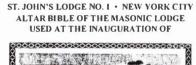


A QUARTERLY ISSN 1069-3580

VOI . 57

MARCH 2001

NO. 1





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# The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 57

No. 1

### March 2001

Dr. Allan Boudreau Editor & Publisher

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Printing in the U. S. A. By Quiz Graphic Arts, Inc. Ord, Nebraska 68862

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MSCNY, Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, New York 10016.

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.

# MASONIC PHILATELY THE CROSSROADS

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON CLUB DIRECTION

When I first entered the field of Masonic philately, I observed that there was a need to clarify the different types of Masonic related stamps. In my book, Postage Stamps & Freemasonry (Carlton Press, 1988), I set forth a system of stamp classifications. At that time, however, I did not consider one highly important aspect which is peculiar to our stamp collecting specialty -- Masonic membership confirmation. In other words, how confident are we that the person depicted on a "Masonic" stamp (or associated with a stamp) was actually a Freemason? For certain, some of my work has fueled the fires on this issue. I have been very liberal in this regard by accepting what I considered reasonable circumstantial evidence of Masonic memberships in my books and articles. While I have been careful to state the evidence on such entries, I believe we are now at a crossroad and need a policy.

Late last year I embarked on a project to create and publish a simple, but impressive, Masonic Stamp Album for U.S. and Canadian stamps. After serious consideration, I determined that the album would contain only those stamps that actually depicted Freemasons (Class 2 stamps under my classification system). After isolating these stamps, it became apparent that some of the evidence for Masonic memberships was highly circumstantial. I then decided that I would include only those stamps on subjects for which one or more of the following conditions were met:

- 1. An actual lodge name was known (or name of concordant Masonic body).
- 2. Grand Lodge office was known.
- 3. Signature was known on an official Masonic document which could only be signed by a Freemason

As can be expected, these conditions greatly reduced the number of subjects and their applicable stamps. Unfortunately, they eliminated many high-profile men depicted on stamps that we are very proud to include in our collections. Nevertheless, there was certainly enough subjects (180 in total that met one or more conditions) to go forward. For the purpose of identification, I called these stamps the PRIMARY CLASS 2 STAMPS. The stamps that did not meet any of the conditions were deemed the SECONDARY CLASS 2 STAMPS

A review of my Stamp Classification System also revealed that another change was necessary -- separation of stamps that depict subjects and just name subjects. The following shows the revised stamp classifications:

- CLASS 1 Stamps issued expressly for a Masonic purpose.
- CLASS 2 Stamps that depict a person who was (or is) a Freemason.
- CLASS 3 Stamps that show just the name of a person who was (or is) a Freemason.
- CLASS 4 Stamps that show an object that was built, discovered, invented or created by a person who was (or is) a Freemason.
- CLASS 5 Stamps that commemorate an event or undertaking in which a Freemason played a major role.
- CLASS 6 Stamps that were designed by a person who was (or is) a Freemason.
- CLASS 7 Stamps that intentionally or inadvertently show symbols associated with the Masonic Order.

Classes 2 to 6 are now subdivided into PRIMARY (confirmed Masonic membership) and SECONDARY (membership based on circumstantial evidence). This new subdivision brings us to a policy:

THE STAMPS IN CLASSES 2 TO 6 OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK AS "MASONIC STAMPS" WILL BE ONLY THE PRIMARY STAMPS.

This policy does not mean that the secondary stamps are inappropriate for a Masonic collection or inappropriate for articles in our quarterly. Nor does it mean that some exception might be made in the future on the strength of certain circumstantial evidence. All it means is that official Club lists which are published by the Club or sponsored by the Club will contain only the PRIMARY stamps.

With regard to the other stamp classes, for the collector's information, there are no U.S. or Canadian stamps in Class 1. In Class 7, there are no U.S. or Canadian stamps that *intentionally* show a Masonic symbol (building, painting or artwork).

Certainly, the question might well be asked as to why we need to classify Masonic related stamps. Why not just continue "free rein" and let collectors decide on the classes and primary/secondary issues? The answer here is that we are currently working on an American Topical Association (ATA) handbook for Class 2 stamps of the U.S. and Canada. We have contacted the ATA and they have agreed to pub-

lish the work. Brother Allan Boudreau and I have been working on it for the last few months and it is expected that it will be released by the ATA in the July or August 2001 time frame. You will be notified when the work is available for purchase. It has been reasoned that public documents of this nature should only show subjects who can be confirmed as Freemasons. Naturally, we selected the Class 2 stamps (i.e., stamps that actually depict Freemasons) as the first stamps to be featured in a handbook sponsored by our club. We anticipate that further ATA handbooks on the other stamp classes will follow. It is therefore important that we have a systematic process in place. As we move forward, all lists will be published in *THE MASONIC PHILATELIST*. Further, updates will be published on a regular basis. For now, I believe it is important that we clear the air and set some directions.

Hopefully, ATA publications will help in resolving a major club problem --dwindling membership. We are now at the point where we must accept *associate* membership of non-Masons. I do not have a problem with this and in fact welcome it as an opportunity to provide more positive exposure to the Masonic Order. Most, if not all, Grand Lodges are of the opinion that the Order needs to be more visible. Our club can certainly play a role in this regard.

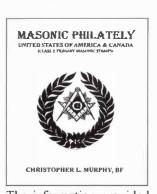
The Masonic Stamp Album I have prepared for the Class 2 Primary Stamps is detailed in the ad following this article. It is shown as the OFFICIAL STAMP ALBUM OF THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK in hopes that it will attract some new club members. The extent to which I can get information on the album in other philatelic circles is not clear at this point, however, there will certainly be some exposure. The history of our club and an application form will be included with the album. In addition, the club will receive \$3.50 for each album sold. Additional albums on the other stamp classes are planned and will be produced if financially viable.

Brethren, I hope I have been able to adequately convey to you here the cross-roads we have reached and the directions we intend to take in our stamp collecting specialty and our club. I would be pleased to hear from you if you have any ideas or comments.

## MASONIC STAMP ALBUM OFFER FROM PYRAMID PUBLICATIONS

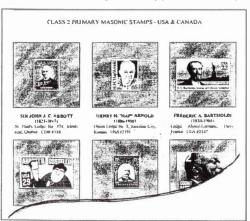
### OFFICIAL STAMP ALBUM OF THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

Pyramid Publications is pleased to offer a postage stamp album for *representative* Class 2 Primary Masonic Stamps. The album contains a stamp placement box (with trimmed stamp illustration) for each of the Freemasons listed. The representative stamp selected is the least expensive stamp for the subject where there is more than one applicable stamp. The album is arranged in alphabetical order <u>by subject</u> with repeated stamp illustrations for the 'group' stamps. The album contains a total of 180 separate shaded boxes for actual stamp placements. The following example shows a partial album page (actual size is 8 5-inches by 11-inches).



tial album page (actual size is 8.5-inches by 11-inches). The information provided for each subject is name, birth and death years, lodge or applicable Masonic information, stamp country and Scott Catalogue number for the stamp. The album also contains the following sections:

- Master Listing of Subjects (shows the Scott Catalogue number of all stamps applicable to each subject).
- Keys to the 'Group' Stamps.
- Numerical Listing of all Applicable Stamps.



All album pages are housed in plastic sheet protectors contained in an Acco Swing-Ring binder. This binding system is ideal for stamp collections. It is not necessary, however, for collectors to order this binder or the sheet protectors. Those collectors who have their own binding system may order just the album pages. Alternately, they may order the pages and sheet protectors which can be used in an ordinary three-ring binder. If you are interested in this offer,

please complete and send in the following order form. Payment may be made by personal cheque or Visa (no Master Card).

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## AUDIE LEON MURPHY (1924-1971)

### SOLDIER OF THE CENTURY

by Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Certainly, many of us can remember when the name **Audic Murphy** buzzed around our neighborhood and filled our imagination with images of the Wild West. His acting roles in numerous 'Westerns' made him a highly popular hero to the younger set, and also to many adults as well. To me, he was particularly special as we shared the same last name. It would, however, be many years before I personally realized just how special Audie Murphy really was.

When I was hardly more than an infant, Audie was on the front lines in World War II. His service as a soldier in the United States 3rd Infantry Division went beyond legendary proportions. He received 33 awards and decorations, including the Medal of Honor -- the highest military award for bravery. Audie, therefore, emerged as the most decorated U.S. combat soldier of World War II. It is rea-



soned that what Audie achieved will probably never be equaled by another soldier. The U.S. Army itself declares, "There will never be another Audie Murphy."

After the war, Audie took up acting and starred in the Western films I so fondly remember He also wrote his autobiography, *To Hell and Back*, which became a best-seller. He later starred as himself in the Universal-International motion picture of the same name released in 1955. This film held the record as Universal's highest grossing film for twenty years.

Audie's tragic accidental death in 1971 left me a little empty as I reflected back on my boyhood. When the U.S. issued the Audie Murphy postage stamp in May of last year, Audie's smile brought back fond memories. I recalled reading that he was a Mason and hastened to add the stamp to my Masonic collection. Unfortunately,

information I had on Audie's Masonic activities was very scant. I therefore contacted the **Audie Murphy Research Foundation** and was kindly enlightened by **Brother Richard Rodgers** (Killeen Lodge No. 1125, Killeen, Texas), the Foundation's webmaster. Brother Rodgers directed me to the information posted entitled, *Audie Murphy & Freemasonry*.

Audie Leon Murphy was raised to the degree of a Master Mason (1955) in North Hollywood Lodge No. 542, North Hollywood, California. The following year, he affiliated (dual membership) with Heritage Lodge No. 764, also in North Hollywood. He later became a 32nd Degree A.A.S.R. Mason (Valley of Dallas, Texas), and then a member of the Shrine (Hella Temple, Dallas). Shortly before his death, he affiliated with a Shrine Temple in Los Angeles, California (Al Malaikah Temple) and the A.A.S.R. Consistory at Long Beach, California (Valley of Long Beach). In the year 2000, the Valley of Long Beach posthumously elected Audie a 33rd Degree A.A.S.R. Mason. In November of that year, his widow, Mrs. Pamela Murphy, was presented with Audie's 33rd Degree cap at the Consistory Ladies Night Dinner.

The Audie Murphy stamp, which we can now proudly add to our collections, resulted from a petition to the U.S.P.S. originated by people from a community in which Audie lived. Their original efforts, however, were ineffectual, whereupon our Brother Richard Rodgers came to the rescue and used the internet to increase public awareness of the objective. After four years of dedicated effort, the stamp was issued. A tip of the hat, therefore, to Brother Rodgers and also to Brother Gordon C. Alexander (North Hollywood Lodge No. 542) for obtaining Masonic information on Audie and making it available for the Audie Murphy Research Foundation web site (http://www.audiemurphy.com/masonry.htm).



#### REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

(Stamp illustrations - Scott Catalogue Numbers: Audie Murphy, #3396; Medal of Honor, #2045; Win the War, #905; Soldiers, #934; Honorable Discharge Emblem, #940.)



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#### PRESS RELEASE

Pictured at left is the Supreme Tall Cedar of North
America, Brother Raymond J. Vogel, from Bel Air. Beschill
Maryland along with the Tall Cedars' Goodwili
Ambassador for the year 2001. Robert Allen Brooks.

Robbie was born on February 9, 1989 and was diagnosed with Congenital muscular dystrophy in 1990. Joppa. Maryland is home to Robbie, his parents, Tammy and John, his older sister Melissa and younger sister Keri.

Robby is a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll student. He loves soccer, computer games, magic and playing the violin. He is a Tender Foot Boy Scout, serving as Scribe and Patro! Leader in his troop. We understand that he's a real ham on the Karaoke!

Robby has attended the Tall Cedars' Convention as a guest of Baltimore Forest No. 45 and has participated with the Forest at the MDA Telethon.

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon is a Masonic affiliated organization with over 18,000 members in 103 chapters, called Forests. Since 1951, the Tall Cedars have provided continuous financial support to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, contributing over \$14 million to the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon and have the distinction of being the first organization to provide financial support to MDA.

ALBERT H. HENSINGER Past Supreme Tall Cedar Chairman, Public Relations

### ARISTOCRATS OF UNITED STATES PHILATELY

Exhibited at The Collectors Club on December 13, 2000, in celebration of the newly-renovated clubhouse.

The first Aristocrats of Philately display was presented by The Collectors Club at ANPHILEX '71, which celebrated the club's 75th anniversary. At INTERPHIL '76, the international exhibition held in Philadelphia, a second group of Aristocrats was assembled. Ten years later, at AMERIPEX '86 in Chicago, a third Aristocrats display was mounted. The fourth and most recent Aristocrats exhibit was shown four years ago at ANPHILEX '96, commemorating the 100th anniversary of The Collectors Club.

On the occasion of the opening celebration of the newly-renovated clubhouse, it was felt that an Aristocrats display in the impressive frames of the second-floor meeting room would be an appropriate tribute to the club members' efforts to restore the facility that has served generations of collectors. Therefore, tonight, in each of the twenty exhibit frames, an Aristocrat of United States Philately appears.

The decision to limit the display to United States Aristocrats reflects practical limitations and is not intended to redefine the broad international scope of The Collectors Club. A selection of United States Aristocrats makes it possible to maintain the highest standards of rarity, while telling a story of American philately in conjunction with the celebration of the club's home on American soil.

In introducing the 1996 Aristocrats display, Dr. Norman S. Hubbard expressed a valid concern that "the wide dispersal of Aristocrats throughout the world" and "reluctance of their owners to exhibit them" would make it "very unlikely that another comprehensive exhibit of the Aristocrats" could be shown. Dr. Hubbard was not mistaken. Although this gathering of Aristocrats is limited to the United States, it was a severe challenge that required the cooperation of several collectors. They have fulfilled their responsibility as custodians of Philately.

#### Frames 1 through 20

- 1 The First Stamp in the Western Hemisphere. Complete sheet of the 1842 City Despatch Post 3c stamp.
- 2 The World's First Surcharged Stamp. 1846 U.S. City Despatch Post 2c surcharge used on cover.
- 3 Postmaster's Provisional. Issued in 1846 by Daniel Bryan, Postmaster of Alexandria, D.C.
- 4 Postmaster's Provisional. Issued in 1846 by Frederick N. Palmer, Postmaster of Brattleboro, Vt.
- 5 1847 Issue. 5c Red Brown block of sixteen, the largest recorded multiple.
- 6 1847 Issue. 10c Black block of six, the largest recorded unused multiple.
- 7 1851-56 issue. 5c Red Brown block of four, the only recorded unused block.
- 8 1857-60 Issue. 90c cover to the Cape of Good Hope.
- 9 1861-68 Issue. 1c Z Grill, one of two recorded examples and the only one in private hands.
- 10 1869 Pictorial Issue. 24c Invert block of four, the only recorded block of any 1869 Invert.
- 11 1901 Pan-American Issue. lc Invert block of twenty, the largest recorded multiple of any invert error.
- 12 1901 Pan-American Issue. 1c Invert used on the earliest dated cover.
- 13 1902-08 Issue. The only recorded commercial usage of the 4c Imperforate (Shermack coil).
- 14 1918 Air Post Issue. The only recorded block of the 24c Inverted Jenny with siderographer's initials.
- 15 Independent Mails. The only recorded cover bearing stamps of three different companies, used in 1844.
- 16 Independent Mails. All of the three recorded 1852 Berford 10c tête-bêche pairs, used on two matching covers.
- 17 Local Posts. One of two recorded examples of Spaulding's Penny Post 1848 stamp with advertising border.
- 18 Pony Express. One of two recorded April 3, 1860, first day Pony Express covers.
- 19 Pony Express. One of two 1861 \$4.00 Black Pony stamps known on cover.
- 20 Confederate States. The unique mirror-image 1861 postmaster provisional of Mount Lebanon, La.

www.zillionsofstamps.com

# Collectors Club of N.Y. reopens; holds gem U.S. exhibit to celebrate

The Collectors Club of New York, N.Y., celebrated its re-opening Dec. 13, 2000. after extensive renovations to its Manhattan clubhouse.

According to the club, more than 150 members and distin-

Shreves Philatelic Galleries.

Norman Hubbard, who created and assembled the Aristocrats of Philately displays for the club's 75th and 100th Anphilex celebrations, felt this may have been the most

recorded block of four of the 1918 Inverted Jenny airmail stamp (Scott C3a) with siderographer's initials in the selvage.

The clubhouse, permanent home of the club since 1937, was treated during summer and early fall 2000 to a thorough overhaul.

Engineering improvements were made to accommodate the growing requirements of housing one of the hobby's most extensive libraries.

Central air-conditioning was also added to make the club functional for its members on a year-round basis.

"The weight of the library, which had been housed on the second floor, had just gotten too great for the structure to support after the adjoining houses were removed," said club president Thomas C. Mazza.

"We completely rethought the building from top to bottom and decided to move the library to the ground floor and the meeting and exhibition room unstairs

"This rationalizes the use of the spaces, while removing the threat to the structure," Mazza said.

The meeting room was enhanced with museum quality exhibit frames to accommodate the club's guest presenta-

The five-story clubhouse,

acquired largely through the generosity of member and legendary collector Alfred F. Lichtenstein, was purchased from the estate of Thomas B. Clark, a distinguished art collector during the latter part of the 19th century.

The building was redesigned for Clark by his friend, architect Stanford White, to better house his collections of paintings and sculpture.

The clubhouse is in the Murray Hill section of Manhattan and is located at 22 East 35th Street, literally in the shadow of the Empire State Building.

The Club meets September through June on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and other area clubs also meet at the facility, as do some auctions.

The Club's board of governors will soon make a decision on extending the meeting schedule through the summer.

Information on membership, both resident (reside within a 50-mile radius of the club) and nonresident, may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, 22 E. 35th St., New York, NY 10017, or from the club's Internet web site, www.collectorsclub.org.

Membership also includes a six-issue annual subscription to the Collectors Club Philatelist.



Collectors Club of New York honorary life member Louis K. Robbins, left, discusses an exhibit of world-class U.S. stamps with John R. Boker, right, voted by the club in 1996 as the greatest philatelist of the second half of the 20th century. The exhibit was held Dec. 13,2000, to celebrate the re-opening of the club after extensive renovations to its clubhouse.

guished guests were treated not only to a look at the dramatic structural and decorative improvements but also to an exhibition of world-class United States philatelic rarities

The special re-opening exhibit was arranged by Scott Trepel of Siegel Auction Galleries and Charles Shreve of important single array of special U.S. items ever assembled in one place.

Included among the showpieces were the largest recorded unused multiple (block of six) of the 10¢ black Washington stamp of 1847 (Scott 2), the block of 20 of the 1901 1¢ Pan-American invert stamp (Scott 294a) and the only



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January 24, 2001

Dr. Allan Boudreau The Masonic Stamp Club of New York One Washington Square Apt. 2A New York, NY 10012-1601

Dear Dr. Boudreau,

The Collectors Club gratefully acknowledges The Masonic Stamp Club's generous contribution to our Capital Fund. Your donation helps make possible our Club's many activities in a newly renovated building. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Bromberg Executive Secretary

Iva Bambag

# ISN'T IT TIME YOU JOINED THE COLLECTORS CLUB?

America's premiere philatelic club is looking for new members to share the experience of the world's greatest hobby.

Membership includes a subscription to the award-winning Collectors Club Philatelist.

Meetings are held at our landmark clubhouse the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Non-resident memberships are also available.

For more information, visit us at www.collectorsclub.org or contact the membership secretary

#### HUMOROUS MASONIC POSTCARDS

by

#### HOWARD LASKER

In my previous articles regarding the enjoyment to be found in collecting Masonic postcards, I mentioned the various categories into which this hobby can be divided, such as Masonic Temples and Memorials, Scottish Rite and Shriner buildings, Masonic Homes and Hospitals, The Order of the Eastern Star, Knight Templars, famous Masons pictured on cards, foreign Temples and my favorite category, humorous Masonic cards.

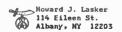
Humorous cards also can be sub-divided into several categories. There are the early gravure cards published by Ullman, N.Y. in 1907 and 1908, McCoy, N.Y. in 1908, J.I. Austen, Chicago and Roth and Langley, N.Y. and Berdan Co., N.Y. in 1909, M.T. Sheahan, Boston in 1910, C.W. Gustin and Co. in 1911 and many others. These cards are great. All sorts of themes are shown. Infants are used on some. Many show Masons as lovers, etc. There is no end to what you may find.

Then, there are postcards of the same period in color such as those published by Bamforth of England and New York, Lowden and Co. of Maine and England, C.M. Klump, Philadelphia, F.&H. Levy, T.P. Co., George Jacquith, etc. All of these designed to tickle the funny bones of Masons

These were followed by the largest category, the "Are You A Mason" cards, known as the RUAMs. These are delightful. They show the various degrees and situations in our Lodges in whimsical and satirical fashion, all tongue in cheek. The first of these appeared in 1907, published by Irvin M. Kline of N.Y. and London and were printed in black and yellow. Some of these were copied on leather, published by W.S. Heal. The same cards plus many others were then printed in color in Britain by Millar and Lang of Glasgow and London. The scenes pictured on these cards take the various degrees, terms and symbols used and make a humorous play on words. Brothers will understand these and laugh. Non-Masons will be completely confused.

This series proved so popular that it was quickly followed by a second series which in addition to the British printing was also published by the Douglas PC Co. of Philadelphia. Again, these became so popular that they were followed by about ten additional series, making about twelve different series and approximately 162 different RUAM cards

With this number, you'd think they would be easy to come by. To the contrary, these cards are extremely difficult to find. I have been collecting these cards for many years and in this time, I have only been able to acquire 41 of the 162 However, I shall



continue my search for these. It is always a thrill to find one that I do not have and can add to my collection.

Another category which is very sought after is the Gran Pop series by Lawson Wood. It only consists of five cards. These depict Gran Pop, an orangutan, working with little pigs and a monkey in various comic aspects of Masonry.

There are all sorts of additional cards to delight the collector. Among these are are humorous Shrine cards. Most of these seem to have been produced by individual publishers and are not in series. However several were produced by Ullman who did many of the Masonic gravure cards. The only groups that could be considered as series are the cards printed for the early Imperial ShrineSessions. For example, I have six different cards published for the Minneapolis, Minn. session in 1910, six different for the Rochester, N.Y. session in 1911 and three humorous cards plus five cards showing various parade floats at the 1912 session in \$\text{loss}\$ Angeles.

Searching for these cards and finding them will prove to be well worth the effort. The pleasure you will receive will be immeasurable. So, go forth and seek and with good luck, find some.

On the following pages are some examples of what I have described in this article. The first page shows some of the early gravures from the 1907-12 period. Page 2 are cards printed by independent publishers. On the third page are the first of the RUAM cards that are printed in black and yellow. On pages 4 and 5 are British RUAMs printed in color. Some of these cards, other than the color, are identical to the black and yellow cards. On the sixth page, we see the GranPop cards of Lawson Wood. Some examples of humorous Shrine postcards are on Page. 7.



SHRINE IMPERIAL SESSION MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 1910









EARLY GRAVURES 1907-12





EVE .- "ADAM, ARE YOU A MASON?"



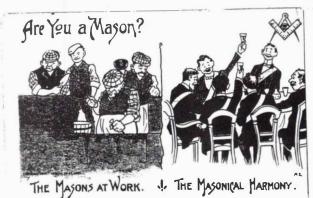


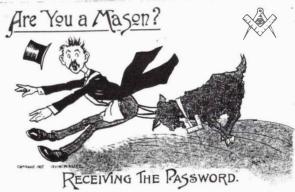
INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS 1910-12





ANGLO-AMERICAN PUB. CO. 1907



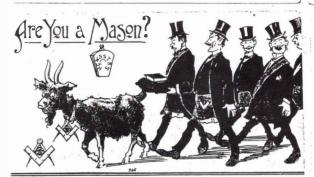




THE GRAND LODGE IN SESSION. ,.



THE MASON'S WIFE GIVING AWAY THE SECRET



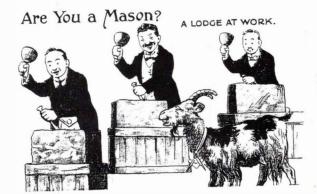
THE INITIATION.

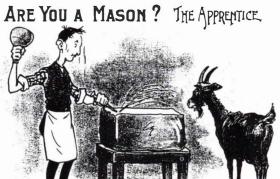


THE MASONS AT WORK. I THE MASONICAL MARMONY.









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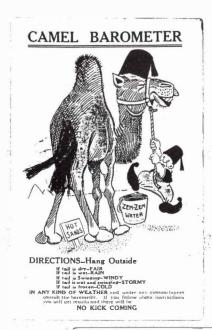




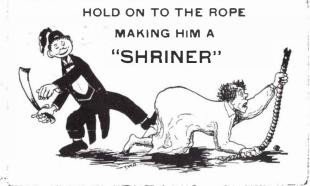
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