS and CLARK across the Great Divide of the Rockies to the shores of the Pacific: Joseph BANKS on Captain Cook's first great Voyage of Discovery to Australia and New Zealand, and when Col. Charles LINDBERGH crossed the Atlantic 'Alone with God' he did so with the square and compasses painted on the fuselage of his plane. A lodge called "The Roof of the

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Mountain" met at one time on a mighty South American mountain, another in a deep valley well below Sea Level, and a Lodge Warrant was brought safely in the depths of the ocean by submarine when the Japanese over ran China. So much for the universality of the science, but what about the Heavens? Well the conquest of the Moon provides a fitting answer.

In retrospect, we laymen now realise that the American Space programmes consisted of Three Distinct Steps. The Mercury project with one-man crews was step one, in which (figuratively speaking) Entered Apprentices learnt the new Craft and acquired knowledge and skill. They learnt well, and in the Gemini Series, or second leg, two-man crews continued to make further progress in the science so that by the time the Apollo Project started, the Third step, with three-man crews they were indeed Masters, and proceeded to prove it.

In the first two Mercury flights, made by Alan Shepard, the son of a mason, in Mercury 3 (5th May, 1961, Capsule Freedom 7) and Brother Virgil I. GRISSOM in Mercury 4 (21st July 1961, Capsule Liberty Bell 7) the trips were sub-orbital, reaching 100 miles in altitude and exceeding 5000 miles an hour. 'Gus' Grissom's trip ended in drama when his capsule sank after an escape hatch blew off and he had to be rescued from the sea by helicopter.

John Glenn, also the son of a mason and himself 'Made a Mason at Sight' on 19th August, 1978, made the next trip in Mercury 6 (24th February, 1962, Capsule Friendship 7) orbiting the earth three times and Scott Carpenter in Mercury 7 (24th May, 1962, Capsule?.....7) a similar trip, not however without difficulty, splashing down nearly 250 miles from the target area.



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Brother Walter M. SCHIRRA in Mercury 8 (3rd October, 1962, Capsule Sigma 7) made six earth orbits, followed by Brother Leroy Gordon COOPER in Mercury 9 (15th May, 1963, Capsule Faith 7) who made 22 orbits during which he took colour photographs and films, and sent back the first television pictures from an American spacecraft. Drama again on this occasion when automatic devices failed, but Gordon Cooper calmly took over the controls and manually piloted the capsule to safety through the earth's atmosphere.

Then followed a long series of Gemini flights starting with Gemini 3 (23rd March, 1965) manned by Brother Gus GRISSOM and John Young. Grissom three times changed the capsule's orbit, the first occasion in which a manned craft had altered course. With his typical sense of humour he had dubbed the capsule, "The Unsinkable Molly Brown", alluding to a previous meeting. True enough, this time "Molly" floated just fine.

During the next flight by Gemini 4 (3rd June, 1965) Ed. White became the first American to take a space walk, while his companion James McDivitt also wore a pressurised suit, as the capsule remained open during the walk. In charge of operations at Command Base was Lt. Colonel Grissom once again, who ordered White back in when he thought he had been out long enough. In Gemini 5 (21st August 1965) Charles Conrad and Brother Gordon COOPER in 8 days made 120 orbits of the earth, travelling about three million miles and each losing half a stone in weight

Next came the tricky rendezvous of two spacecraft, Gemini 7 took off first (4th December 1965) with Lt. Colonel Frank Borman and Commander James A. Lovell, who in two weeks orbited the earth 206 times. During that time Gemini 6, whose launch had been delayed (15th December) with Brothers Walter SCHIRRA and Major Thomas STAFFORD made a rendezvous 185 miles above the earth with Gemini 7. They navigated to within 6 feet of Gemini 7 and flew in tight formation for six hours at more than 17,000 miles per hour.

Then came the problem of docking. Major David Scott and Neil Armstrong, the latter another son of a mason, tried a practice docking in Gemini 8 (13th March, 1966) with an unmanned Agena, and later Gemini 9 (3rd June, 1966) with Brother Tom STAFFORD (now a Lt. Colonel) and Lt. Commander Eugene Cernan also attempted this essential operation, but both

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occasions were unsuccessful owing to serious technical difficulties. Cernan however made a useful space-walk during his trip.

The difficulties were overcome and Gemini 10 (18th July, 1966) with Cdr. John Young and Major Michael Collins made a perfect docking with an Agena, and in a space-walk Collins was able to remove certain apparatus from the unmanned satellite. Further dockings were made by Charles Conrad and Lt.Cdr. Richard Gordon on Gemini 11 (12th September, 1966).

James Lovell and Brother Edwin A. ALDRIN in Gemini 12 (11th November, 1966) the final flight in the series, made successful dockings and then, while Lovell held the capsule steady, Aldrin leant over the side, taking pictures and doing exercises. He then left the Craft completely for over two hours, working at the end of a 25 foot tether but, by taking regular rests, managed to avoid the fatigue which had been noticeable in earlier walks.

Let us for a moment consider one or two of the brethren mentioned so far. Lt. Col. Leroy Gordon COOPER studied for three years at Hawaii University, was commissioned in the Army, transferred to the Air Force and served in Germany 1949-53. One of the first astronauts to be chosen he made the final Mercury flight lasting 36 hours, and in Gemini 5 again established a record, when with Lt. Cdr. Charles Conrad they made an 8 day trip. The total United States space-hours at that time was about 350, of which Brother Cooper's total was 225. His father was the late Ill. Brother Judge Leroy COOPER 32°, A.A.S.R. and on his first space voyage the astronaut wore his Scottish Rite ring.

Brother Cooper was initiated 5th September, 1956, passed a fortnight later and raised on 3rd October the same year in Carbondale Lodge No. 82, Carbondale, Colorado. Exalted into Royal Arch Masonry on Saturday 26th January, 1963, in Indian River Chapter No. 27 Cocoa, Florida, and the same day became a member of Hiram Council No. 13, Royal and Select Masters, and a Knight Templar in Brevard Commandery No. 24 K.T. The next day (a Sunday) he not only received the Scottish Rite Degree, but had the 32° conferred as well. On Tuesday, 29th January, he became a 'Shriner' in Bahia Temple, Orlando, Florida. The



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Shrine is an organisation restricted to freemasons largely as a social club, with however, a magnificent record of support for many charities. Illustrious Brother Cooper was later advanced to the 33^o, and on his next trip carried a small Scottish Rite flag and an official 33^o jewel, which are now in the museum of the Supreme Council 33^o, U.S.A., Southern Jurisdiction. It was this trip that he travelled three million miles. Thus his progress in Masonry and in Space is at least consistent.

The Apollo programme started tragically when Brother Grissom and his two companions Ed. White and Roger Chaffee lost their lives on 27th January, 1967 in a fire inside a rocket on the ground. Grissom was born in Indiana in 1926 and obtained an engineering degree from Purdue University, married Miss Betty Moore and their two sons are Scott, born 1950 and Mark, 1953. Known to his colleagues as "Gus" he was an experienced pilot with over a hundred combat missions to his credit in Korea. A natural leader he was strongly tipped to head the first moon landing, but alas this was not to be.

Virgil Ivan GRISSOM was initiated at the age of 23 in Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Mitchell, Indiana, early in 1949, passed on 17th April and raised on 19th May the same year. On the 14th September, 1963, he was the principal candidate at a York Rite festival at Orlando, Florida, the class being named in his honour. At the same time he was exalted in Eureka R.A. Chapter No. 7: became a member of Orlando Council R. & S.M. and of Oliver Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar, all of Orlando. There were 402 candidates in the class and it was one of the highlights in the history of the York Rite in Florida. Some years earlier Brother Grissom had said, "If we die, we want people to accept it. We are in a risky business and we hope that if anything happens to us it will not delay the programme. The conquest of space is worth the risk of life". In fact the programme was delayed for nearly two years, as to make the craft safer it had to be completely redesigned, but despite this, the American promise to put a man on the moon by 1970 was kept.



The redesigned Apollo 7 was successfully launched 11th October, 1968, Brother Walter SCHIRRA, Brother Donn F. EISELE and Walter Cunningham as crew. It circled the earth 163 times in 11 days making many complicated

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manoeuvres and a series of seven television broadcasts. On the splashdown, Brother Schirra, a Captain U.S.N. was seasick. Walter M. SCHIRRA had been made a mason 'At Sight' by M.W.Brother John T. ROUSE, Grand Master, at Jacksonville, Fla. This 'making at sight', unknown in England (although in fact used in Scotland in the past) is not quite what it sounds, as a modified ceremonial in the three degrees is worked, but with the obligations given in full. The questions between passing and raising are of course omitted. Brother Schirra is also a member of Cape Canaveral R.A. Chapter No. 366 and of the Orlando Valley Scottish Rite. His father, Walter M. SCHIRRA senior, is also a member of the Craft having been raised on 11th December, 1965, at Point Loma, California.

Brother Col. Donn F. EISELE graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952 and married Miss Harriet Hamilton: they have three children, Melinda Sue, Donn Hamilton and Matthew Reed. He was initiated on 10th June, 1952, in Luther B. Turner Lodge No. 732, Columbus, Ohio, passed on 13th June and raised on 18th June. The raising was carried out by his father Wor. Brother Herman E. EISELE, a founder, Past Master and Secretary of the Lodge. W.Brother Eisele, who was also a Knight Templar, died 15th August, 1964, and his wife (the astronaut's mother) only five days later. Their famous son attended a special memorial service the following April. Bro. Donn Eisele is also a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar.



Apollo 9 saw a Lunar Module tested in orbit around the earth, David Scott piloting the Command Craft "Gumdrop" whilst James A. McDivitt and Russell L. Schwickert nipped around in "Spider" and a similar exercise followed in Apollo 10, but this time in Lunar orbit when John W. Young in "Charlie Brown" watched Brother Thomas P. STAFFORD and Eugene A. Cernan in "Snoopy" make practice manoeuvres.



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Brother STAFFORD is a member of Western Star Lodge No.138, Weatherford, Oklahoma, having been initiated 4th July, passed on 15th July and raised 22nd July all in 1952, having received a special dispensation as a serving member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Then history was really made with the lift-off of Apollo 11 on 16th July, 1969.

Some 50 years earlier Edwin A. ALDRIN Senior had been initiated in Morning Star Lodge, Worcester, Massachusetts (which Grand Lodge does not allocate numbers to their private lodges).

He was a noted visitor in the 1920s and a close friend of Brother Charles A. LINDBURGH (both were Air Force Colonels) who he introduced to Robert Goddard, the first serious Rocket fanatic. Largely through this introduction Goddard received a grant and became the Father of the American Rocket programme. Brother Aldrin Senior married (believe it or not) a Miss Marion Moon, and in due course Edwin Junior arrived. Meanwhile, in 1931, a Brother Armstrong was initiated in Mercer Lodge No.121, St. Mary, Ohio, and he had a son Neil. Watched by the largest television audience that the world had ever known, plus a live audience of one (Michael Collins in the Command Module "Columbia") Brother Edwin Eugene ALDRIN piloted the Lunar Module "Eagle" to a perfect landing on the Moon on 20th July, 1969. Out stepped his Commander Neil Armstrong, a Lewis (or son of a Mason) shortly afterwards followed by our famous Brother.

A Mark Master Mason is enjoined to never change his Mark, but if Brother ALDRIN ever did, then a Moon "Footprint" would undoubtedly be appropriate - especially as in the U.S.A. Marks need not be restricted to straight lines. Another difference in America is that a brother is not considered to be a mason until he has been raised (with us the initiation is the most important step) and so it comes about that no less than three lodges share the honour of making Brother Aldrin Jnr. a mason. He is a member of Montclair Lodge No. 133, Montclair, New Jersey, but because of his military service he actually received the degrees through other lodges.



He was initiated by Oak Park Lodge No. 864, Montgomery, Alabama, on 17th February, and passed in the same lodge on 12th April, both in 1955, and was raised

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to the third degree in Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge No. 169, in Denver, Colorado, on 21st February, 1956. An All-State York Rite Convention was held at Waco, Texas, on 26/27th May, 1967, during which he was exalted into the Will N. Kidd R.A.Chapter No. 424: joined the San Jacinto Council No. 247, Royal and Select Masters and the Ruthven Commandery of Knights Templar No.2, all of Houston, Texas. He is also Scottish Rite Mason in which he has attained the 32°.



We salute Brother "Buzz" Aldrin, the first freemason on the moon. Next followed a second moon landing with Apollo 12, commanded by Charles Conrad, Command Module (Yankee Clipper) Pilot Richard Gordon and Lunar Module Pilot, Alan Bean. Although struck by lightning shortly after lift-off they went on to a successful landing and retrieved parts of an unmanned "Surveyor" which had been on the moon for 2years.

At this point let us pause and consider the huge support team of 40,000 behind the better known names. We know that many famous freemasons were included, but I will make a special mention of just one. Brother Kenneth S. KLEINKNECHT, born 24th July, 1920, graduated from Purdue University in 1942 and was employed on aircraft engine research in the latter part of World War 2. From 1950 he was associated with N.A.S.A. becoming in turn Mercury Project Manager, Assistant Manager for the Gemini Programme and finally Manager of all Command and Service Modules for the Apollo Programme. A dedicated man, he was kept busy sorting out such problems as gas in the drinking water (cured by activated charcoal) and fibre-glass insulation troubles (solved by removing altogether from the tunnel hatch). He insisted on numerous trials for troublesome antenna, had clips designed to hold papers and objects during weightlessness and so on.

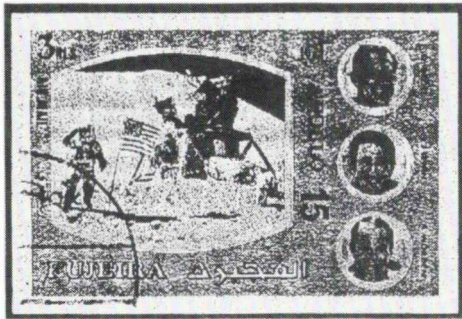
Brother KLEINKNECHT is a member of Fairview Lodge No. 699, Fairview, Ohio, and of the Pasadena Scottish Rite Bodies, Pasadena, California. He is the eldest son of Ill. Brother C. F. Kleinknecht 33°, former Assistant Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction U.S.A. and his brother Ill. Brother C. Frederick Kleinknecht Jr. has recently become Grand Secretary General of the same body. Brother Kenneth Kleinknecht, a tall silver-haired man, rather slow in speech is nothing if not thorough, which was particularly fortunate in the case of Apollo 13 which suffered an alarming explosion in space and the small lunar module "Aquarius" was able to withstand more than it was designed for and thus saved the lives of James A. Lovell Jr., John L. Swigert Jr. (Odyssey) and Fred W. Haise. Guided by Mission Control, they looped the moon and returned safely to

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earth. Early next year the series continued, when Apollo 14 made the first landing on the lunar uplands, and a two-wheeled cart was used in their explorations. Alan B. Shepard, the son of a mason, was in command and it seems incredible that it was almost TEN YEARS since he had become the first American in space (May 1961). The pilot of the Command Module "Kitty Hawk" was Major Stuart A. Roosa, whilst accompanying Alan Shephard was Brother Commander Edgar D. MITCHELL (Antares).

A vast amount of material was collected and brought back to earth. Edgar Mitchell was educated at Artesia High School, Artesia, New Mexico: the Carnegie Technical Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) where he graduated as a Doctor of Science. Brother Mitchell is an initiate of Artesia Lodge No. 28, Artesia, New Mexico, of which his father, Captain Jay Neely MITCHELL is also a member. July 16th, 1971, saw the lift-off of Apollo 15 with Col. David R. Scott, Major Alfred M. Worden (Endeavour) and Lt.Col. James L. Irwin (Falcon) who first used motor transport on the moon, enabling them to cover 17 miles. By leaving a specially sited T.V. camera behind, the whole world was able to see the lift-off of a lunar module.

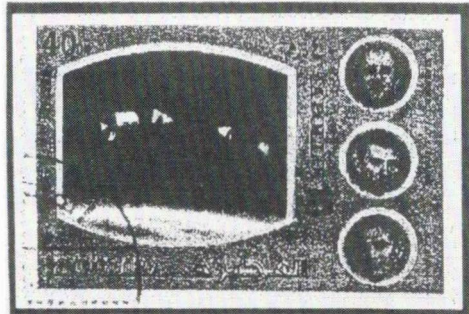


James IRWIN was initiated in 1975 in Tejon Lodge No.104 in Colorado Springs and raised on 8th September the same year. Apollo 16 with John W. Young, Thomas K. Mattingly (Caspar) and Charles M. Duke Jr. (Orion) used the moon as an observatory and brought back magnificent ultra violet photographs of the earth's atmosphere and of more distant bodies as well as interplanetary gases.

The final landing of the series was made by Apollo 17, Eugene A. Cernan, Ronald E. Evans (America) and Harrison H. Schmitt (Challenger). Schmitt is a professional geologist, and appropriately for a finale he and Cernan travelled farther, stayed longer and collected more samples than any of their predecessors. Following the end of Apollo programme came the Sky-Lab project in which an immense laboratory was placed in orbit and three successive teams of three men were sent in to man it. This together with its rocket measured some 120 feet, the workshop

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alone being 48 feet long and 21in diameter with a volume of 10,000 cubic feet and weighing 80 tons. The heat-shields, caught by an atmospheric drag having been misplaced, failed to do their job properly. Mercifully the launch was unmanned on this occasion. The first team consisted of Captain Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr., Cdr. Joseph P. Kerwin and Brother



Commander Paul J. WEITZ. They had a severe test ahead, the heat damage had to be dealt with, repairs made meaning considerable exertions before the routine work could commence. Helped of course by the omnipotent Mission Control, their laboratory-saving repairs were successful, and the three astronauts went on to break more space records - they were up for 28 days during which they orbited earth over 400 times. Paul Weitz of Erie, Pa. was educated at Horborcreek (Pa) High School and Pennsylvania State University where he obtained a B.Sc. degree, followed by a Master Degree in aeronautical engineering. A skilled pilot, he flew combat missions over Vietnam from May to November 1965. Brother Paul J. Weitz is an initiate of Laurence Lodge No. 708, Erie, Pa. and a recent exhibit in the museum of the United Grand Lodge of England depicted the Skylab in space, some specially cancelled envelopes and an autographed photograph of Brother Weitz in his astronaut clothing.

At the end of their stint, the first team packed up films, blood and urine samples, turned out the lights and switched off the air conditioning, as brother Weitz put it, "like leaving a holiday home when you know friends are coming behind you". They then popped into their Apollo "taxi" to splash down 800 miles from San Diego, on 22nd June, precisely on schedule.

The second team was Alan Bean, Dr. Owen Garriott and Marine Major Jack Lousma, and the third team Lt. Col. Gerald Carr, U.S. Marines, Dr. Edward Gibson and former Air Force Colonel, William R. Pogue, none of whom were freemasons as far as I know, although Col. Pogue is the son of a freemason. Of the total of 68 missions, no less than 15 were made by freemasons. But for the tragic death of Brother Grissom, it looked as if he would lead the first landing on the moon. We rejoice that Brother Aldrin shared in that momentous event. We also note that the only Astronaut to have been spaceborn in a Mercury, a Gemini and an Apollo was Brother Schirra.



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