



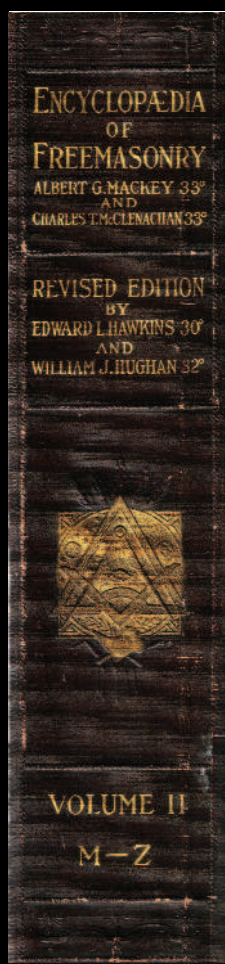
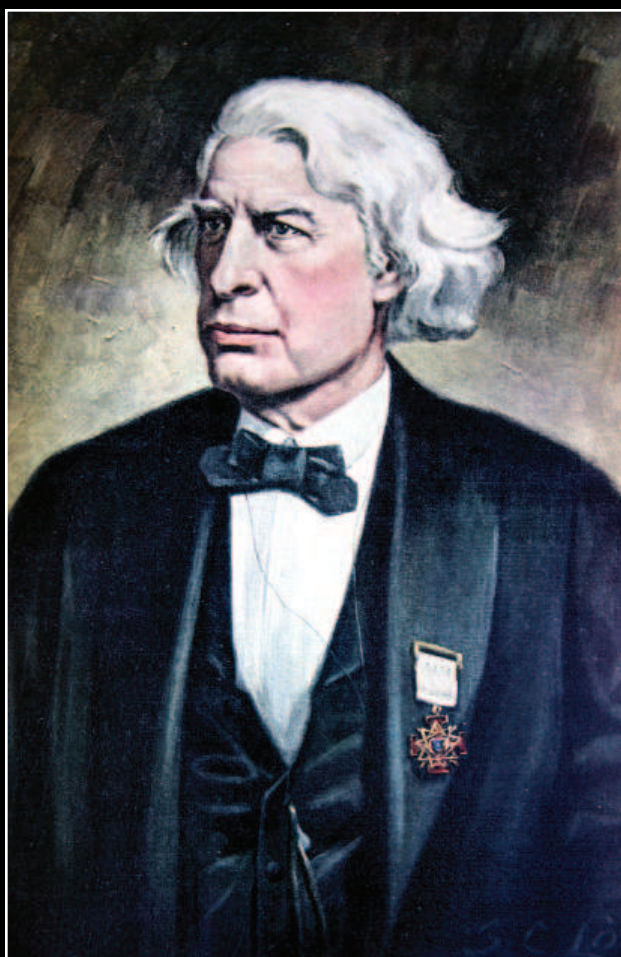
The Masonic Philatelist

A Quarterly

VOL. 71

September 2015

No. 3



Brother Albert Gallatin Mackey
Foremost Masonic Educator

The Masonic Philatelist

Vol. 71, No. 3

ISSN 1069-3580

LC# HE6187.M35

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ERRORS

The list of Masonic stamp classifications published in Vol. 70, No. 3, September 2014, page 27 is incorrect. The Class III stamps should not have been included as a separate class. What is shown as Class IV becomes Class III and the other Classes change accordingly. A correct GUIDE explaining all the classifications is now provided on our website.

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

is published quarterly by
The Masonic Stamp Club
of New York, Inc.
22 East 35th Street.
New York, NY 10016-3806
U.S.A.
212-683-0559

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MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

Membership in the Club is informal.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Submission for possible publication are welcome. Please email the Editor/Publisher or write to the above address.

MAILINGS

Our quarterly journal is sent
Third Class postage paid at
Ord, NE 68862
U.S.A.

Please ensure that any change of address is provided to the Club Administrator as soon as possible to avoid returns and delays.

Printed in the U.S.A
By Quiz Graphics Arts Inc.
Ord, Nebraska 68862
U.S.A

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2016 *The Masonic Philatelist* will become strictly an on-line publication, with the exception of printed copies (1 each) for libraries, museums, Masonic stamp clubs and Masonic organizations (25 copies in total on our Print List). In other words, our quarterly will not be printed and distributed as in the past. It will only be provided on our website for the general Club membership. Dues will no longer be requested. Current financial restraints do not support continuing with a printed publication beyond 25 printed copies.

Having said that, it has been decided to allow Club members or others to get on the Print List by providing \$50 US Funds by January 1 of each year. This will cover the four (4) editions for the year. Please send your request and payment to the Club (provide detailed mailing address/instructions). Payment must be on hand by January 1. Getting on the list after January 1 needs to be coordinated with our Club Administrator.

We regret that it is necessary to take this action, but feel that our Club will best be served by using our contingency fund for the maintenance of an Internet website, rather than subsidizing a printed quarterly for all Club members.

It must also be kept in mind that the Internet is now the primary medium for magazines and journals, and it is necessary for us to keep up with the times.

Note: In cases where a Club member has paid dues beyond 2015, a refund will be provided if desired.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

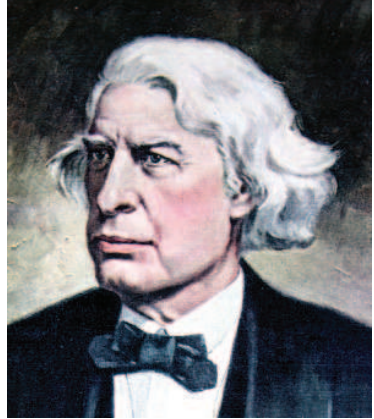
Christopher L. Murphy
President
Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Inc.

Brother Albert Gallatin Mackey

Foremost Masonic Educator

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Some 40 years ago, I asked my boss, George Mason, about the Masonic Order. He wore a Masonic ring, and I greatly admired him. Up to that time, my only knowledge of the Order centered on an old Master Mason's certificate I found in the basement rafters of a house my parents had just purchased—I was 16 years old. I recall later checking the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, but that was all until I questioned my boss, who then asked if I wished to become a Freemason. I consented and when the wheels were in motion, I asked him to bring me some literature on Freemasonry. The next day, he put Albert G. Mackey's 1917 edition of *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* on my desk. This is hardly something you would give a new candidate, but George kind of knew me.



Albert Gallatin Mackey

I read the book extensively and made copious hand-written notes. I returned the book to George and after becoming a Master Mason, I sought to get my own copy. I went to a Masonic supply store, and there on the shelf was the two-volume 1924 set I show on our cover. I asked how much they were. The Brother looked at me for a moment and said, "Well, you look like a rather interested Freemason, so how does ten dollars sound." The books became a source of continuing enjoyment and referencing.

The set I have shows Albert Mackey and Charles T. McClenachan as the authors, with this revised edition by Edward L. Hawkins and William J. Hukan. However, this was associated with subsequent editing and inclusion of additional material. Mackey's original work remained intact with editing comments as applicable. In the Preface Mackey states, "In this work I have had no help."

In Masonic Philately and all other fields of learning we seek the knowledge of eminent educators such as Albert Mackey and a whole host of others. It is their knowledge that enables us to understand and appreciate the world around us. Generally, in our writings these unsung heroes simply end up as "references" and footnotes.

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It is in this connection that I wish to shed a little light on Brother Mackey. The following is provided on Wikipedia:

Albert Gallatin Mackey [1807–1881] was born in Charleston, South Carolina, the son of John Mackey (1765–December 14, 1831), a physician, journalist and educator, and his wife. His father published *The American Teacher's Assistant and Self-Instructor's Guide, Containing all the Rules of Arithmetic Properly Explained, etc.* (Charleston, 1826), the most comprehensive work on arithmetic that had been published in the United States.

After completing his early education, Albert Mackey taught school for some time to earn money for medical school. He graduated from the medical department of the College of South Carolina in 1832. He settled in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1838 he was appointed demonstrator of anatomy in that institution.

In 1844 he abandoned the practice of medicine. For the rest of his life, he wrote on a variety of subjects, but specialized in the study of several languages, the middle ages, and Freemasonry. After being connected with several Charleston journals, he established in 1849 *The Southern and Western Masonic Miscellany*, a weekly magazine. He maintained it for three years, mostly by his own expense. He conducted a Quarterly 1858–1860 which he devoted to the same interests.

He acquired the Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and continental languages almost unaided, and lectured frequently on the intellectual and moral development of the Middle Ages. Subsequently, he turned his attention exclusively to the investigation of abstruse symbolism and to Cabalistic and Talmudic researches.

He served as Grand Lecturer and Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of South Carolina, as well as Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. He died in Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

Brother Mackey tells us that his encyclopedia took more than 30 years to research and write. At one point he went blind for a year, during which time his daughters “became his eyes.”

The extent to which Brother Mackey goes in his remarkable work to explain Freemasonry is far beyond that which the average Mason needs to know or even reference. However the information is there for those who wish to thoroughly delve into the subject. How he managed to obtain so much information in his day and age is beyond belief. What drove him was

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his passion to educate—that same passion that drives educators in all fields of human endeavor. The road is long and rewards few, but it is a calling that apparently cannot be ignored. We are fortunate to have had Brother Albert Mackey. As to his Masonic record, the following is provided in red print on the first page of the first book in the 1924 set:

Albert Gallatin Mackey

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, and a graduate of the Medical College there, he became a member of St. Andrews Lodge, No. 10, in that city, afterwards affiliating with Solomon's Lodge No. 1, soon filling the offices of Worshipful Master and Grand Secretary, also preparing the reports on the Foreign Correspondence Committee of the Grand Lodge as well as finding time to be a founder of Landmark Lodge, No. 76, and to officiate successively as High Priest, Grand High Priest, and General Grand High Priest. Active in Knight Templarism, he was honored as past Grand Warden of the Grand Encampment, was crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General and for years was Secretary General of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction. His writings are universally esteemed for their sincerity, honest records, and common sense. A leader in research, he was a pioneer of that increasing number of the Fraternity who values accuracy and whose first test of any reported fact is aimed directly to establish the truth or falsehood of the claim. His scholarship was sound, his knowledge of the Institution profound, his ideals unalloyed. For him the Craft dealt with the human character and mission. Upon these he had weighty utterance, being ever frank of speech yet holding fast his friends. Such was Brother Mackey.

For our purposes, I have selected this Canadian stamp as being representative of Brother Mackey. A close examination reveals that there is inadvertent Masonic symbolism in the background. Certainly the theme expresses a hope for the future through education, which was also expressed by our eminent brother.



Brother DeWitt Clinton Probably Most Depicted Person in History

Although the number of postage stamps issued for some historic individuals is very large, it pales in comparison with the excise tax stamp showing Bro. DeWitt Clinton (1769–1828). The stamp was used for 84 years and during this time almost 500 billion stamps were printed and used.

Clinton was an early American politician and naturalist who served as a United States Senator and was the sixth Governor of New York. In this last capacity, he was largely responsible for the construction of the Erie Canal. He also served as Mayor of New York City for about 12 years.

He was a member of Holland Lodge No. 16, New York City, New York and went on to become Grand Master of New York. He was highly active in the Royal Arch and Knights Templar.

The following newspaper article from the *Reading Eagle* (Pennsylvania) appeared on June 21, 1959.



Clinton Stamp Will Disappear

New York (UPI)—On June 24 some of the “most printed” pictures in the history of the world—including the champ of them all—will disappear from their familiar places on the American scene.

They are the men pictured on the U.S. excise tax stamps.

The champion picture in the “most printed” sweepstakes is that of DeWitt Clinton, one time governor of New York State, whose likeness has been printed almost 500 billion times on the little blue tax stamp appearing on packages of cigarettes. The picture, incidentally, brought Uncle Sam more than 29 billion dollars in revenue in the 84 years it was a tax paid symbol.

The publication *Tobacco News*, which investigated, was told by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving that no other subject—on tax stamps or otherwise—got his picture reproduced as often as DeWitt Clinton.

For example, Abraham Lincoln, now on the 4-cent stamp, is printed at the rate of only 14 billion a year, and that has been going on for a year. George Washington on the one-cent stamp sold at about 600 million a year until one-cent postage joined the five-cent cigar.

Other well-printed pictures, but not in the same league as Clinton and which also are going into limbo June 24, include John Quincy Adams on the excise stamp used

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for smoking tobacco; Henry Clay on cigar boxes; Charles Foster, one-time Ohio governor and Secretary of the Treasury, on chewing tobacco.

Reason for the elimination of the tax stamps is a recent Treasury Department order freeing tobacco manufacturers from the pre-payment of excise taxes on their products. Henceforth the 8-cent excise tax on each package of cigarettes will be paid on a semi-monthly return system. So the tax stamp, denoting pre-payment, is no longer necessary.

Tobacco News, a tobacco industry publication, wondered how many people even were aware of the men pictured on the stamps and interviewed 60 people at random in Washington, D.C. Only nine of the 60 could identify Clinton's picture in and out of their pockets daily. Of the nine who recognized the picture, six were smokers and three non-smokers. One of the 60 thought the picture was that of Orson Welles!

—000—



Seen here is a war-time ad for Lucky Strike cigarettes showing the placement of the tax stamp. One had to essentially tear the stamp to open the package so few stamps have survived.

Despite tobacco's current evil reputation, tobacco cultivation and exports formed an essential component of the American colonial economy during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Even ornamentation on the US Capitol columns includes tobacco plants—a bit of a tribute to their former glory.

Whatever the case, it can be said with reasonable certainty that a Freemason probably holds the world record for the greatest number of printed images showing his likeness. (*No listing of Clinton stamp in the Scott Catalog*). (Reference: MP Vol. 4, No. 4: November 1947, page 5.)

I cannot lie—I smoked a pipe for over 40 years, and seriously miss it. The ashtray seen here was made by one of our lodge brethren who was in the pottery business (Crane). It sat on our board room table for about 50 years, and I was certainly not the only one who used it. It now adorns my mantle piece, another reminder of that which was.



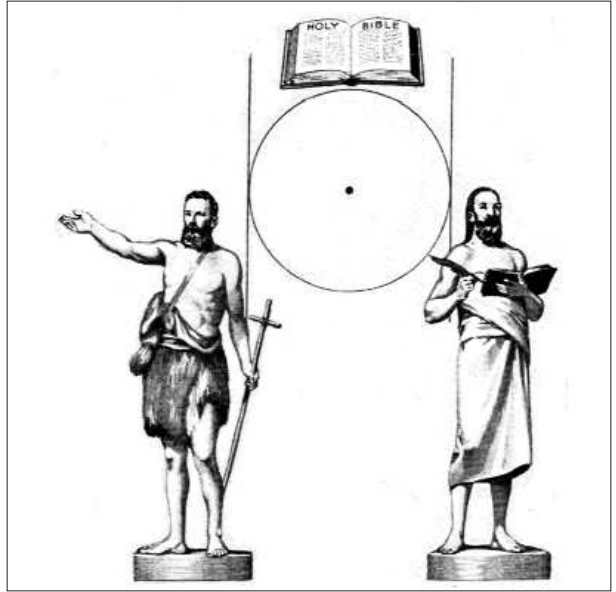
The Holy Saints John

Every Freemason can certainly associate with this wonderful imagery, taken from Mackey's *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*. Here we have Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist (Patron Saints of Freemasonry) illustrated with the two perpendicular and parallel lines bordering a circle with a dot in the center, and the VOSL above (found in every regular and well-governed Lodge of Freemasons).

It appears there has been controversy over the true identification of Saint John the Evangelist; however, latest Church teachings recognize him as John the Apostle (in other words, one in the same). Nevertheless, a paper by Wor. Bro. Harvey L. Ward Jr., shows the following: "Saint John the Evangelist is likely the amalgamation of several New Testament Johns, including John the Disciple of Christ, John the Epistle writer and John the Divine of Patmos, the author of the Book of Revelation." It is unlikely we will ever be able to sort this out, so perhaps best to go along with the Church.

The inclusion of these two Christian era Saints, and a reference to the Star of Bethlehem and "our Savior's nativity" in Masonic ritual, are obviously the result of Christians becoming Freemasons in very early times. Everything else we have is from the Old Testament.

I have discussed this issue before (although missed mentioning these Saints), and have said that I have absolutely no problem with it (actually it's quite ingenious).



Given the importance of these Saints in the Masonic Order, these stamps depicting them (and all such stamps) should be part of a Masonic collection. Left is St. John the Baptist on Bulgaria #3409; and Right, St. John the Evangelist on Marshall Islands #991j.

The Meissner Mystery

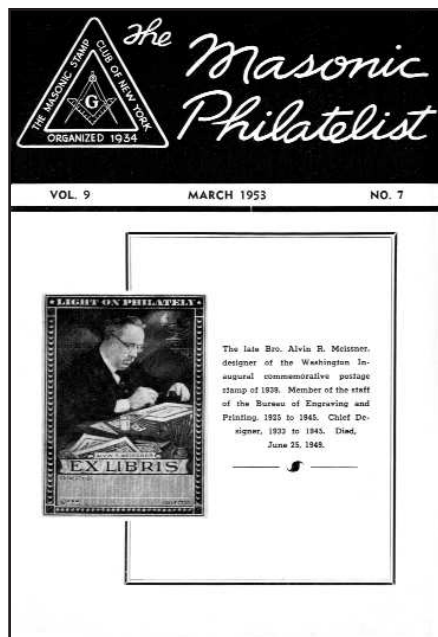
The cover of the March 1953 *Masonic Philatelist* (Vol. 9, No. 2) shows an unusual photograph of the noted stamp designer, Alvin R. Meissner, with the caption: "The late Bro. Alvin R. Meissner, designer of the Washington Inaugural commemorative postage stamp of 1938. Member of the staff of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 1826 to 1945. Chief Designer, 1933 to 1945. Died June 25, 1949."

The photograph used is actually a little plate sometimes used on the inside of a book front cover. The Latin phrase *Ex Libris* means "From the books of." A space follows for the book owner to write his or her name. There is a record of Meissner's copyright application for a book entitled *Light on Philately* (as seen on the image) but it does not appear the book was published. However, it appears one of our Club members was given a copy (unpublished manuscript).

Stamps that were designed by a Freemason are Class 5 Masonic-related stamps. The following are stamps known to have been designed by Meissner.



Scott numbers from left to right: 688, 736, 775, 776, 854, 903, 979. Note that No. 854 is the Washington Inaugural commemorative, which was petitioned by our Club.



Although no lodge information is provided for Meissner, this is the second MP reference stating he was a Mason. The entire MP edition shown is posted on our website.

Please notify the editor if you know anything about Bro. Meissner's book.

Grand Masters Galore: In October 1956 *Life* magazine featured this remarkable photograph on its front cover. The article on the Masonic Order is titled, "Busy Brotherly World of Freemasonry: The Ancient Fraternity is Thriving in America." It is both in-depth and very colorful.

All of these wonderful Brethren were long before my time as a Freemason (I was 15 in 1956) and I am sure that after 58 years they would all have passed on to the GL above.

Nevertheless, some of them will no doubt be remembered by some senior Club members.

I found the magazine in a second-hand book store about 30 years ago, and recently remembered it and found it in my "archives." Some of these brethren might have been Club members. I will see as we move forward.

...just a little fond "hello" to our distinguished PGMs. **Ed.**



STATE GRAND MASTERS shown on cover are identified in this numbered key. They are 1956 Grand Masters, photographed when they convened in Washington. 1-W. V. Fentress, Va. 2-W. W. Boothe, Texas. 3-J. H. Gick, N.J. 4-H. T. White, Neb. 5-S. W. McIntosh, D.C. 6-H. Marciano, P. R. 7-J. A. Eaddy, S.C. 8-F. W. Nicholas, Ohio. 9-H. A. Speich, Wis. 10-P. L. Powers, Maine. 11-R. E. McWhinnie, Wyo. 12-W. W. Johnson, Mass. 13-W. J. Craig, Mo. 14-H. R. Ruusi, Mich. 15-M. H. Pierce, Del. 16-C. B. Wilson, Ariz. 17-V. L. Walters, Miss. 18-L. F. Murch, N.H. 19-M. E. Ryan, Colo. 20-T. L. Nunn, Ala. 21-R. R. Douglass, Iowa. 22-H. H. Hammill, Utah. 23-S. E. Kelscy, Kan. 24-R. W. Meier, Wash. 25-G. D. Wells, S. Dak. 26-C. G. Johnson, Mont. 27-W. R. Howard, Okla. 28-D. A. Long, La. 29-N. V. Miller, Ark. 30-J. A. Batchelor, Ind. 31-F. R. Adams, Vt. 32-F. W. Laws, N. Mex. 33-M. T. Sonntag, Ill. 34-A. W. Dowell, Md. 35-R. T. Lord, Fla. 36-C. W. Rinehart, W. Va. 37-W. L. Hillyer, Minn. 38-C. H. Pugh, N.C. 39-E. V. Stewart, Calif. 40-M. Kidder, N. Dak. 41-C. M. Gordon, Idaho. 42-L. G. Immonen, Nev. 43-J. H. Smith, Conn. 44-H. H. Conn, Tenn. 45-F. B. Layman, Ky. 46-R. C. Ellis, N.Y. 47-E. Bolliger, Ore. 48-B. I. Amon, Ga. 49-A. T. Curtis, R.I.

Grand Master C. H. Nitsch of Pa. appears on pages 108, 109. Since *LIFE*'s picture was taken, these new Grand Masters have been elected: C. H. Baldwin, Ariz.; J. H. Manwaring, Conn.; C. R. Lucas, Fla.; K. J. Baumgartner, Kan.; A. L. Burbank, Me.; F. M. Dodge, Mich.; O. L. Danek, Minn.; J. H. Buchrer, N.J.; H. C. Denny, N. Mex.; N. Turk, N.Y.; J. C. Vance, N.C.; L. W. Temple, S.C.; N. L. Roberts, Tenn.



Grand Master Charles H. Nitsch, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, from page 108 of the magazine as referenced in the key.

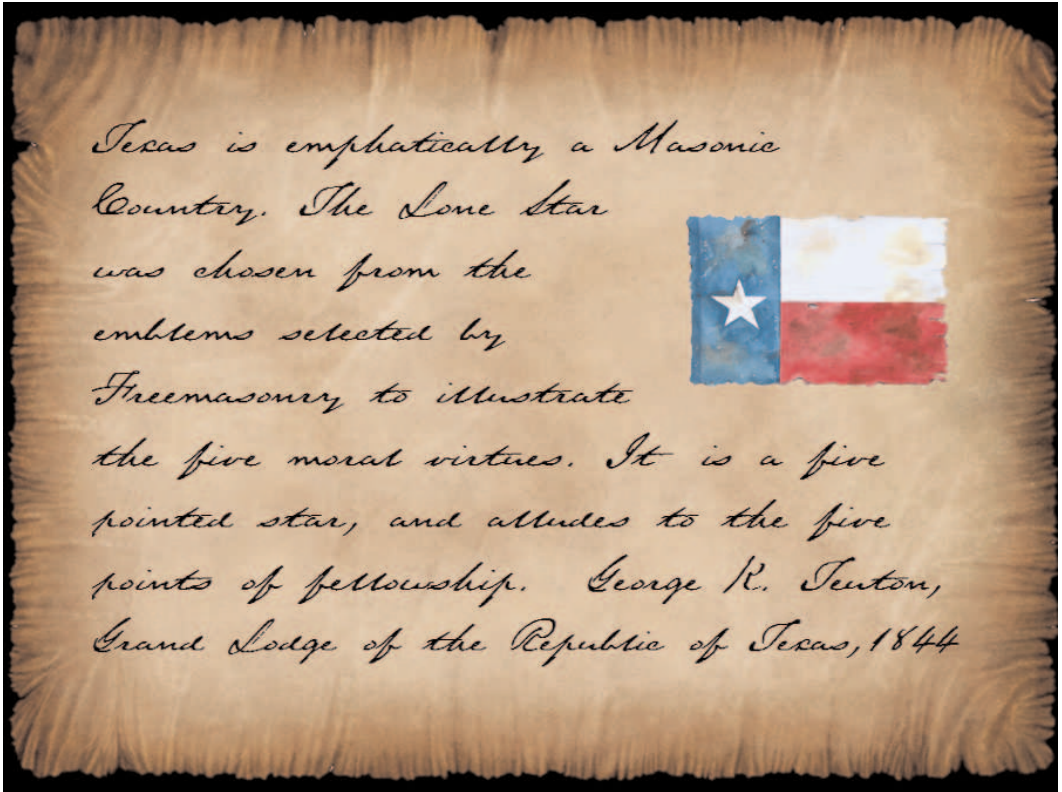
The Lone Star Story

There can be little doubt that the 5-pointed star is as old as art itself. It is an intriguing and attractive symbol that has been used as ornamentation by numerous organizations throughout history. However, we as Free and Accepted Masons use it for the far more noble and glorious purpose of symbolizing the Five Points of Fellowship.

Masons will recall that in this connection we are taught to 1) physically help one another; 2) remember our brothers in our prayers; 3) maintain confidentiality when such is asked; 4) offer financial aid if we can, and 5) provide

good council. Such are virtues (behaviors showing high moral standards) and are as equally applicable to all humans as they are to Freemasons.

Three Freemasons in the Republic of Texas really took this to heart, and back in the 1830s each designed a Republic flag that included a 5-pointed star. The final design (approved in 1839) and flag of what is now the State of Texas, was submitted by Bro. Charles B. Stewart of Montgomery Lodge No. 25, Montgomery, Texas. The following is official documentation.



The hand-writing reads: "Texas is emphatically a Masonic country. The Lone Star was chosen from the emblems selected by Freemasonry to illustrate the five moral

virtues. It is a five pointed star, and alludes to the five points of fellowship. George K. Teuton, Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, 1844."

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The Texas State flag was shown on a US postage stamp in 1976. It is exactly the same as designed by our distinguished brethren back in 1844. We might want to dwell on this a little. That star is a call to think about how we treat each other; not just Freemasons, all of us.



Albert G. Mackey states that the 5-pointed star (not to be confused with the blazing star) was probably introduced into Freemasonry by Jeremy Cross who in 1819 placed it among the plates in his, *The True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor*. It was American Freemasons who associated it with the Five Points of Fellowship. As a result, the Masonic 5-pointed star is just as “American as apple pie.” This makes its use on the State flag of Texas even more appropriate. In other words, it was an American innovation—and an exceedingly good one at that.

As to the 5-pointed stars shown on “Old Glory” (and its predecessors), they predated the Masonic star. Officially, the US use of the star on “Old Glory” is as follows (from Wikipedia): “Five-pointed stars appear on the flag and in the heraldic symbolism of the United States. In the U.S. context, the stars allegedly symbolize the heavens.” Of course, there is nothing wrong with stating that Masonically, the stars symbolize the Five Points of Fellowship,

On the US stamp shown below, our attention is drawn to the star on “Old Glory” that represents the State of Texas, which joined the Union in 1845. Texas had its own Masonic star one year earlier, and we see in the stamp design that the same star is being shown as that on the Texas State flag. This is interesting. Obviously the stamp designer did not know that there is a distinct difference. (*USA #1660, 938*)



(Reference: MP Vol 2, No. 8, January 1946, page 3; article by Bro. W. Moore in *The Freemason* magazine. This article prompted additional research.)



Taxing Charity

This great document and write-up was provided by Dan Harding. We have to smile a little because even those who wished to provide relief to the distressed were taxed. Perhaps note that 5-cents in 1870 has a present value of 91-cents.



"In 1862, Congress implemented taxes on financial transactions at various rates to pay for the costs of the Civil War. A revenue stamp was purchased and affixed to the document to prove that the tax had been paid, in this case 5 cents. Checks, bills of sale, mortgages, leases, and a host of other documents and transactions were taxed. Many of the taxes changed rates throughout the period and most of the taxes sunset in the 1870s." Dan has a great website at: <http://www.revenue-collector.com/> (USA #R23c)



Win Some, But Never Lose Some



Although not named on these stamps, the image shown is that of Daniel O'Connell (1775–1847) who was raised in Lodge No. 189, Dublin, Ireland, and became Master of this lodge. He later affiliated with Lodge No. 13, Limerick, Ireland, and went on to become council for the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

He is considered one of Ireland's greatest statesmen and he exerted great influence on the relations between the Irish people and their English rulers in the first half of the 19th century. He was able to rally the Irish people and agitate for some degree of civil rights, including Catholic emancipation. He was widely revered by the common people in Ireland. Indeed, the Old Irish dialect printing around his image on the stamps translates as, "Catholic Emancipation."

In 1826, the Papal Bull of Leo XII against secret societies was widely promulgated in Ireland, unlike the previous bulls issued against Freemasonry in the 18th century. Catholic members of the Order were threatened with excommunication if they failed to resign from their Lodges. As a result, O'Connell, one of the most prominent figures in Irish history, resigned from the Masonic Order after pressure was put on him by Archbishop Troy of Dublin. It is ironic that the man who did the most for Catholics in Ireland was put through this ordeal. I will venture a guess that Freemasonry was a major factor in his ability to achieve his objectives.

We have run across this sort of thing before—one cannot resign from the Masonic Order, no more than he can un-baptize himself. As a result the stamps are bona fide Masonic-related stamps. (*Ireland #80, 81, 82*)



Daniel O'Connell in a painting by Bernard Mulrenin (1836).

(Reference: MP Vol. 3, No. 5: October 1946, page,1 and Vol. 20, No.1: June–September 1963, page 3.)

Book Review

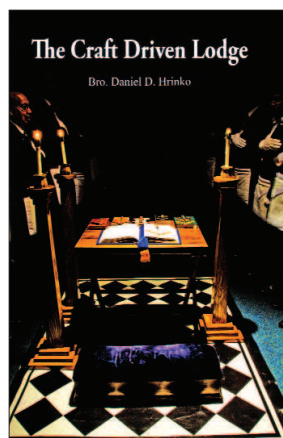
***The Craft Driven Lodge*, by Bro Daniel D. Hrinko, 2014. Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co, Inc., Richmond, VA.**

In this work Brother Hrinko provides us with new concepts to improve lodge meetings and thereby improve lodge attendance and attract new members. He details (with exceedingly good insights) the current state of Freemasonry from the lodge perspective, and calls for the need of greater member participation—thus the book title. He and others were granted a dispensation to create Arts and Sciences Lodge No 792, Columbus, Ohio, and this lodge has put into practice many innovations in all aspects of lodge administration, including addressing the needs of new candidates.

I believe this work is the first to essentially analyze Masonic lodge functions and

perform a critical analysis on such with the objective of ascertaining their suitability in a world that has greatly changed in the last 100 years.

Bro. Hrinko and his team have stayed within the boundaries of time-honored Masonic traditions and the guidelines of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Nevertheless, some suggestions will surprise traditional Masons, and all I can say here is that we all need to listen. The state of the Craft in North America is, in a word, “poor.” Bro. Hrinko’s book is highly recommended. Ed.



Clarifying Freemasonry

The Masonic Order is a “stand alone” organization. It did not emerge from the medieval Knights Templar, and is only connected to this appendant “Masonic” body by the fact that one has to be a Freemason to become a member. The same applies to the Royal Arch, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and its subsequent appendant body, the Shrine (Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.).

Prior to 1800, Freemasons in the United States only had the Royal Arch if they wanted to join an appendant body. George Washington may have been a Royal Arch member.

Although all appendant and sub-appendant Masonic bodies are wonderful, they should not be thought of as “higher degrees.” They are simply additional degrees. What a Freemason experienced in the third (Master Mason) degree of Freemasonry is the greatest Masonic honor that can be bestowed.

Why were appendant bodies formed? It appears the Masonic Order was a superior “platform” to branch out into other fraternal bodies, especially for the purpose of organized charity.

An Incident in the History of Masonry in Montana

by Sam Brooks (*The Masonic Philatelist*, Volume 3, No. 8, January 1947)

In my search for additional material for “philatelic masonry,” it is often my good fortune to run across articles and books about Freemasonry in the early days of the Western United States. Historically correct, and usually written by men who have been a part of the events depicted, these stories read like some of the most lurid “Wild West” tales. It is a fact that in those early days, when a town was founded, Freemasons usually were there to assist; and one of the first institutions was a Masonic Lodge.



Some years ago, through the courtesy of Bro. Clyde I. Rush, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Idaho, I received some very interesting booklets about the early days of Freemasonry in Idaho and Montana. The following story about a cornerstone-laying ceremony for an entrance arch to Yellowstone National Park focuses interest on Scott's No. 744, the 5-cent blue of the National Parks issue. The story is told by Bro. Frank Elliot Smith, Past Grand Master of Masons of Montana, in a booklet called, *Montana Masonry*.

Among the most interesting incidents of my connection with the Montana Grand Lodge was the laying of the cornerstone of the entrance arch to the Yellowstone National Park at Gardner on April 24, 1904. It will be remembered that President Roosevelt had gone to the National Park, I think about the first of March of that year, to visit the park and view its beauties in the winter time. He was asked to meet with the Grand Lodge for the laying of the cornerstone and accepted the invitation.

Prior to that time Montana had some of the best and wealthiest society in the world, and while its people dressed in the best of fashion, usually the cowboy idea was still prevalent, and no matter how well-off a man might be, when dressed for a social function he was almost certain to ring in some article of cowboy accoutrement.

I sent out a letter to my subordinates in the Grand Lodge, suggesting that we were not cowboys, most of us had never been, and

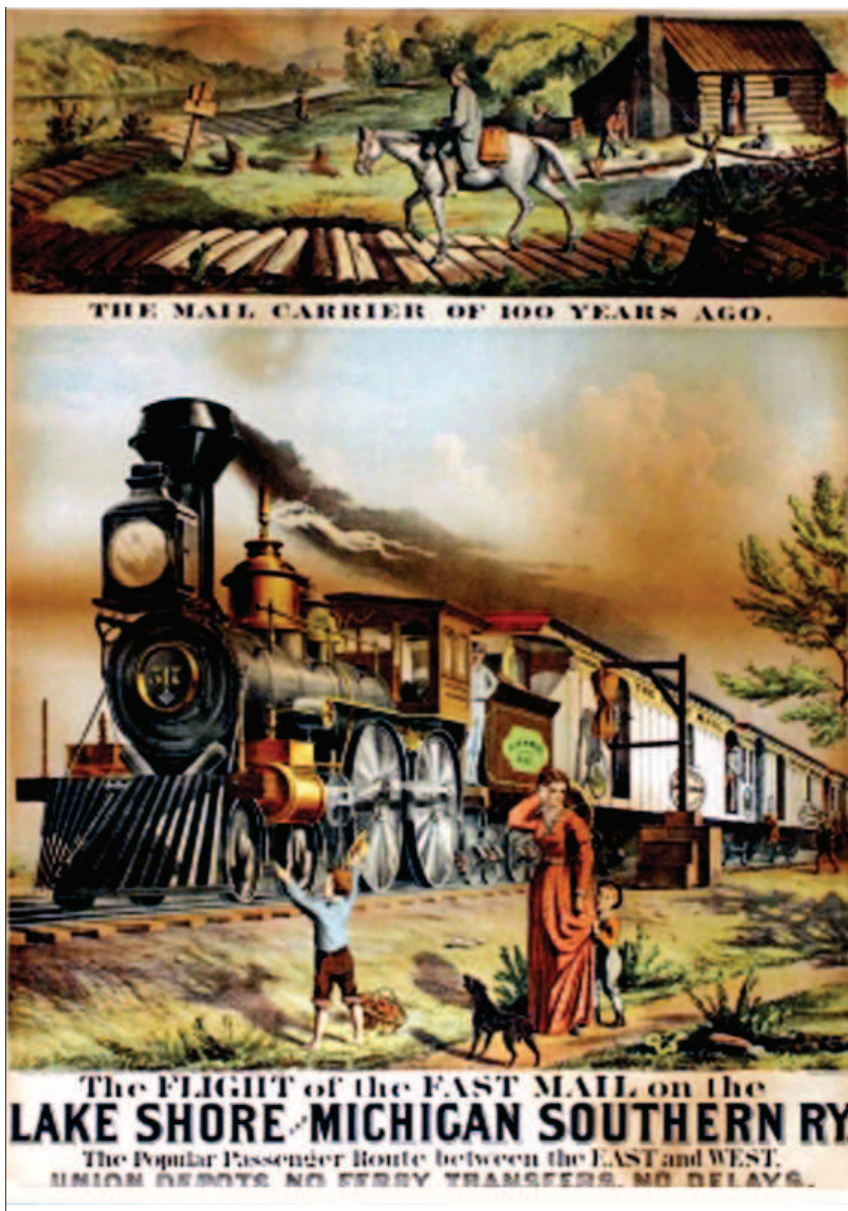
never would be, and that for this occasion when we were to meet the President of the United States, I expected all of the principal officers to appear in Prince Albert suits and silk hats, and the suggestion was observed.

Imagine my astonishment and chagrin when President Roosevelt and his party came tearing out of the park on horseback and rode up to the platform where the exercises were to be held, and I beheld the President of the United States with an old slouch hat, a dilapidated coat, torn trousers, and a flannel shirt; and pretty dusty. I would have sold out for a very small price. However, the exercise went off very nicely. The President made an address, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Montana, and I presented him with a large nugget of pure gold from the Last Chance Gulch, upon which we had caused to be placed the Square and Compasses and the letter "G". My pleasure in meeting him was very great indeed, as I had known him before when we were young men in New York.

70th Anniversary of Fast Mail Train

by Sam Brooks

Editor's Introduction: This fascinating story comes to us from *The Masonic Philatelist* Volume 2, No. 4, September 1945. The artwork and Masonic connection is remarkable. I will let Bro. Brooks provide the story in his own words and then provide my comments.



The Masonic Philatelist

The Story Reprinted:

On September 16, 1875, the New York Central inaugurated fast mail service between New York and Chicago in an effort to speed up the mails in that territory. The train which left New York that day, was an historic one in that it was the first “Solid” mail train to be placed in service. It consisted of special locomotives hauling new mail cars specifically built for this purpose. The train traveled over the New York Central lines from New York to Buffalo and thence over the lines of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway to Chicago. The line was later absorbed by the New York Central.

The story is worth-while reading and the reader is referred to the three books which may be obtained from the reference collections of the New York Public Library. These are, *Man and Iron*, by Edward Hungerford; *History of the Railway Mail Service in the United States*, by J. P. Osborne; Senate Executive Document #40, printed in 1885, Government Printing Office; *A Life Span and Reminiscence of the Railway Mail Service*, by James R. White, published by Deemer and Jaisohn. Philadelphia, Pa. 1910.

Our interest is primarily in the markings on the front of the locomotive which pulled the train, as shown on the reproduction of an old lithography owned by the New York Central, and which is reproduced by courtesy of that company. Look closely and you will see under the number 317, the square and compasses.

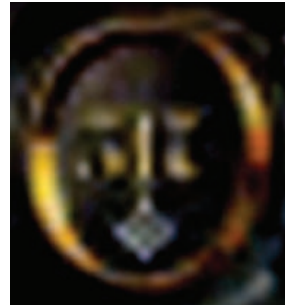
No. 317 is an American type locomotive having four truck and four driving wheels. It was one of nine built in the shops of the L. S. & M. S. in 1871. These loco-

motives were beautifully fashioned by the most skillful artisans. At the time, engineers had full responsibility for their locomotives, and were permitted the widest latitude in decorations and color. On the cab, the engineer of No. 317

placed his name, J. H. Devereux, and possibly being a member of the Craft, he placed the square & compasses on the front. Of course, this is merely a guess. Inquiry at the New York Central Offices does not add to our knowledge of the use of our emblem on the locomotive.

Comment: The artwork of the second image (previous page) is true Americana and virtually speaks to the viewer. We see the magnificent locomotive being greeted by a young boy who has doffed his hat and seems to exclaim, “You are the most beautiful thing in the world!” His little dog barks in defiance as if to scare away the “smoke-belching monster.” The boy’s mother turns her head away and protects her face from the heat and noise as her youngest child clutches her dress in fright. All the while, the train engineer, hand on hip, calmly views the little scene—he has seen it before.

If ever there were a perfect postage stamp design to commemorate the colorful history of mail service in the USA, here it is. There is no indication as to the artist, which is not uncommon for commercial art. Nevertheless, he or she was truly talented.



Detail of the front of the train showing the Masonic symbol.

Is the US Great Seal Legend True?

Legend has it that when George Washington asked Haym Salomon (a Jewish immigrant) what he wanted in return for his great work in arranging finances and personally providing funds for the American Revolution, Salomon said he simply wanted something for his people. Washington thereupon directed that the stars on the Great Seal of the United States be arranged in the form of the Star of David.

It's a neat legend, but I doubt that it's true. That there needed to be 13 stars representing the original colonies that formed the United States was essentially decided. However in the original drawings they were not in any orderly arrangement. In short, they were messy. Obviously this was noticed and the seal designers set about correcting it.

I would venture to say that every possible arrangement was tried and what we now see came out as the most appropriate.

If George Washington came up with the idea to reflect the Star of David in the design, such was truly genius. This is certainly possible, but is it probable?

We also have to consider that sort of highlighting one particular people on the Great Seal was not a good idea. The United States was for "all the people" and if the Star of David was intentional, there would have been a lot of dissatisfaction.

Whatever the case, Haym Salomon's great dedication and sacrifice for the American cause was truly outstanding. He was a Freemason and he has been honored on a US postage stamp. (USA #1561)



The Great Seal of the US is shown on this stamp, designed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. (USA #CE1)

The Masonic Specialist

BANKS, NATHANIEL P. (1816–1894); US politician; governor of Massachusetts, Union major general in the American Civil War; speaker of the House of Representatives, 34th Congress; Monitor Lodge, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 992

Year: 1950

Type: Commemorative

Issue: National Capitol Sesquicentennial

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: United States Capitol



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 572

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp (#992) commemorated the legislative branch of the United States government. The United States Capitol building was designed by William Thornton. The building did not appear as it is shown on the stamp for the full 150 years being commemorated. It was enlarged and the dome was added between 1851 and 1865.

Additional Masonic Information: Banks delivered the Grand Lodge St. John's day address at Memphis, Tennessee on June 24, 1875. He was also a Royal Arch Mason and a Knights Templar.

BARRY, JOHN (1745–1803); commodore in the Continental Navy; won important naval engagements in the American Revolution; captured the first ship ever taken by a commanding officer of the U.S. Navy; Pennsylvania Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 790

Year: 1936

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Navy Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: Painting by Gilbert Stuart



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Design: John Paul Jones, John Barry and ships

Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The name of Barry's ship, *Lexington*, is shown below his picture.

Additional Masonic Information: Evidence of John Barry's membership in the Masonic Order is based on his probable signature in the by-laws book of Pennsylvania Lodge No. 2. Concern, however, has been expressed as to whether or not the signature is actually that of Commodore John Barry. If so, John Barry was initiated in this lodge in 1795 and he was suspended for nonpayment of dues in 1800.

BARTHOLDI, FREDERIC AUGUSTE (1834–1904); French sculptor; creator of the Statue of Liberty; Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris, France.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 2147

Year: 1985

Type: Commemorative

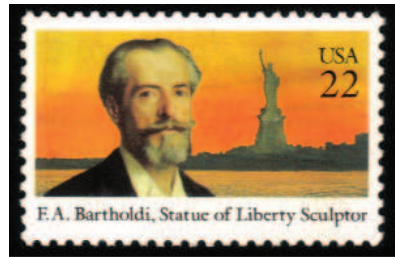
Issue: Frederic Auguste Bartholdi Issue

Designer: Howard Paine

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: From paintings by Jose Frappa and James Dean

Design: Bartholdi and the Statue of Liberty



Secondary Stamp(s): USA #566, 696, 899, 946, 995, 1035, 1041, 1042, 1044A, 1057, 1075, 1320, 1594, 1599, 1619, 2147, 2224, C35, C58, C63, C80, C87

Stamp Facts: Prior to the US Postal Service issuing the primary stamp, the Statue of Liberty underwent a major restoration. Some of the copper from the original statue was removed and used in making the printing cylinders for the primary stamp.

The original name for the Statue of Liberty was “Liberty Enlightening the World.” The term “Statue of Liberty” was given to the work through common usage. It is unlikely any sculptor would use the word “statue” in the title of his/her work. Bartholdi used his mother, Charlotte Beysser Bartholdi, as a model for the face of the statue.

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Additional Masonic Information: The following is a direct quotation from Denslow's *10,000 Famous Freemasons*:

He [Bartholdi] was one of the early members of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris (Oct. 14, 1875) which was composed of prominent intellectuals, writers and government representatives. When his famous statue, "Liberty Enlightening the World," was achieved, Bartholdi convened his lodge to review it, even before the statue was shown to the U.S. committee. On June 19, 1884, the lodge, as if it were a pilgrimage, went in a body to review his masterpiece that was to be a gift of the French people to the United States. On Nov. 13, 1884, Bartholdi delivered a lecture and gave the lodge a report on the history and various methods used in the execution of his statue. Again, the lodge witnessed his emotion when he came back from his visit to the U.S. in 1887 and he told them of the ardent welcome he had received and the wide enthusiasm created by his work.

BARTLETT, JOSIAH (1729–1795); physician; political leader, signer of the Declaration of Independence; president of New Hampshire and became that state's first governor; Mason, no details.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1691

Year: 1976

Type: Commemorative

Issue: American Bicentennial Issue

Designer: Vincent E. Hoffman

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: Painting by John Trumbull

Design: View of the delegates at the signing of the Declaration of Independence



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 120

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp is the first of four stamps which when joined form the entire painting by John Trumbull entitled "Declaration of Independence. All the people in the painting can be identified. Bartlett is the third person on the extreme left.

Although Bartlett did sign the Declaration, he did not sign it on July 4, 1776. The only person who signed that day was John Hancock. A public reading of the document took place at Independence Hall on July 8, 1774

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and it was read before Washington's army the next day. The other members of Congress started signing the document on August 2, 1774.

Additional Masonic Information: A letter is in the possession of Levi S. Bartlett which was written by Josiah Bartlett to his son, Ezra. The letter states in part: "I attended a Mason meeting last night, and as soon as you can I wish you would join the Masons."

BASIE, WILLIAM JAMES "COUNT" (1904–1984); musician; orchestra leader and composer; one of the greatest jazz orchestra leaders of all time; his orchestra was the first black orchestra to play at the Waldorf Astoria, New York City, New York; Wisdom Lodge No. 102, Chicago, Illinois; Prince Hall affiliation.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 3096

Year: 1996

Type: Commemorative

Issue: American Music Issue

Designer: Bradbury Thompson

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not applicable

Design: William James "Count" Basie



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: None

Additional Masonic Information: No further information.

BATES, BARNABAS (1787–1854); postal official; postmaster of Bristol, Rhode Island from 1817 to 1820; led the fight for inexpensive and uniform postage in the US; Saint Alban's Lodge No. 6, Bristol, Rhode Island.

Primary Stamp: USA No.1489

Year: 1973

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Postal Service Employees Issue

Designer: Edward Vebell

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Stamp counter – post office



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Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 1490 to 1498

Stamp Facts: The stamp issue saluted the 700,000 employees of the United States Postal Service. The stamps in this issue have printing on the reverse side under the gum – a first for US stamps.

Additional Masonic Information: Bates was Master of the stated lodge and was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. He was also a Royal Arch Mason.

BEADLE, WILLIAM H. H. (1833–1915); lawyer, government officer; founder of the public school system of South Dakota; leader in the movement for South Dakota statehood; his statue represents that state in the National Hall of Fame; Montezuma Lodge No. 89, Montezuma, Indiana.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 858

Year: 1939

Type: Commemorative

Issue: 50th Anniversary of Statehood

Designer: Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Map of North and South Dakota,
Montana and Washington



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 1606

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp commemorated the 50th anniversary of statehood of four states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington.

Additional Masonic Information: Beadle later affiliated with St. John's Lodge No. 1, Yankton, South Dakota. He was also a Royal Arch Mason, Knights Templar and 33rd Degree AASR Mason.

BEARD, DANIEL CARTER (1850–1941); painter, illustrator; organizer of the Boy Scout movement in the US; Mariners Lodge No. 67, New York City, New York.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 995

Year: 1950

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Type: Commemorative

Issue: Boy Scouts Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Three boys, Statue of Liberty
and scout badge



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 1145

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp was issued to honor the Boy Scouts of America whose second National Scout Jamboree was held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania the year the stamp was issued (1950).

The United States Boy Scout organization was formed by the uniting of Ernest Seton-Thompson's Woodcraft Indians with Daniel Carter Beard's Sons of Daniel Boone. Boone is also purported to have been a Mason.

One of the boys shown on the primary stamp is a cub scout, as indicated by his cap. The Cub Scout division of the Boy Scouts was patterned after the Wolf Cubs of Great Britain. The formation of Wolf Cubs was inspired by *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling who was also a Mason.

The Statue of Liberty, shown on the primary stamp, symbolizes the Boy Scout's crusade to "Strengthen the Arm of Liberty." The Statue of Liberty was created by Frederick Auguste Bartholdi, also a Mason.

Daniel Carter Beard's name is perpetuated in the great outdoors by Mount Beard, a peak adjoining Mount McKinley in Alaska. William McKinley, 25th President of the United States, was also a Mason.

Additional Masonic Information: Beard received his Master Mason's degree in the stated lodge on November 30, 1917. Later, he joined Cornucopia Lodge No. 563, Flushing, New York.

Daniel Carter Beard
receiving a Masonic
award from the Grand
Lodge of New York.



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BEAUMONT, WILLIAM (1796–1853); physician; medical pioneer who laid the foundations for the present medical knowledge of how the stomach functions; Mark Master Masons Lodge, Plattsburg, New York.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 949

Year: 1947

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Doctors' Issue

Designer: Charles R. Chickering

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Painting by Sir Luke Fildes

Design: Doctor at a patient's bedside



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp was issued in honor of the doctors of America. Sir Luke Fildes (1844–1927), the artist who painted the picture from which the stamp is taken, was a British artist. He did state portraits of King Edward VI, Queen Alexandra and King George V. He was a member of the Royal Academy and was knighted in 1906.

Additional Masonic Information: Beaumont held three Masonic certificates. The first certificate is dated April 3, 1820 and was issued by Mark Master Masons Lodge in the town of Plattsburg, New York. A second certificate is also dated April 3, 1820 and was issued by Plattsburg Chapter No. 39, New York. This certificate shows he was also a Royal Arch Mason. The third certificate is dated April 11, 1820 and was issued by Harmony Lodge, Champlain, New York. The indication here is that Beaumont was initiated twice, which has been the case with some other Masons in those early years.

BEAUREGARD, PIERRE G.T. (1818–1893); Confederate general in the American Civil War; he was in charge of the batteries that fired on Fort Sumter and thereby started the American Civil War; Mason (no details).

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1178

Year: 1961

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Civil War Centennial Issue

Designer: Charles R. Chickering

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated



The Masonic Philatelist

Design: Sea coast gun of 1861 being sighted by an officer

Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The sea coast gun shown on the primary stamp is typical of the ordnance used by both sides in the American Civil War. The designs in the background of the stamp, which might be taken as explosions, are actually a decorative spray of palmetto leaves. The spray is intended to suggest the geographical and political area of the opening of hostilities in the war.

Additional Masonic Information: It is also known that Beauregard was a Knights Templar. However, no details are available.

BEDFORD, GUNNING JR. (1742–1812); lawyer; Constitution signer; first judge of the US District Court of Delaware; Washington Lodge No. 14, Pennsylvania, (now No. 1, Wilmington, Delaware).

Primary Stamp: USA No. 798

Year: 1937

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Constitution Sesquicentennial Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: Painting by J. B. Sterns

Design: Adoption of the Constitution



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp commemorated the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. The painting by J. B. Sterns, on which the stamp is based, has a key which indicates the identity of many individuals shown. However, Bedford is one of the unidentified signers.

The stamp has two symbols on its right and left sides. The left side shows a Roman fasces (a bundle of rods with an axe in the middle). This symbol was carried before ancient Roman magistrates as a symbol of authority. The right side shows a flaming torch, emblematic of enlightenment.

Additional Masonic Information: Bedford received his Master Mason's degree in the stated lodge on September 11, 1782. He served as Master of his lodge and was the first Grand Master of Delaware.

Foreign Stamps Showing Masons that Parallel USA & Canadian Designs/Themes

Class II, WASHINGTON, George:

The stamp is essentially after a painting by Charles Willson Peale entitled *Washington at Princeton*. The US issued No. 1704 showing the same painting. (*Benin #522*)



Class II, ROOSEVELT, Franklin Delano: This stamp intrigued me because of Bro. Roosevelt's somewhat "movie star" hair—iron gray and very even. It was not quite like that; however, he deserved it. (*Bolivia #C298*)



Class II, WASHINGTON, George: The design of this stamp harks back to the designs of yesteryear when everything was scrolls and ribbons. There are some of us (including me) who think this is how a stamp should be. It was produced by the American Banknote Company so therein the likely answer. (*Brazil #480*)



Class II, BOLIVAR, Simon: Here we see Bro. Bolivar on a handsome white horse, which is somewhat unusual, although there are many bronze sculptures of this nature. (*Brazil #1867*)



Class II, CHURCHILL, Winston: On this stamp we see St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England, alongside Bro. Churchill. The cathedral is important as it was here that peace services were held after WW II, and funeral services for Churchill when he passed away in 1965. (*Burundi #B28*)





Murphy's

STAMP RANT

Errors, Oddities & Oversights
USA & CANADA

Book Two: Design Curiosities – Part 3

DELINQUENT DIRIGIBLE

The Friedrichshafen dirigible hanger, which is shown in the background of this stamp, nearly became the “womb of doom” for New York City. In 1919, William N. Hensley Jr., commander of the US Army Balloon School, made a study of the Zeppelin Airship Lines in Germany. He uncovered and furnished to the US War Department authentic information on the type L-72 giant dirigible being built at Friedrichshafen for the bombing of New York City in World War I. The ship was almost completed when the armistice was signed. (USA #C18)



DOCTOR IS OUT

American doctors are honored on this stamp. The official description in the Scott Catalog reads: “Issued to honor the physicians of America.”

The painting used for the stamp design is by Sir Luke Fildes (1844–1927). He was British, and there is no indication that he even visited America. We can be certain, therefore, that the doctor in the painting is British and so is the patient and on-looker. I really don’t think that a non-American painting, showing non-Americans was appropriate to honor Americans. I agree that the painting is superior, but think that something special should have been designed for US doctors. (USA #949)



DOLLEY DOODLING

This stamp, showing the likeness of Dolley (Dorothea) Madison, is from a pencil drawing taken from Gilbert Stewart's painting of the first lady. The drawing (stamp), however, fails to capture the essence of the subject, mainly because the face is too thin and the chin is too pointed. A comparison between the stamp and the painting follows. The stamp was produced in mini-stamp format, the same as that of the Indian Head Penny stamp issued in 1978. This stamp was not popular because of its small size, so it is a little surprising that the US Postal Service decided to issue another stamp of the same format. (USA #1822)



DOUBLE DATING

The date 1847 shown immediately below the shield on the illustrated stamp is the date Mormon settlers reached the first Utah settlement. These hardy pioneers soon petitioned to join the Union, but Mormon belief in polygamy (having more than one wife) prevented Congress from granting statehood. When the Mormons ordered an end to polygamy in 1896, Utah became a state and thus the significance of the second date shown. (USA #1677)



DOUBLE DISTINCTION

This stamp has the dubious distinction of being the only Canadian or US stamp that depicts an animal shot for sport. It may, in fact, be the only stamp in the world with this theme. Furthermore, the stamp shows an identifiable non-royal family member who was alive when the stamp was issued. As such, it is the first official Canadian stamp with this distinction. The design of the stamp was taken from a photograph of (and furnished by) Mr. H. Clay Pierce after he had just shot a caribou. Mr. Pierce worked for the Waters-Pierce Oil Company of St. Louis, Missouri, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company. The photograph was taken on Mr. Pierce's extensive land holdings in Newfoundland. The year of this stamp was 1897, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Mr. Pierce made a generous contribution of \$50 to the Jubilee Fund. Might we assume that the contribution had something to do with the stamp? The total quantity of stamps printed was 400,000. The supply exhausted sometime in 1916. An enlargement of the stamp scene detail follows. (*NFD #64*)



DRAFTING DILEMMA

On this stamp we see the name “York Town,” referring to the place at which members of the US Congress met to draft the Articles of Confederation. The name “York Town” must be a very old and seldom used designation. The town is normally called just “York,” and is shown on current maps as such. Noted historian, A. J. Langguth, professor of journalism at the University of Southern California, references York, Pennsylvania in his book *Patriots*. He states the following in connection with the Articles of Confederation: “Congress met for a day in Lancaster before moving to York, a small farming community across the Susquehanna River.” Langguth does not show the name as “York Town” here or anywhere else in his book. Furthermore, the following information on York is from the Encyclopedia Americana:



The city dates from 1741 when it was founded as a manorial town by the Penn family, most of the settlers being Germans, Scotch-Irish and English Quakers. It was incorporated as a borough in 1787 and as a city in 1887. During the Revolutionary War the Continental Congress fled from British-occupied Philadelphia to York where it met from Sept. 30, 1777 to June 27, 1778. During its sessions here the Articles of Confederation were adopted. Continental Square in present-day York marks the site of the colonial courthouse in which the Congress met.

Here again, there is no reference to “York Town.” The following is a first day cover showing the stamp. Note the postmark.



USA #1726)

EMANCIPATION COMPLICATION

Abolishment of slavery in America is commemorated on two US postage stamps. The first stamp on this subject (shown above, right) was issued in 1940. It shows the *Emancipation Monument* by Thomas Bell. Here we see Abraham Lincoln and a kneeling slave. Shown on the stamp is the wording, “75th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution.” This amendment, of course, was the amendment that officially abolished slavery.



The second stamp shown was issued in 1963. This stamp commemorated Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. The stamp shows a severed chain, which signifies the idea of being “set free.” Although both stamp designs appear reasonable, it may be argued that they are completely reversed—the design of the 1940 stamp should be on the 1963 stamp and vice-versa. The first stamp (1940) commemorates an event that was not proclaimed in force until December 18, 1865—eight months after Lincoln had been assassinated. Certainly, Lincoln was a major force in bringing about the 13th Amendment, but he was not alive when it was ratified as the stamp design leads one to believe. The second stamp (1963) is even more misleading than the first. This stamp commemorates Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. This proclamation was actually an ultimatum issued to the rebellious Southern states in September of the previous year. Lincoln told these states to return their allegiance before the next year, otherwise their slaves would be set free. No states returned, so the threatened proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863. As the proclamation did not apply to slaves in the North, and the Southern states ignored it, no slaves were freed! It may be reasoned that the proclamation was really no more than an announcement of policy that took effect as the Union armies advanced. The severed chain design is certainly more applicable to the 13th Amendment that officially abolished slavery and, as it were,



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“severed the chains.” The Emancipation Monument is equally more applicable to the Emancipation Proclamation. If an event commemorated on a postage stamp utilizes the image of a real person, it makes sense that the person shown should at least have been alive when the event took place. (USA #902, 1233)

EMPTY ARTISTRY

The four chaplains shown on this stamp gave their life-belts to other passengers when the *SS Dorchester* was torpedoed in the North Atlantic on February 23, 1943. The name of the ship is shown on an empty life preserver in the stamp design, as shown in the adjacent stamp detail enlargement. This method of showing the ship’s name on the stamp might be considered clever design work. However, given the shortage of life preserving equipment on the ship, the empty preserver brings into play artistic irony. (USA #956)



EXPIRY ENQUIRY

The royal visit of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip to Canada in 1959 was commemorated with this attractive stamp. Close examination of the stamp, however, reveals the date 1957 in the lower left corner. Apparently, the stamp was designed in 1957 and held for release on a suitable occasion. Designed and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, it is obvious the responsible people just forgot that the date was shown on the engraving. The date is very small virtually invisible to the naked eye. A 12x magnification is needed to see it clearly. One would hate to think that the stamp was issued with full knowledge of the date being present. (CDN #386)



FARLEY'S HOME RUN

James A. Farley, the United States Postmaster himself, sketched the design for this stamp. For the little town in the background, Farley called to mind his boyhood hometown of Grassy Point, New York. The buildings shown in the stamp design are from actual buildings in Grassy Point and can be recognized as such. They are not, however, in the same arrangement as shown on the stamp. The following enlargement shows the stamp background detail. (USA #855)



FEATHER FUSS

Design of this stamp appears to have been taken from the following photograph of Chief Red Cloud. If so, the designer, Robert Anderson, did not include the Chief's eagle feather. An eagle's feather was the Indians'



symbol of bold exploits—such as those of the high-flying predator from which the feather was obtained. We might consider it a minor detail, but I think we can reason that if the feather is seen in a photograph or other likeness of a native Indian, then it should be included (even if just partially) in any subsequent artwork. (USA #2175)



FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW



In February 1966 the United States issued the postage stamp (left) showing the likeness of George Washington. There was really nothing wrong with the artwork except Washington appeared as though he needed a good shave. This situation, of course, did not sit well with the American people—and rightly so. George Washington, the most distinguished figure in American history, deserved much better. The US Postal Service was severely criticized for the oversight. Consequently, in November of the following year (1967), a revised version of the stamp was issued (right). This time, Washington was clean-shaven.

Gazing at the first issue, one might muse a little on the life and “humanity” of George Washington. He was an avid outdoorsman and, probably like many men, gave his face a rest on his field trips. We also might consider that in Washington’s time razors did not come with Gillette precision. A good shave, therefore, may have been somewhat akin to a five o’clock shadow. Perhaps (and just perhaps) the Postal Service oversight has given us a little more insight into the life of the great president. (*USA 1283, 1283B*)

FLASH BACK

The image of the child on this stamp is, in a word, remarkable. The expression on the child’s face could not convey the feelings of hope and innocence any clearer. We have to ask, however, why the stamp designer, Paul Calle, showed the adult wearing an elaborate long sleeve lace blouse. Generally, clothing of that nature went out many years ago. So long ago, in fact, that it is reminiscent of a time when retarded people were locked away in deplorable asylums. Nevertheless, perhaps a part of the message lies therein. In



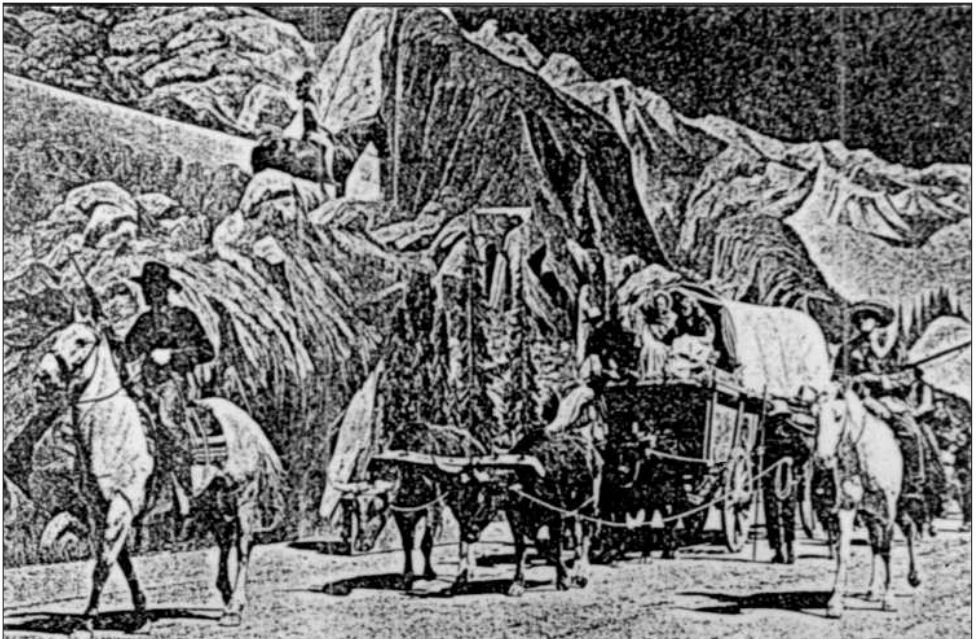


other words, retarded children can now be helped as opposed to earlier times. I need to mention that the word “retarded” has now been replaced by “special needs,” but this was likely after the stamp was issued. (USA #1549)

I can't even find sleeves this “Victorian” on the Internet, other than in very old photos.

GADSDEN GAZING

Centenary of the US purchase in 1853 of a large tract of land from Mexico is celebrated on this stamp. James Gadsden negotiated the deal, which entailed 29,640 square miles of land purchased for the sum of \$10 million. The new land increased the size of what are now Arizona and New Mexico. The central part of the stamp design was taken from a photograph, as follows, of an entry in a gold rush days pageantry held in San Francisco, California in the 1940s. The people shown on the stamp would surely have recognized themselves when the stamp was issued. (USA #1028)



A Marvelous Mason and His Marvelous Bridge

Seldom does a story of this astounding nature emerge in the annals of Masonic Philately. Although we all marvel at magnificent engineering structures, we seldom reflect on the dedicated people who made them possible. In this case, such a person was a Freemason who essentially made his early life a quest to construct one of the most important and significant bridges in the United States. He has long been called from labor, but his story by

MW Bro. William E. LeVeque, published in the Masonic Service Association of North America *Short Talk Bulletin* (Vol. 93, No. 2, February 2015) is presented here. (Stamp: USA # New)



The Mackinac Bridge – Over Troubled Waters

By William E. LeVeque
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Michigan

I am the 168 Grand Master of Michigan, and only the 9th Grand Master to serve from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Let me put that geography in perspective for you. It takes me less time to travel to Niagara Falls in New York for Lansing, Michigan than it does to travel home to Munising after meetings there. It is closer for me to travel the entire state of Wisconsin, and enter Chicago, than it is to drive to Detroit from my home in Munising.

I can drive to Duluth, Minnesota, again through Wisconsin, in less time that it takes to arrive in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint or

any city south of those points in Michigan, yet over 83% of Michigan Masons reside south of Flint. With such travel challenges from the Upper Peninsula, it is comforting to know that before 1957, it was much more difficult.

There is one factor that has made my travel easier. It hasn't always been there, and in fact only three of the nine Upper Peninsula Grand Masters have experienced its grandeur.

If you guessed the Mackinac Bridge, you guessed correctly. It is an impressive structure. Not necessarily appealing to the operative Mason within us, but its five-mile long expanse of steel, iron and cabling make it the longest suspension bridge in the Western hemisphere, and this functional Landmark inspires even the most unsuspecting of visitors. Unlike most bridges, which are held up by columns or super structures, the Mackinac Bridge roadway literally hangs from the hundreds of cables

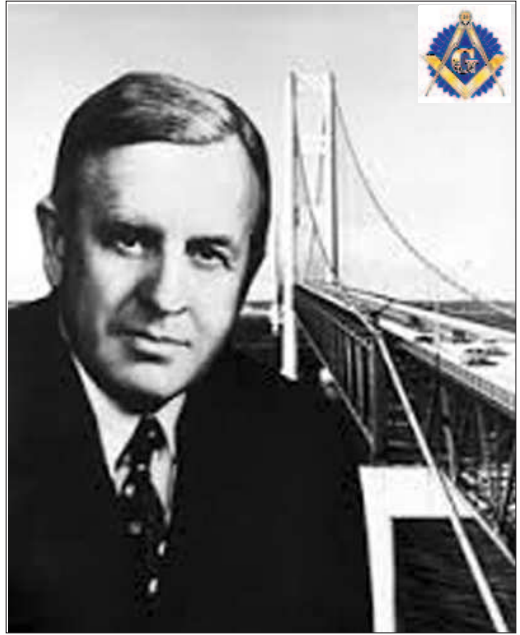
attaching it to two main cables strung between two magnificent towers, so large, that each tower holds an elevator to ascend most of the way to the top.

The Mackinac Bridge Project had many stalwart supports. However the project actually became a reality through the determination of one man—Prentiss Marsh Brown, a member of Saint Ignace Lodge in Michigan—at the time Chairman of the Mackinac Bridge Authority. Brown, a former United States Senator and Chairman of the Board of the Detroit Edison Company, refused to accept defeat when it seemed inevitable. Brother Brown just wouldn't stay licked.

His energetic determination to get the Mackinac Bridge financed is undoubtedly due to the fact that he was born and raised in the midst of a daily realization of the need for the bridge. At 64 years old, Brown spent a lifetime in his old hometown of Saint Ignace, Michigan. He was once a bellhop at the old Astor Hotel on Mackinac Island. Probably the bridge idea would have died completely, if it had not been for an incident that happened to Brown 34 years before.

When Brown was 30 years old and then a lawyer, he was scheduled to appear before the State Supreme Court in Lansing to argue a case.

Brown had to get across the Straits to catch a train at Mackinaw City. However, both of the ferryboats were stuck in the winter ice. He and another hardy voyager, who also had important business on the other side of the Strait, hired a horse and a cutter. They started across the ice. They ran into ice hummocks 10-feet high and had to send the cutter back to Saint Ignace. They proceeded on foot.



Brother Brown and his wonderful bridge.

They ran into 50 acres of open water, like a big pond, and had to circle it. All in all, they hiked four miles across the ice. The wind was blowing up a small gale. It was snowing. By the time they had spent most of the day walking—well, they missed their train.

Brown said in a recollection before his passing, “That bitter hike across the Straits made a lasting impression on me—the need of a bridge across the Straits.

Prentiss Brown never forgot. This is the reason that 20 years earlier Brown became legal counsel for the first Mackinac Bridge Commission, back in 1933 under Governor William Comstock. And Brown worked for love. He would accept no money. He eventually would become chairman of the Mackinac Bridge Authority in 1951, a position he held until his passing. By 1952, it looked like the Reconstruction Finance Corporation would finance the bridge across



Dignitaries pose for a photo on bridge opening day, November 1, 1957. Bro. Brown is 4th from the left. The first postage stamp depicting the bridge, as seen on the right, was issued on June 25, 1958. (USA #1109)

the Straits, whereupon, a New York investment broker offered to organize a private syndicate in October 1952 to do the financing.

Brown tried to float the Mackinac Bridge bonds in March and again in June 1953. Both times he failed. As a matter of fact, it looked like the bridge project would fail, for lack of financing. But Brown refused defeat. The project was revived on the New York bond market in November and ultimately a check for \$98.5 million to finance the Mackinac Bridge was put into Brown's hands. A total of 150 investment brokers underwrote the sale of revenue bonds.

Actually, the deal went through with just 13 days to spare before the offer of State maintenance for the bridge would have expired. In a four-year battle under Brown to get the bridge financed—this was a slim margin to win a victory.

The bridge opened to traffic on November 1, 1957, on schedule, despite the many hazards of marine construction over the turbulent Straits of Mackinac. The last of the Mackinac Bridge bonds were retired July 1, 1986. Fare revenues are now used to operate and maintain the Bridge and repay the State of Michigan for monies advanced to the Authority since the facility opened to traffic in 1957.

The presence of the Mackinac Bridge has made my travel as a Grand Master much easier, due primarily in the vision of Brother Prentiss M. Brown, who made it happen. This same passion to succeed burns within many of us as Freemasons. Thinking men always have a vision—a vision of paths untraveled.

Millions cross the Straits of Mackinac annually on this awe-inspiring bridge. It stands as a witness of one Brother's vision to make a difference, no matter the cost or

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how long the project takes. It is a testament of how one man's efforts can affect millions of people for decades. A bridge over troubled waters is the result of a visionary.

Prentiss Marsh Brown was born in Saint Ignace, Michigan on June 18, 1889, raised a Master Mason in 1913 in Saint Ignace Lodge No. 369, and granted life membership in 1953. His was a full life, being admitted to the bar in 1914, then serving as prosecuting attorney to Mackinac County from 1914 to 1926 and as city attorney of St. Ignace from 1916 to 1928. He was elected from Michigan's 11th Congressional District to the United States House of Representatives for the 73rd Congress and reelected to the 74th Congress, serving from March 1933, until November 1936. He then served in the United States Senate from November 1936 to January 1943. He was chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Claims in the

77th Congress and also a member of the Banking and Currency Committee. In this capacity, he was instrumental in helping Franklin D. Roosevelt achieve desired wage and farm price controls. He passed away on December 19, 1973 in Saint Ignace at the age of 84 and is interred there at Lakeside Cemetery.

About the Author: William E. LeVeque was born in Munising, Michigan in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was raised a Master Mason in 1983 in Grand Island Lodge No. 422 in Munising. He served as WM in 1989, was elected Grand Marshal in 2008 and was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan in May 2014. He has worked for the Munising Public School District for over 32 years. Since becoming a Master Mason and being active across the State of Michigan in all Masonic Bodies, LeVeque has crossed the Mackinac Bridge more than 850 times.



The Mackinac Bridge in a photograph taken from the southern shore of the Lower Peninsula facing St. Ignace. (Credit: Wikipedia – Original uploader was Jeffness at en.wikipedia. Later version(s) were uploaded by Sam at en.Wikipedia.)

Japan's Surrender Press Conference Stamp

When Bro. Truman announced Japan's surrender on August 14, 1945, he held a press conference and photographs were taken. One of the photographs was used for a US postage stamp. From another photo taken of the same group, we are able to identify those with the President. Shown below are the stamp and a photograph "key." In addition to Bro. Truman, three other men are listed as Freemasons according to the Wikipedia "List of Freemasons." They

are: James F. Byrnes, Fred Vinson, and Tom C. Clark. Vinson (#11), however, is not shown on the stamp. Lodges for Vinson and Clark are not listed, but I believe the Wikipedia listing has Masonic sanction (created by a Freemason or Freemasons) and this stamp can therefore be used for Bros. Truman, Byrnes, and Clark in a Masonic collection. (*USA #2981h*)

Source: Group photo and key, Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum



Note: The absence of Fred Vinson (#11) on this stamp is the result of the camera position when the photo was taken. Vinson is directly behind Truman and cannot be seen.



President Harry S Truman (standing at desk) announces the surrender of Japan to the media. The individuals in the photograph are identified as follows (Masons underlined).

1. Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff
2. James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State (Spartan Lodge No. 70, Spartanburg, South Carolina)
3. President Harry Truman (Belton Lodge No. 450, Grandview, Missouri)
4. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State under Franklin Roosevelt
5. Julius Krug, Chairman, War Production Board
6. Leo Crowley, Administrator, Foreign Economics
7. Major General Philip Fleming, Admin. Federal Works Agency
8. William Davis, Director – Economic Administration
9. John Snyder, Director, War Mobilization and Reconversion
10. James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy
11. Fred Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury
12. Tom C. Clark, Attorney General
13. Lewis Schwellenbach, Secretary of Labor
14. John B. Blandford, Administrator, National Housing Agency
15. Robert E. Hannegan, Postmaster General

**Above all,
knowledge is the greatest gift
we can bestow upon
those who will follow us.**



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