



The Masonic Philatelist

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USS Constitution

Bro. Samuel Nicholson – First Commander

The Masonic Philatelist

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Our Back Cover: The wonderful calligraphy seen is by Johann Georg Schwandner who published a book of his works in 1756. The Masonic symbol and portrait of Bro. Washington by Charles Willson Peale was added by your editor using a computer. Such beautiful ornamentation was often included in formal books, and was definitely a part of publishing from the 1700s to the early 1900s. Its purpose was to simply make things more pleasing.

NOTICE: Except in case where the stamp number is part of existing documentation, it will no longer be provided; just the country and year of issue will be shown.

**Our Club now has its own
Internet website**

<<http://www.mscnewyork.net>>

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USS Constitution

Brother Samuel Nicholson – First Commander

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Few of the tall ships in the annals of history have garnered as much fame and notoriety as the *USS Constitution*. She was built for the purpose of protecting American merchant ships during the Quasi War (war fought mostly at sea between the United States of America, Batavian Republic, and Great Britain against France and later Spain) and to defeat the Barbary pirates in the First Barbary War. When she later served in the War of 1812, she proved to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, war ship in the world. Her ability to withstand grueling punishment caused her to be called, *Old Iron Sides*.

Her name was chosen by our illustrious Brother, George Washington, and when her keel was laid, Major General Henry Knox (strongly believed to have been a Freemason) was Secretary of War in charge of the Army and Navy.

Built at a cost of about \$303,000 (\$5.6 million in current US funds), the bolts which fastened her timbers and the copper sheathing affixed to her hull were made by Brother Paul Revere. She carried 44 to 50 (or more) guns and had a crew of 450 to 500 men.

When she was launched in 1797, Brother Samuel Nicholson (1743–1811) was named her first Commander. He was a member of Lodge No. 17, Queenstown, Maryland. Nicholson had been a Captain in the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. He had served as a Lieutenant on the *USS Bonhomme Richard* under Brother John Paul Jones.



Commander Samuel Nicholson



In May 1799 Nicholson was relieved of his command, and the following year he became the first Commandant of the Boston Navy Yard. He remained on active

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duty with the Navy for the remainder of his life. He died at Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1811, and is buried in the crypt of the Old North Church in Boston, Massachusetts. It might be noted that in 1901, the torpedo boat *Nicholson* was named after him.

Old Ironsides carried on in active service until 1828. The rigors of battle and the sea had taken their toll and in that year she was condemned as unseaworthy. Two years later, when a newspaper reported that the ship was to be “broken up,” the poet Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote and published the following poem:

Old Ironsides

By

Oliver Wendell Holmes

September 16, 1830

Ay, tear her tattered ensign down!
Long has it waved on high,
And many an eye has danced to see
That banner in the sky;
Beneath it rung the battle shout,
And burst the cannon's roar;—

The meteor of the ocean air
Shall sweep the clouds no more.
Her deck, once red with heroes' blood,
Where knelt the vanquished foe,
When winds were hurrying o'er the flood,
And waves were white below,
No more shall feel the victor's tread,
Or know the conquered knee;—
The harpies of the shore shall pluck
The eagle of the sea!

Oh, better that her shattered bulk
Should sink beneath the wave;
Her thunders shook the mighty deep,
And there should be her grave;
Nail to the mast her holy flag,
Set every threadbare sail,
And give her to the god of storms,
The lightning and the gale!

The poem so aroused public sentiment that the great lady was pardoned from certain destruction, and she remains to this day as a prized possession of the people. After the ship had been restored, Henry Knox Lodge of Massachusetts was constituted onboard (March 17, 1926). (*USA #951, 4703*)



This is the latest (2012) US stamp showing the USS Constitution. It is from a painting by Michele Felice Corné (1752–1845). We see the grand ship broadside in full sail during the War of 1812 with smoke coming from a cannon or cannons. I will assume the ship has momentarily headed into the wind, otherwise I have a problem with the direction in which the flags are flying. However, we will forgive Corné if need be because it is believed he introduced the tomato into the American diet.

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Message from your President and Editor

Philately has two primary aspects: collection and reflection. The first aspect is simply the collecting of art prints. They may be very small, but size is relative. Just like regular art prints, the fewer there are then the more desirable (and costly).

The second aspect is far more complex. Here the little print becomes a massive statement representing volumes of knowledge in every discipline of human endeavor. A depiction of George Washington or Benjamin Franklin calls up not only the personal lives of each but every aspect of the American Revolution.

Of course, it is this second aspect that results in research and subsequent knowledge. How often have you looked at an unfamiliar stamp and wondered to yourself about the story of whom or what is seen? Naturally, we all “come to the table” with considerable (although varied) education and can immediately recall some facts. However, only in very specialized cases is this “resident” knowledge much more than a fraction of the total story.

We are quite fortunate in this day because knowledge on essentially any subject can be found on the Internet. My massive library of some 1,000 books, including encyclopedias, eventually gathered dust and were disposed. Of course, I kept those containing specific knowledge or had a rarity aspect. The knowledge contained on the Internet is now many times greater than that of any individual since the beginning of time.

Although I still derive some pleasure from owning stamps, by far my greatest pleasure is in researching them and writing about them.

Now, on the subject of writing, you have likely noticed that material I have presented over the past two years goes far beyond the simple examination of a stamp and what

might be termed “generic” information when it comes to Masonic aspects.

This was a conscious decision made in conjunction with Bro. Michael Bronner. I had certainly gone this route in articles for the MP in previous years when Bro. Allan Boudreau worked with me.

Although I try to stay away from being highly opinionated, I do have an issue with individuals who are not Freemasons, but take it upon themselves to write about the Order with “authority.” Such individuals have always been there, however, things have changed and they now have massive exposure with the Internet and television.

This edition of *The Masonic Philatelist* marks the end of the first full year that I have been your editor/publisher. I extend my thanks to Bro. Michael Bronner and Joyce Boudreau-Ruso for their strong support, encouragement, and great editing in the production of our publication.

I also need to mention that this edition of *The Masonic Philatelist* is the last edition under our previous Club policy. If you wish to continue receiving a professionally printed copy of our quarterly, please refer to page 3 of our last (September 2015) edition. In summary, you need to provide \$50 US funds by January 1, 2016.

*My best for Christmas
and the
New Year*

Christopher L. Murphy, BF
President/Editor

Origin of the Penny Postage

John A. Mirt
(November 1948)

Perhaps this story has been told in postage histories, but the following account is taken from the April 1852 issue of *Masonic Journal*. It indicates Masons were interested in the subject 96 years ago.

A traveller sauntering through the lake district of England, some years ago, arrived at a small public house just as the postman stopped to deliver a letter. A young girl came out to receive it. She took it in her hand, turned it over and over and asked the charge. It was a large sum—no less than a shilling.

Sighing heavily, she observed that it came from her brother, but that she was too poor to take it in, and she returned it to the postman accordingly.

The traveler was a man of kindness as well as of observation. He offered to pay the postage himself, and in spite of more reluctance on the girl's part than he could well understand, he did pay it, and gave her the letter. No sooner however, was the postman's back turned than she confessed that the proceeding had been concerted between her brother and herself, that the letter was empty, that certain signs on the directions conveyed all that she wanted to know, and that, as neither of them could afford to pay postage, they had devised this method of franking the intelligence desired.

The traveler pursued his journey and, as he plodded over the Cumberland falls, he mused upon the badness of a system which drove people to such straits for means of correspondence, and which defeated its own objects all of the time. With most men such musing would have ended before the close of the hour, but this man's name was ROWLAND HILL and it was from this incident and these reflections that the whole scheme of penny postage was derived. (MP Vol. 5, No. 4: November 1948) (*GB #1*)

Editor's Comment: This process of "franking" even carried over to the telephone with long-distant collect calls. One merely did not accept the call after being told who the caller was, and where he or she was calling from. One automatically knew the caller was fine and where he or she was. As the old saying goes, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Furthermore, although Rowland Hill was not a Freemason, his famous stamp was engraved by American-born, Jacob Perkins, a member of St. Peter's Lodge, Newburyport, Massachusetts. He was also a Knights Templar, Newburyport Commandery.



Our First Club President

One of our Club founders and its first president was Bro. Arthur W. Deas, a numismatist and at one time president of the New York Numismatic Club. This Club was founded in 1908. At this point, I have not been able to find a biography for Bro. Deas, but hope such will come to light as we move forward. In 1941, the New York Numismatic Club (NYNC) issued a medallion showing the likeness of Bro. Deas, as provided here. It was struck in both silver and nickel, and later in bronze. Brother Deas was called from labor in December 1950 as shown below.



Arthur W. Deas Dies

ARTHUR W. DEAS, well known collector of New York, N. Y., died on Sunday, December 3, 1950, at St. Francis Hospital in New York, following amputation of his leg in an operation the preceding Friday. Mr. Deas had been in poor health for some time.

Mr. Deas was president of the Collectors Club for several years, and had also been secretary, vice-president, and governor of that organization at various times. He was also president for several years of the **Masonic Stamp Club**, and had been active many years in Masonic affairs. He was a member of the A.P.S., S.P.A., B.I.A., the Westchester Stamp Club, and the Association for Stamp Exhibitions.

Besides stamp collecting he was actively interested in coin collecting, and was president for a number of years of the New York Numismatic Society, and a member of the American Numismatic Association.

Mr. Deas is survived by his widow, Mrs. Anna Deas, three sons, two daughters, and a sister.

--STAMPS

Medallion Statistics

Mint: New York City
Obverse: ARTHUR W. DEAS: Bust facing right
Reverse: NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB ORGANIZED 1908: Male half figure, body facing, head to r.; holding torch in r. hand and coin in l. hand; ancient buildings/ruins in background.
Diameter: 38.0
Weight: 26.9459
Reference: NYNC *Centennial History*, p.178.

How “Masonic” is the Washington Monument?

The fact that George Washington was a Freemason and that the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid in a Masonic ceremony, definitely give the monument Masonic significance. However, the fact that George Washington happened to be a Freemason and Masonic cornerstone layings were very common at the time has to be considered.

Nevertheless, two other marginal factors also enter the equation. The measurements of the structure and grounds correspond to a measurement system used by medieval stone masons. In other words, when this system is applied, all of the measurements come out in more reasonable numbers. For example, rather than something like 55 feet, 1.5 inches, we get exactly 55 measures (or whatever) under the system used. Furthermore, the monument is set in the center of a circle, which has Masonic significance.

As to the measurements, there is nothing to tie-in the system used with Freemasonry. As to the circle, it could be considered a “natural” for this type of structure.



The main question that must be answered is why on earth was an obelisk selected for the design of the monument? One does not have to wander very far to get an answer to this question—just go to your local cemetery. An obelisk is a symbol of the resurrection in both Christianity and Freemasonry and will be found on many graves. Freemasons actually go another step. If the initials “M.B.” are seen on an obelisk, this references the death and burial of Hiram Abiff, whom every Freemason represents.

Although it was recommended by John Marshal (a Freemason) that the monument contain the tomb of George Washington, the Washington family was reluctant to move the body (Washington had been buried fewer than ten days earlier).

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Whatever the case (tomb or no tomb) if quite a few of those involved in the monument project were Freemasons, then an obelisk would have been high on the list for the design of the structure. I suppose the objections would have been that an obelisk is very plain, and the reply was probably, “not if you make it 555 feet tall. Few would argue this point.

There is one other unusual incident in the construction of the monument that deserves mention. In the early 1850s, Pope Pius IX contributed a block of marble. It is believed that in March 1854, members of the anti-Catholic, nativist American Party—better known as the “Know-Nothings”—stole the “Pope’s stone” as a protest and supposedly threw it into the Potomac River (it was replaced in 1982). What we can glean from this is

that the Pope evidently had no problem with contributing to the construction of an obelisk. Those who believe such is a pagan structure might take note of this.

Although this is a good explanation for the missing stone, I have always wondered if the stone might have been taken by misguided Freemasons who did not want any Roman Catholic content in what they considered a Masonic structure. Keep in mind that back in those days there was considerable animosity between the Masonic Order and the Catholic Church.

We now come to our title question, “How Masonic is the Washington Monument?” In my opinion, the selection of an obelisk was highly Masonic in nature. Indeed, I don’t think we would have anything near that unique and impressive (if anything at all) without Masonic involvement. I think we can all be proud of our early brethren for making the monument a reality.



Setting the aluminum apex on the Washington Monument. At that time, aluminum was valued at about the same price as silver.



Please Remember ~

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York is a non-profit organization. This means we cannot market publications or anything else for a profit. We must depend solely on /donations to provide this quarterly.

The Strength and Style of Our Navy Tradition by John F. Kennedy

Aside: I found this article by the late President John F. Kennedy in the August 10, 1962 edition of Life magazine. It sheds some light on our distinguished brother Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Selections of artwork in Roosevelt's personal collection provided in the original article have not been included here as they are too extensive. Ed.

As a president who shares Franklin Roosevelt's lifetime affection for the Navy, I read with special interest a story a year ago discussing F.D.R.'s collection of naval art. The article described it as "the world's largest known collection of American naval prints and paintings." Roosevelt had bequeathed it to the nation, along with his Hyde Park house and his personal papers, and the prints, according to the story, were presently stored in the Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park.

Inquiring further into the matter, I discovered that, while individual items from the Roosevelt collection had been on display there had never been an exhibit exclusively devoted to the collection itself. Accordingly I asked Dr. Wayne Grover, the archivist of the United States, to arrange a showing of the best of Roosevelt's naval prints. Franklin Roosevelt's friend, Professor and Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, and my own friend, the artist William Walton, helped make the selection. The exhibit is now on display at the National Archives, near the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and will be there till the end of the year. Then it will go on tour to various cities in the United States and perhaps to some abroad.

While the exhibit was in course of preparation, I tried to find out about Roosevelt's collecting habits. Everyone knows, of course about his stamp collection, and everyone knows too about his

interest in the sea. But I discovered that most people are as unaware as I had been of the fact that Roosevelt spent much more time and money on what he used to call "the Navy collection" than he did on his collection of stamps. And I was particularly curious to learn how he ever managed to pay attention to his collections in the midst of the demands and pressures of the presidency.

It is evident that Roosevelt was a born collector. He began his stamp collection at the age of 8; he was buying books at auctions at the age of 9; and, when he went to Harvard, what he later called his "bad habit of acquisitiveness" was well developed. As an undergraduate, he used to browse among the second-hand bookshops along the Cornhill of Boston. His letters to his mother when he went on a European honeymoon in 1905 tell of visits to bookshops along the Seine and in London. This habit persisted through most of his life. I was interested to discover that in February 1933, a few weeks before he became President at the bottom of the worst depression of our history, he found time to visit the Old Print Shop in New York City and spent an hour looking around and chatting with the proprietor.

His early collecting efforts amounted, in his words, to "a very conglomerate, hit-or-miss, all-over-the-place collection on every man, animal, subject or material." But in due course he began to specialize.

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There is no caption shown for this photograph in the article. However, we can see a young looking FDR enjoying model sailboats. It's amusing that we see him with a smoking pipe rather than his customary cigarette in a holder.

From boyhood he had kept his eyes open for materials relating to the sea and ships—not only prints and paintings but books, pamphlets, manuscripts, ship models and even sheet music. In 1925 he decided to narrow his marine collection to the history of the Navy. In that year he disposed of the other items at auctions in New York.

Though a man of means, Roosevelt built his collection by wary and intelligent choice rather than by laying out great sums of money. He rarely paid very much for any

of his pieces. Before his polio, he haunted shops and auctions in the search for good buys. Thereafter he pored over dealers' catalogues with care. Often he noted in the margin "I have this" (his knowledge of his collections, though they contained thousand of items was remarkably detailed and accurate) or queried the dealer's opinion of the value of the item. When he marked items favorably, his devoted friend Louis Howe would then be summoned to act as his agent in completing the purchase. A

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system of jottings in the catalogue would tell Howe how far he could go at the auctions: thus “up to \$135 or “on single check marks don’t go over bid.”

Much of his collection was bought at relatively low prices and today would command a good deal more on the market. In the summer of 1933, for example, during the first year of his presidency, he received a letter from a Virginian offering to sell him two prints of the naval war with Tripoli. Roosevelt returned the letter with “How much?” scrawled at the top. The owner asked \$100 each: Roosevelt finally got both for \$150. There were two Charles Denoon prints, exceedingly rare, and now worth several thousand dollars each.

Like all collectors, Roosevelt loved bargains; and like all collectors he was sometimes deceived. For many happy years he thought he owned the original portrait of John Paul Jones painted by Jean Michel Moreau in 1781. Then he sent it out from the White House one day to be cleaned—and discovered that it was only a copy dating from the 1890s.

The collection inevitably overflowed the various houses in which Roosevelt lived. Naval prints covered every available inch of the wall in the entrance hall of his old house at Hyde Park. He had many with him in the White House, some stored in large blue cases in the back halls. In the oval presidential office, however, he hung only prints and paintings showing views of the Hudson between New York and Albany—another area of his collector’s

specializations. Some have supposed that he did not want to embarrass visiting foreign dignitaries by confronting them with representations of U.S. naval victories. I have been less punctilious in this respect in my office, and can report that even Prime Minister Macmillan has observed pictures of the U.S.S. Constitution in victory without a quiver.

The president bought very little after 1939. “I have no more wall space,” he once told his secretary. Also prices were going up, and Roosevelt felt that he could not afford even items he wanted. On one occasion a secretary, in declining an offer, explained that the President was “feeling the pinch of poverty today.”

The mystery remains how Roosevelt could have found time to continue his collections and to do all the other things he did. I can only ascribe it to impressive personal habits of discipline and purpose—to this, and to the fact that his collections offered him unique relaxation from the burdens and tensions of the presidential office. (He did not have young children roaming around the White House.)

“The Old Navy” is thus evidence of the collecting passion of an extraordinary President. But it is much more than this. It is, as Roosevelt intended it should be, a reminder of the strength and style of our naval tradition—the tradition of daring and devotion which has sustained our Navy in war and which makes it today a mainstay of peace in a troubled world.

—0—

Comment: Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945) was the most beloved US President of the 20th Century. The problems he faced and resolved were the most complex in the history of the USA, and indeed the world. His membership in the Masonic Order is a great source of pride to all Freemasons.

The Masonic Specialist

BELCHER, JONATHAN (1681–1757); colonial governor of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New Jersey (concurrently); sparked the financing and construction of Nassau Hall; received his Masonic degrees in a Guild Lodge in England.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1083

Year: 1956

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Nassau Hall Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: From an engraving by
Henry Dawkins



Design: Nassau Hall, Princeton, New Jersey

Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp commemorated the 200th anniversary of the completion of Nassau Hall, the oldest building of Princeton University. The hall is named after William of Nassau or King William III of England. However, the building was originally to be named after Jonathan Belcher but he wished it to be called by its present name.

Additional Masonic Information: Belcher is claimed by some historians to have been the first native born American to become a Freemason. He was born in Boston and as a young man traveled to England where he was made a Master Mason in an old Guild Lodge in 1704. He is also reported as being a member of the craft in Nova Scotia during those early days. Later, he affiliated with St. John's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. When the trustees of Princeton University asked to name their new hall after Belcher, they stated: "When your Excellency is translated to a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens, let Belcher Hall proclaim your beneficent acts." However, as stated, Belcher refused this honor.

When Belcher retired in 1741, the lodges of Boston thanked him for the many favors he bestowed upon Freemasonry. In reply Belcher wrote to the lodges the following which further attests to his Masonic membership: "It is now thirty-seven years since I was admitted into the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, to whom I have been a faithful Brother and well-wisher to the art of Masonry."

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BELL, JOHN (1797–1869); U.S. politician; secretary of war; senator from Tennessee; speaker of the House of Representatives, 23rd Congress; one of the founders of the Whig Party; King Solomon Lodge No. 6, Gallatin, Tennessee.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 992

Year: 1950

Type: Commemorative

Issue: National Capital Sesquicentennial
Issue

Designer: R. L. Miller

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: United States Capitol



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 572

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp 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: Bell may also have been a member of Nashville Lodge No. 37, Nashville, Tennessee. In fact, this lodge may have been his mother lodge. Furthermore, he was a Royal Arch Mason.

BELLAMY, FRANCIS J. (1855–1931); Baptist Church minister and writer; author of the American *Pledge of Allegiance* to the Flag; Little Falls Lodge No. 181, Little Falls, New York.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1596

Year: 1975

Type: Regular Issue

Issue: Not applicable

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class III

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Eagle and shield



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 1153, 2594

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Stamp Facts: One part of Bellamy's pledge is shown on the primary stamp. However, the part shown, "One Nation indivisible," is the part in Bellamy's original version of the pledge. This part was changed by congressional action in 1954 to read: "One Nation under God indivisible." The addition of the words "under God" was very inspirational. Why they are omitted on the postage stamp is puzzling.

The secondary stamp No. 2594 shows the first three words of Bellamy's pledge. The United States Postal Service folder which contains these stamps shows the following information:

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag is 100 years old in 1992. It first appeared September 8, 1892 in *The Youths Companion*, and it is generally held that it was written by Francis Bellamy, an assistant editor. Revised in 1924, the pledge was officially adopted by the United States in 1942.

The revision the Postal Service is referring to was the revision to the first line of the pledge. Bellamy's original line read: "I pledge allegiance to my flag." In 1924 Congress changed this line to read: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America."

Additional Masonic Information: The Order of the Eastern Star erected a memorial tablet to Bellamy in 1955. The tablet was placed at the O.E.S. Home in Oriskany, New York.

BENDER, CHARLES A. (1884–1954); baseball player; member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; Robert A. Lamberton Lodge No. 487, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1381
Year: 1969
Type: Commemorative
Issue: Professional Baseball issue
Designer: Alex Ross
MP Class: Class IV
Artwork: Not applicable
Design: Batter



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 855

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Plaque reads:

CHARLES ALBERT BENDER
"CHIEF"
PHILADELPHIA A.L. 1903-1914
PHILADELPHIA A. L. 1916-1917
CHICAGO A.L. 1923
FAMOUS CHIPPEWA INDIAN WON OVER 200
GAMES. PITCHED FOR ATHLETICS IN 1905,
1910 1911-1913, 1914 WORLD SERIES.
DEFEATED N.Y. GIANTS 3-0 FOR A'S ONLY VIC-
TORY IN 1905. FIRST PITCHER IN WORLD
SERIES OF 6 GAMES (1911) TO PITCH 3 COM-
PLETE GAMES. PITCHED NO HIT GAME
AGAINST CLEVELAND IN 1910. HIGHEST A.L.
PERCENTAGES IN 1910, 1911, 1914

Bender's Hall of Fame plaque. In his day, "doctoring" the ball was allowed. His specialty was the "talcum ball" by which he would rub the ball with talcum powder to make it smooth. This process, he claimed, gave the ball a sharp drop.

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp marked the 100th anniversary of baseball as it relates to salaried players. The Red Stockings of Cincinnati (later Cincinnati Reds) became the first team to pay team members (1869). The secondary stamp (No. 855) commemorated the centenary (1839-1939) of the game of baseball itself.

Additional Masonic Information: No further information.

BENNETT, CHARLES R. (1811-1855); mule hostler; co-discoverer of gold in California; Salem Lodge No. 4, Salem, Oregon.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 954

Year: 1948

Type: Commemorative

Issue: California Gold Centennial Issue

Designer: Charles R. Chickering

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Sutter's Mill, Coloma, California



Secondary Stamp(s): None

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Stamp Facts: A close examination of the primary stamp will reveal two men standing to the left of the large trees on the right hand portion of the stamp. It is probable these men are Charles R. Bennett and James W. Marshall. Bennett was hired by John Sutter, the land owner, to assist Marshall in the construction of a Mill at Coloma. Bennett was present when Marshall picked up the piece of gold which started the California gold rush. Another worker, by the name of Stephen Staat, says Bennett picked up the gold first, not Marshall. As a matter of fact, Bennett had been out to the same area (American River) three years earlier (1845) with General Fremont. Bennett found a small nugget, which he showed to Fremont, but he paid little attention to the incident, not realizing its significance.



Primary stamp detail showing the two men. We would assume that the “moment” depicted on the stamp was the exact moment when gold was discovered.

Additional Masonic Information: Bennett was the first candidate to be initiated in Salem Lodge No. 4. He was killed in the Yakima Indian War at Walla Walla in 1855. His body was returned to Salem where it was interred with Masonic honors by his lodge.

BENNETT, RICHARD BEDFORD (1870–1947); lawyer; Canadian prime minister (1930–1935); Miramichi Lodge No. 18, Chatham, New Brunswick.

Primary Stamp: Canada No. 357

Year: 1955

Type: Regular Issue

Issue: Prime Ministers issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Richard Bedford Bennett



Secondary Stamp(s): CDN No. 590

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Stamp Facts: Richard Bennett was prime minister of Canada during the depression years (1930–1935). To combat the depression, he established work camps for the young and proposed a system of unemployment insurance. While the unemployment system was not implemented during his term, it helped pave the way for future action.

Additional Masonic Information: On April 14, 1910, Bennett affiliated with Ashlar Lodge No. 28, Calgary, Alberta.

BENT, CHARLES (1799–1847); American pioneer; first American governor of New Mexico territory; first American to occupy the Palace of the Governors after New Mexico was formed into a territory; Missouri Lodge No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri.

Primary Stamp: USA No.1031A

Year: 1960

Type: Regular Issue

Issue: Liberty Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe,
New Mexico



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 944

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp shows The Palace of the Governors, which was an adobe structure erected by Governor Pedro de Peralta in 1610 as part of a Spanish fortress.

The secondary stamp (No. 944) also shows the same building. Known as the "Santa Fe Stamp," it commemorated the 100th anniversary of the march of General Stephen W. Kearny's "Army of the West" from Fort Leavenworth to New Mexico. The stamp is after a painting by Kenneth M. Chapman.

Chapman's painting is inaccurate. It is highly evident he did not know what the Palace of the Governors looked like. The building in his painting has what might be considered Gothic columns instead of vertical wooden beams. Also, Chapman fails to show the horizontal beams that extend out of the building—characteristic of adobe architecture. A comparison between the primary and secondary stamp will show these striking differences. Historical reference pictures confirm that the building shown on the primary stamp is a good likeness of the palace.

The Masonic Philatelist

Additional Masonic Information: Charles Bent was initiated into Freemasonry on June 8, 1822. His father, Silas Bent, a noted Missouri jurist, was also a Mason. Charles was closely associated with Bro. Christopher (Kit) Carson. Bent Lodge No. 42, Taos, New Mexico was named after Charles Bent.



Actual photograph of the Palace of the Governors. (Wikipedia exclusive photo by Einar Einarsson Kvaran, GFDL).

The outstanding Brother shown on this stamp is Dr. Edward Jenner (1749–1823) an English physician and scientist. He pioneered the smallpox vaccine, the world's first vaccine. He is often called "the father of immunology," and his work is said to have saved more lives than the work of any other human. Jenner observed that milkmaids who had cowpox did not get smallpox, which led him to discover a vaccination for this dreaded disease. He was a member and master of Royal Faith and Friendship Lodge No. 270, Berkeley, England. (GB, Issued 2010)



The Masonic Philatelist

Brother Narciso López and His Enduring Battle Banner

The first stamp seen here shows Brother Narciso López (1797–1851), a Venezuelan adventurer and soldier, best known for an expedition aimed at liberating Cuba from Spain in the 1850s. His troops carried a flag (as seen below) that López had designed, which later became the flag of modern Cuba.

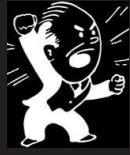


Bro. Lopez was a member of Lodge Estrella Solitaria del Oriente de Louisiana, and he drew upon his Masonic knowledge in providing the symbolism of an equilateral triangle and five-pointed star.

The second and third stamps shown commemorate the centenary of the adoption of the flag Bro Lopez created (1850–1950). He was executed by the Spanish in 1851, but his banner lives on and adorns numerous postage stamps issued by the Republic of Cuba. (*Cuba* #459, 460, 461)



A photograph of Bro. Lopez, obviously taken in or before 1851. It would be among the earliest photographs of a Freemason. The earliest known photograph of a person was taken in 1838, so it would be interesting to know exactly when Bro. Lopez sat for this portrait.



Murphy's

STAMP RANT

Errors, Oddities & Oversights
USA & CANADA

Book Two: Design Curiosities – Part 4

HANDS HISTORY

The act of joining one's hands in an apex is commonly accepted to symbolize prayer. *The Praying Hands* artwork shown on this stamp is from a work by Albrecht Durer (1471–1528), a German painter and engraver. There is no mention of the praying act, however, anywhere in the Bible.



The earliest time for which the act can be traced to symbolize prayer is the ninth century. Religious historians state that the act stemmed from the shackling of prisoner's hands together which, of course, meant total submission. The symbolic gesture, therefore, implies man's submission to his creator. After the ninth century, the Christian Church offered that the hands represented the pointed steeple on a church. (CDN #451)

HEALTH QUESTIONS

The model who posed for this postage stamp was the first living person, other than royalty, to be shown on a Canadian postage stamp. To your author's knowledge, she has never been identified. As she undoubtedly signed a non-disclosure agreement, it is doubtful we will ever know her identity. We might also muse as to how an old fashioned flame-lamp can shine downward. (CDN #380)



INAUGURATION INFORMATION

Design and other aspects of this stamp are highly interesting. Amos Doolittle (1754–1832) created an engraving of Washington's first inauguration. Alonzo Chappel (1828–1887), used Doolittle's engraving as a model for his painting entitled, *Washington's First Inauguration*. Chappel's painting, however, does not have the ornate iron railing shown in the foreground of the stamp design.



Another painting by Keith Shaw Williams (1906–1951) entitled *Inauguration of George Washington at Federal Hall, New York City, 1789*, shows the same event but with the iron railing. It appears the stamp designers used both paintings for the stamp design. As to the existence of the railing in reality, it does seem there was one, however, it was probably somewhat different. A work entitled *The Pictorial History of the U.S.A.* by Neil Wenborn (1991) has a picture of an old engraving of Washington's inauguration. The picture shows the railing, but rather than a series of iron circles and scrolls on the upper portion, it has a solid band. The rest of the ornamentation, although similar in substance, is nowhere near as delicate as that shown on the stamp.

The stamp was petitioned by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. It was approved for issue in 1939 when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president of the United States. Roosevelt



Enlargement of the stamp detail showing central figures.

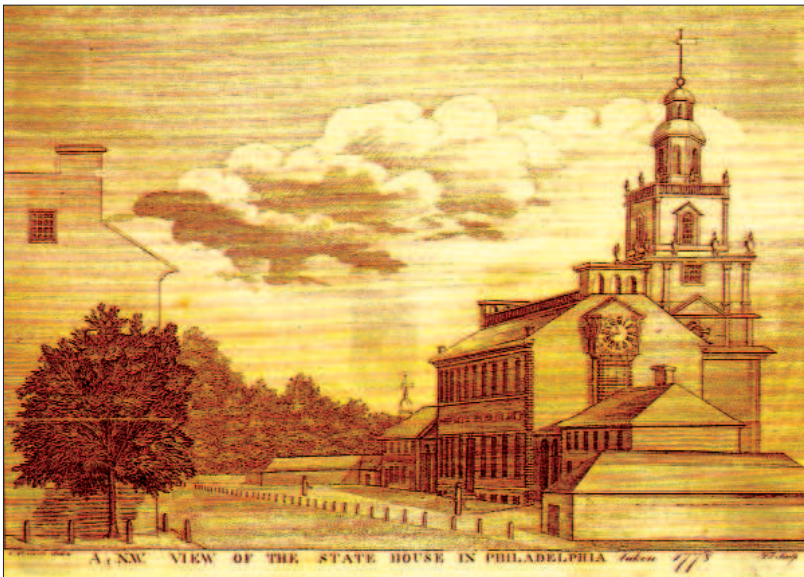
was a Freemason, an avid stamp collector, and Masonic Stamp Club member. The stamp has yet other strong Masonic connections. George Washington was a Freemason and so were six other individuals who can be identified on the stamp. Moreover, the Bible upon which Washington is taking his oath belongs to a Masonic Lodge, (St. John's Lodge No. 1, New York City). (USA #854)

INDEPENDENCE MISCONCEPTION

Design of this stamp is noteworthy. Rather than the east view of Independence Hall we normally see, the hall is portrayed from the west. As a result, one might have second thoughts as to the building depicted. Evidently, the stamp designer, Frank P. Conley, reasoned that there were enough stamps showing the hall from the east. As most photographs of the building are taken from the east (seen on the second stamp issued in 1987) one would normally assume that this view is of the front of the building.

Given this assumption, then we may conclude that Conley has depicted the back of the building. This conclusion, however, is incorrect. The west view (Conley's view) is the actual front of the building. Remarkable, when a direct frontal drawing is made of this view, the quaint little building (by today's standards) takes on the appearance of a massive institution of some type. The following is a drawing of the building (north/west view) published in 1787.

(USA #2337, 1546)



KNEELING NOTIONS

The top stamp showing George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge, presents a few problems. We see that Washington's sword is slanting forward. It is much more likely that his sword would have slanted backward when he knelt. We note that this is the case with the first stamp released (lower stamp) showing Washington in prayer. Then again, it might be argued that Washington would not have worn his sword at all in the act of praying.



There is also a discrepancy as to the knee on which Washington is kneeling. The top stamp shows the right knee, the second stamp shows the left knee. Which knee is probably correct? As Washington is wearing his sword on the left side, this fact indicates that he was right-handed. A right-handed man would probably kneel on his right knee. The stamp details are shown below. We might also note Washington's hands in light of what was discussed on page 21. I am not sure how the Church would rationalize this. (*USA #1729, 645*)



LIVING PROOF

Shown on this stamp is the first identifiable living person to be depicted on a U.S. postage stamp. The design was based on an actual photograph taken in 1888. The scene is one of the farms owned by the Amenia and Sharon Land Company. The man with the four-horse team in the foreground is Evan A. Nybakken (d. 1934). Just as the photograph was clicked, a gust of wind caused Nybakken to lift his arm to hold his hat as shown in the following stamp detail enlargement. (USA #286)



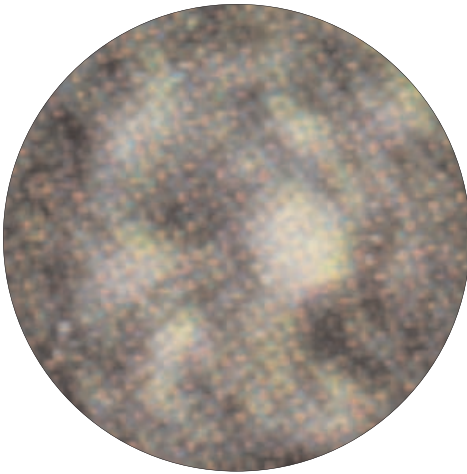
MENACING MONARCH

A coin in the background of this stamp appears to show the image of King George III, the most hated British monarch in American history. It was the policies of George III that caused so much financial burden in the colonies and sparked the American Revolution. Haym Salomon, the subject on the stamp, was a wealthy merchant who financed the



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American cause. When Salomon died, he was virtually penniless. The following illustrations show the coin on the stamp (left, greatly enlarged) and a British bank token of 1814. By comparing the image on the stamp coin to that of King George III on the actual coin, considerable similarity is seen. The coin has been over-stamped across the king's neck and face with the word BRIDGEN (probably a town) and below this a new denomination of \$5. This practice was common place in early America because of the shortage of domestic coins. (USA #1561)



MIRROR IMAGE

Dennis Burton of Toronto, Ontario, designed this stamp. As there is no known portrait of, Henry Kelsey, the stamp subject, Burton had to use his imagination as to what the explorer might have looked like.



There are claims that Burton used a mirror and to some extent, made the features to his own likeness. Also, there are claims that Burton's initials "DB" can be seen arranged in the fringes of Kelsey's buckskin jacket. Whatever the case, Kelsey's hard "squint" is curious as the sun appears to be setting (or rising) behind him. Then again, people often squint when they look into a mirror. (CDN #512)

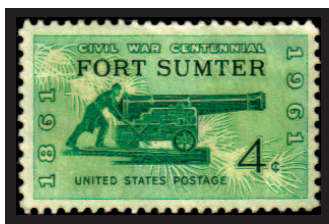
MIX AND MATCH

Canada issued this postage stamp to show the importance of farm products and farm activities. The stamp, however, has additional significance—it is probably one of the world's best examples of “mix and match.” The scene is actually a composite of four photographs. The farmhouse is from a picture taken in Eastern Ontario; the barn from Western Ontario; the silo from central Ontario; and the ploughman and horses from Quebec. (USA #268)



MIXED MEDIA

Flashes in the background of this 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 American Civil War. (USA #1178)



NAVY NONSENSE

This U.S. Navy issue commemorative stamp shows the likeness of three esteemed admirals, Sampson, Dewey and Schley. Below the images of the admirals is a view of the sea with, as the official stamp description states, “vessels in the distance.” A close look at these vessels reveals that one is a very small pleasure sailing craft and the other looks somewhat like an ocean liner. Whatever the case, neither vessel is a Navy ship and both are therefore highly inappropriate for the stamp design. The vessels are seen in the following stamp detail enlargements. (USA #793)



NEWFOUNDLAND'S "CARIBOOSE"

According to the noted author Robinson Lowe, the animal shown on this stamp and eleven other stamps in Newfoundland's “Trail of the Caribou” issue does not exist. We are told a local artist, J. H. Noonan, submitted two sketches for the stamp, one showing a Canadian moose, the other a caribou. The sketches were sent to Whitehead, Morris & Company Limited in London, England for preparation of stamp proofs. It appears this company prepared a composite image of both animals which was accepted.



The unusual 12-stamp series commemorated the services of the Newfoundland contingent in World War I. A caribou head was the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Eight of the stamps show a specific location of war time army engagements. These

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stamps show the words “Trail of the Caribou” in a ribbon under the caribou head. Four of the stamps show the word UBIQUE. This word means “everywhere,” thereby commemorating the services of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. On these stamps (one illustrated on the right), the words Royal Naval Reserve are shown in the ribbon.

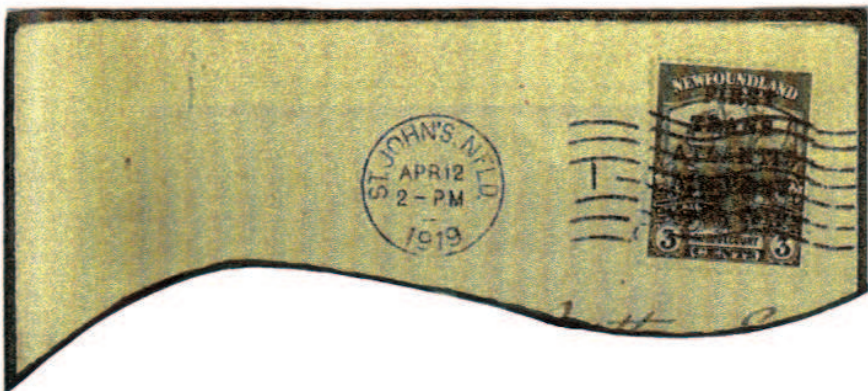


If the original intent of the stamps was to honor the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (caribou insignia), we can only wonder why Noonan confused the issue by submitting sketches of both a moose and a caribou.

Nevertheless, stamps in the series were overprinted as seen here to commemorate Newfoundland's first transatlantic air post planned for April 1919. However, the first plane to get off the ground and stay in the air was that of the Hawker flight which left on May 18, 1919.



Unfortunately, the plane crashed into the sea west of the Azores. The crew was rescued by a Danish ship. The plane and mail were salvaged on May 23, 1919, by an American vessel. The waterlogged mail was dried and the stamps (which had floated off) were placed back on the envelopes (not necessarily the correct envelopes). This all accomplished, the mail was delivered by more conventional means. The following illustration shows a stamp on a rescued letter, (note the registration of the cancellation lines on the stamp and envelope).



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Twenty-one years later (1930) the Cariboose again took to the air. This time, the stamp was overprinted for the Columbia flight, shown here, which took place on September 25, 1930.

With this issue, the reign of the Cariboose ended. The following enlargement shows the fabulous beast in all its unglory. (NFD #118, 119, C1, C5)



NEWFOUNDLAND PIRACY

In 1897, Newfoundland issued a postage stamp in its *Discovery of Newfoundland* series that shows the *Matthew*, John Cabot's ship. Resemblance of this ship to the Santa Maria on USA #232 (1893) is not coincidental—the Newfoundland design is from the same Spanish engraving! This is probably the most classical example of stamp design piracy in postage stamp history. Stealing the ship is one thing, but renaming it for a different explorer is quite another. Ironically, the Newfoundland stamp was printed by the American Bank Note Company, New York. One further point, the ship design shows the old artistic problem of flags flying against the wind. (NFD #68)



NURSING KNOCKS

This “nursing” stamp is highly unappealing. The size of the denomination and its positioning right above the nurse's head detracts from the theme. One might also note the size of the nurse's shoulders. As to the nurse herself, one would not think that a model would be needed for such a simple rendering. Nevertheless, two women have been associated with the stamp design. Kathy Sprague claims she was selected as the model by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing while she was a student nurse at the Capital School of Nursing in Washington D.C. However, the stamp designer himself, Alfred Charles Parker, states that Mrs. Susan Bernstein, a model, was employed for the design. He informs that her facial features were altered to eliminate positive identification with a living person. (*USA #1190*)



OPTICAL ILLUSION

The assortment of photographic equipment shown on this stamp does not appear balanced with the inclusion of the color filters. One would think the old camera and light bulb surely predated color photography. We make this assumption because to most of us color photography was not a reality until the late 1950s. However, the first demonstration of color photography took place in 1861. Unfortunately, it took nearly 100 years to get the process into the hands of the general public. (*USA #1758*)



**Foreign Masonic-related Stamps that Parallel
USA & Canadian Designs/Themes**

Class II: LINDBERG, Charles A (1902–1974): Pilot who made first solo flight across the Atlantic; we see his plane above an airfield in Paris, France. We have to contend that his image is from a formal photograph as he is wearing a tie. Whatever the case, it is a nice presentation; far more appealing than a simple “head and shoulders.” (*Central African Republic, #297*)



Class II: MADISON, James (1751–1836): President of the United States; known as the Father of the Constitution; the stamp shows the first words of the Constitution, “We the People of the United...” We do not have conclusive proof that Madison was a Freemason; however the evidence that supports his membership is, in a word, overwhelming. Madison’s likeness on this stamp leaves a bit to be desired in my opinion, but it’s close enough. (*Central African Republic, #880*)



Class II: ROOSEVELT, Franklin Delano (1882–1945: President of the United States; the image is obviously from a photograph; he is wearing a bow tie and probably a tuxedo; the background is blue so this is a very good stamp for a Masonic collection. (*Central African Republic #C79*)



Class II: ELLINGTON, Edward Kennedy “Duke” (1899–1974): Composer, pianist, and big band leader; the stamp was issued in 1971, but shows Ellington in probably the 1940s. The oval frame, scrolls, and ribbon are a bit of a throwback to the early engraved stamps. (*Chad #C90*)



The Masonic Philatelist

A Big Score: Canadian hockey player Brother Tim Horton (1930–1974) has been featured on two stamps. Certainly an exceptional player, he was also an exceptional business man. He and a partner founded the famous Tim Hortons restaurants as detailed in the following Wikipedia account:



Tim Hortons Inc. (known internationally as Tim Hortons Cafe and Bake Shop) is a Canadian multinational fast casual restaurant known for its coffee and doughnuts. It is also Canada's largest quick service restaurant chain; at the end of 2013, it had 4,592 restaurants in Canada, 807 in the United States, and 38 in the Persian Gulf region. It was founded in 1964 in Hamilton, Ontario, by Canadian hockey player Tim Horton and Jim Charade, after an initial venture in hamburger restaurants. In 1967, Horton partnered with investor Ron Joyce, who assumed control over operations after Horton died in 1974. Joyce expanded the chain into a multi-million dollar franchise. Charade left the organization in 1966 and briefly returned in 1970 and 1993 through 1996.



Brother Horton was a member of Kroy Lodge No. 676, Toronto, Ontario. His early death was the result of an automobile accident. He left a legacy far beyond ice hockey. Just how much do Canadians love Tim Hortons? When Burger King proposed to buy the enterprise, the Canadian government dictated that they can buy it, **BUT ABSOLUTELY CANNOT CHANGE IT IN ANY WAY.** (CDN #1935a, and New issue)



The familiar type of restaurant that greets thousands of patrons every morning for that essential cup of coffee. The food and service is several notches above the regular fast food outlets and it appears Canadian politicians are not going to let it slip into the clutches of a big burger baron with no conditions.

We Have Come a Long Way, But...

The first stamp collecting publication in North America was called *The Stamp Collector's Record*. Publication in Canada started in Montreal on February 16, 1864, and in the USA in Albany, New York on December 15, 1864. There was definitely a US publication with the same name, so I have concluded they were one-in-the-same.

An image of the first page of the first edition is shown here, and below is what the editorial reads:



In presenting the first number of this miniature [sp] sheet to the public, devoted as it is to such a peculiarly unique pursuit as the collection of Postage Stamps, we would beg leave to apprise those who are pleased to term the collection of Postage Stamps a "mania," a juvenile ridiculous amusement, and other delicate and complimentary designations, that this is not by any means the first organ distinctly devoted to the promotion and extension of the [unclear print] yet appeared. Upwards of a twelve-month since a Journal devoted to the business made its appearance in England, and since that time various others have sprung up, and we are not aware that any of them have as yet, become defunct; on the contrary most of them appear to be in a highly prosperous condition, and look likely to outlive their defamers, a result which, we trust all Stamp Collectors will fervently pray for. Of course, the foregoing remarks are not intended for collectors. Those interested in the business will we trust favor us with that patronage and support which we

shall endeavor to deserve, in a humble way. We shall be happy to receive original articles on the subject of Postage Stamps, and we shall also be glad to offer any assistance in our power to Collectors, through the medium of the column devoted to correspondents. We shall devote our attention more particularly to the notice of matters of more direct interest to Collectors on this side of the Atlantic than in Europe, but shall duly notify our readers of any new issues which may be chronicled in the European Publications. In conclusion we trust our patrons will favor us with that support, which will enable us to publish the only medium at present available to Canadian Stamp Collectors, and trusting that our hopes in that direction may not be in vain, we boldly take our stand in the ranks of the Journals of Canada, and we would respectfully state for the particular benefit of the Ministry, the Opposition and the G.T.R., that our influence may not be purchased either through fear, favor, affection, or hope of reward.

—0—

The Masonic Philatelist

Thus, effectively began what evolved into serious stamp collecting and application of the term “philately,” which means the study and collection of postage stamps.

Like most everything related to the passage of time, such undergo what is termed the “bell curve.” In other words, a progression to a high point, and then a decline, often resulting in extinction, or discontinuance.

The first threat to postage stamps was metered postage, which eliminated the need for an actual postage stamp. However, such was limited in application (just businesses) and actually increased revenue to postal services because stamps were more expensive to produce than simple stickers.

The major blow (and likely final blow) was the introduction of electronic mail, which totally eliminated postage stamps and postal service revenue. Nevertheless, there will likely be a continuing need for physical mail service (however financed) so stamps will survive, although greatly diminished in number.

At this point you might say to yourself that nothing further can threaten the hobby. Well, you would be wrong. One no longer needs a physical stamp to research it. Images are available on the Internet that greatly surpass an actual stamp and a magnifying glass. Digital images have now exceeded the clarity of what you can see with a magnifier. What’s more, one can “copy” and save an image in his/her computer and use it in a write-up. Furthermore, printed images of stamps are now of such high resolution that they can be scanned with little or no loss of clarity.

The up-side of all this is that I, and many others, are able to provide great images in magazines and on Internet websites. The down-side is that the call for actual postage stamps is decreasing and will likely continue to decrease.

It would not surprise me if many young people are creating their own “virtual stamp albums.” In other words, they are creating stamp albums on their computers using virtual

stamps. I am doing this with the album you see on our Club website. In many ways it is just as much “fun” as creating a physical stamp album. Young people are conditioned to the “virtual world” so rather than going out and buying stamps, they will amuse themselves with “virtual stamps.” My collection of virtual stamps is growing by leaps and bounds (all neatly formatted with a black background). Trading with virtual stamps is likely already taking place—it’s much easier than with actual stamps. Stamp images are offered for sale by photo libraries, so some revenue will transfer to them.

I believe that eventually stamp dealers will become fewer and fewer, making it more difficult to get actual stamps (especially for the die-hards who want to see the actual stamp before they buy it).

Of course, there will always be the “pride of ownership” in having an actual stamp, and the thrill of attending stamp shows and buying little treasures. However, if your granddaughter or great granddaughter offers to show you her stamp collection, don’t be surprised if she puts a tablet on the table and proceeds to scroll through digital images of stamps. Keep in mind that she did collect them, but quite differently to the way you collected. Will she be interested in seeing the actual stamps you have locked away? Probably, but will likely say, “They’re great grandpa, but I can hardly see ‘em.” (USA #2198)



Contemplating the US Constitution

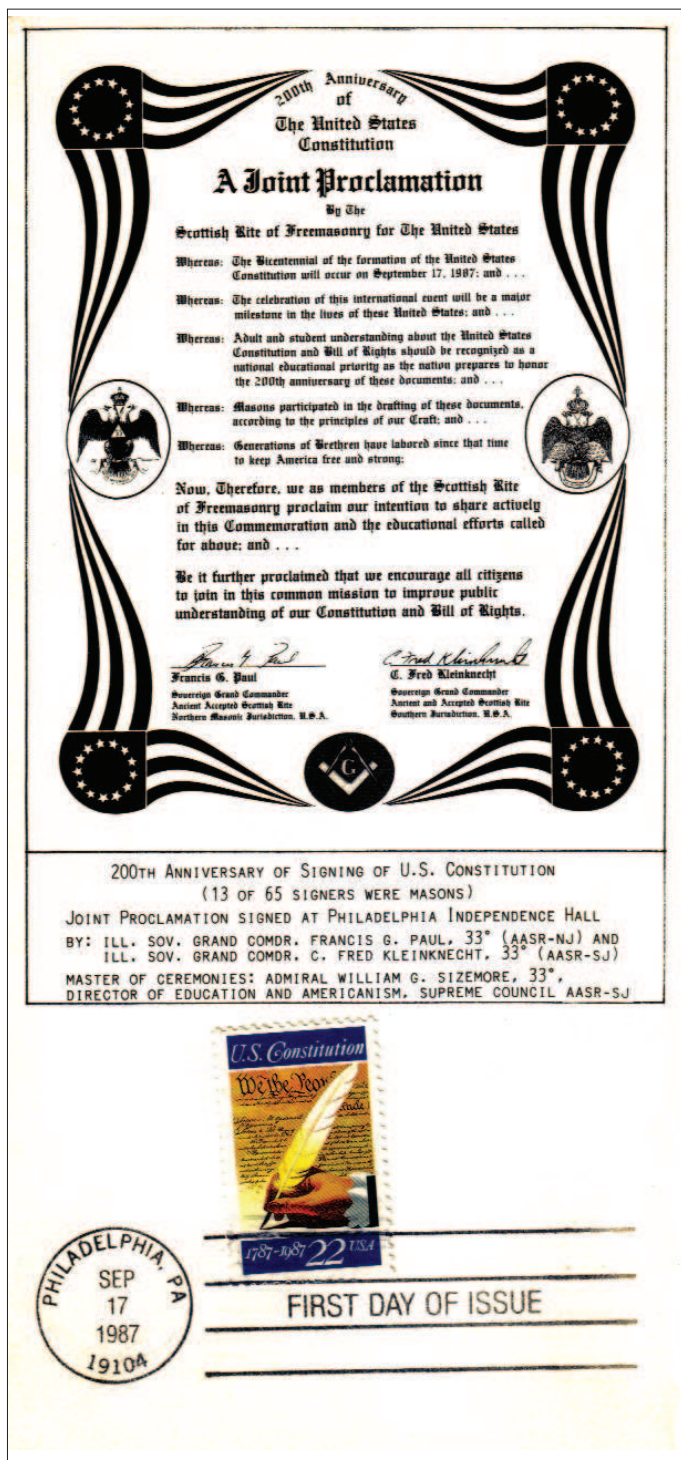
This great First Day Cover was issued by the Scottish Rite in 1987 to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution.

There can be no doubt that this constitution "worked," as it were, and I continue to wonder why other countries trying to embrace democracy don't just take it "as is" and run with it.

If the question is, why are there so many problems even with an iron-clad constitution, the answer is that one cannot legislate friendship, morality and brotherly love. These "ingredients" have to come from within and must override both cultural aspects and religious convictions.

Generally speaking, the Masonic Order took on this challenge, and it also "worked," albeit with a few issues still being resolved.

I know all this sounds very simplistic considering all the great minds trying to come up with answers, however, I do believe that if all men "met on the level," as Freemasons do, we would achieve world peace. (USA #2360)



Brother Paul Revere and the “Boston Massacre” of 1770

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Without doubt, the so-called “Boston Massacre” of March 5, 1770 greatly served the cause of the patriots in the American Revolution. It was a tragic incident, however, at that time it would have gone largely unnoticed were it not for an “on the spot” witness with artistic ability. This witness was Henry Pelham, and he named his rendering of the scene, *An Original Print... Taken on the Spot*.

There was, of course, fault on both sides (citizens and British Soldiers) as to what provoked the “massacre,” and as we have seen in recent history (Kent State—see right column) that when one side (or both) has firearms it’s a catastrophe in the making. In Boston, the British Soldiers were well-armed with muskets, but it appears nobody thought they would use them on the unarmed citizens. That they did was a mistake, but time and time again we see that common sense fails in situations of this nature.

Henry Pelham’s depiction of the “massacre” was essentially a photograph for the time. People were exceedingly forthright so what he drew would have been taken without question. Paul Revere knew this so decided to copy the work and use it to promote the patriot’s cause. He also apparently sold it—likely to raise money for the American independence. Even here, however, exposure would have been very limited. When either he or somebody provided the work to the *Boston Gazette* the exposure and reaction was considerable.

We need to keep in mind that there were many “fence-sitters” on the question of independence. The massacre story would have certainly convinced the majority to align with the patriots, and those who chose otherwise resulted in the mass exodus of “loyalists” to Canada.



Kent State

The Kent State shootings (also known as the May 4 massacre or the Kent State massacre) occurred at Kent State University in the US city of Kent, Ohio, and involved the shooting of unarmed college students by the Ohio National Guard on Monday, May 4, 1970. The guardsmen fired 67 rounds over a period of 13 seconds, killing four students and wounding nine others, one of whom suffered permanent paralysis.

Some of the students who were shot had been protesting the Cambodian Campaign, which President Richard Nixon announced during a television address on April 30. Other students who were shot had been walking nearby or observing the protest from a distance.

There was a significant national response to the shootings: hundreds of universities, colleges, and high schools closed throughout the United States due to a student strike of four million students, and the event further affected public opinion—at an already socially contentious time—over the role of the United States in the Vietnam War. *(From Wikipedia)*



The Boston Massacre copied by Paul Revere from an original eye-witness drawing by Henry Pelham.

Henry Pelham was furious with Revere for copyright violation. Revere apparently had no second thoughts in “pirating” the work and one might question his honesty. We must keep in mind, however, that the independence movement was massive, and the wishes on one individual (Pelham) were minuscule as to what was at stake. I am sure the advice to Revere was, “go ahead and use the drawing and we will say we are sorry later.” (USA #1048)



A Canadian stamp honoring the Loyalists. Sentiments long hidden in the shadows of history. (CDN #1028)

War Wondering

I continue to have problems in rationalizing the War of 1812. Both the US and Canada sort of claim “victory,” but virtually nothing was gained by either side, and a lot was lost. I certainly have no problem with the heroes and servicemen of this war who were simply doing what they were told. The following is a summary of the war from Wikipedia:



The War of 1812 was a military conflict, lasting for two-and-a-half years, between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, its North American colonies and its American Indian allies. Seen by the United States and Canada as a war in its own right, it is frequently seen in Europe as a theatre of the Napoleonic Wars, as it was caused by issues related to that war (especially the Continental System). The war resolved many issues which remained from the American Revolutionary War but involved no boundary changes. The United States declared war on June 18, 1812 for several reasons, including trade restrictions brought about by the British war with France, the impressment of American merchant sailors into the Royal Navy, British support of Indian tribes against American expansion, outrage over insults to national honor after humiliations on the high seas and possible American interest in annexing British North American territory (part of modern-day Canada).

What we have here is an accumulation of issues, none of which are significant enough to go to war, but when taken collectively become a large issue in the minds of misguided politicians. I really don't think the war would have come about if George Washington was still the US President. James Madison was President at the time (1809–1817). He is thought to have been a Freemason, but there is no firm proof.

If anything, this war was a lesson in what not to do, and I think that after about 200 years we might kind of put it aside. I certainly welcome any comments on this issue.

The stamp illustrated shows Bro. Oliver Hazard Perry, considered the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie. He was a member of King David's Lodge, No. 1, Rhode Island. (*USA, Issued 2014*)

Betsy Ross – A Sensible Scenario

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

So much has been written and argued about Betsy Ross and the allegation she made America's first flag that I almost hesitate to jump into the fray.

Back in 1982, our Club published the UPI newspaper article seen here. Earlier, a Brother had disputed the "Ross claim," as it were, so another Brother provided the article.

The main problem is that there is no official documentation to support the order for the flag commissioned from Betsy Ross, and no record of payment (invoice) for her work. Of course, we really can't expect that such documentation would have been kept by the government. However, therein lays the problem because there are records that show Francis Hopkins (an artist and signer of the Declaration of Independence) as designing a "flag of the United States of America," a naval flag, and also state and treasury department seals. The inference here is that Hopkins both designed the flag and provided it.

Nevertheless, I do think that all of this can be rationalized. It is probable that Hopkins did the design work and gave it to George Washington, Robert Morris (another Declaration signer) and George Ross for approval. The three were alleged to be on a "committee" to create a flag. It needs to be noted that George Ross was a relative of Betsy Ross (uncle of her deceased husband). Hopkins likely showed 6-pointed stars on the flag, and that is what the three men apparently wanted. They obviously liked the design and simply decided to get a flag made.



Betsy Ross: not a myth

Author: Betsy Did Sew Flag

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Author Robert Morris says the story of Betsy Ross and the flag, a story "cherished" by schoolchildren for years, is being unjustly disputed.

Morris, 77, a retired yarn salesman and author of the new book, "The Truth About the Betsy Ross Story," admitted he first thought the legend to be "a myth."

Morris addressed the the North American Vexillological Association, a flag research group on Saturday, and said that five years of research for his book convinced him Ross really did fashion the first American flag.

Morris, who lives near Atlantic City, cited a manuscript of an address given by Ross' grandson, William Canby, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on March 14, 1870, in which Canby said Ross told him she had sewn the first flag.

And, Morris said, in 1925, the Weatherill family — prominent in Philadelphia in the 1800s — opened a safe and found a folded, five-point paper star and a note from Ross saying she had recently showed George Washington how to make the star.

"George Washington had been there to talk about flags," said Morris.

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Naturally, George Ross would have mentioned his relative Betsy, a seamstress, who was in the neighborhood. The three simply decided to stroll over to Betsy's house to see what she could do. Betsy, for some reason, said that a 5-pointed star would look better, and by a known process cut one out of a piece of paper (she would have been familiar with all this sort of thing). The three men approved the new star, left, and Betsy made the flag. The men could have returned some time later and were shown the flag, as seen in the painting (below) and stamp. However, this meeting is not recorded, so was likely fabricated by the artist.

This all occurred in 1776, and I will guess that the "committee" was ad hoc because there are no official records of it being formed. In the following year, congress adopted a flag, which is believed to be this flag.

There can be no doubt that Washing-



ton wanted a flag, so he put the project on the "fast track." That George Ross had a seamstress relative nearby was very convenient, and one needs to put two and two together here.

From the Masonic perspective, we know George Washington was a Freemason, and there is strong evidence to support Robert Morris' membership. Furthermore, there are claims the George Ross was a Mason. Both are mentioned in Denslow's *10,000 Famous Freemasons*. (USA #1004)



Russian “Army of the North” Stamps

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

What might be termed as provisional government stamps were issued by the Russian “Army of the North” (Russian initials OKCA) in about September 1919 and discontinued in December of that same year. There must have been many produced because the stamps are not rare (Scott value 70 cents each). However, many forgeries were produced, and for that reason, the illustrations shown here are of cancelled stamps, which I believe attests to their authenticity.

The stamps found their way into Masonic lore because they appear to show a square, positioned in the way as worn by the Master of a Lodge. There was then speculation that wording on the stamps stated, “Are you a Mason?” I sent the stamp images to a long-time friend in Moscow who has assured me that such is not the case. His reply was that other than the initials OKCA, the stamps show in Russian just the words “Postal Stamp” and the denomination.

The stamps are printed on very thin (inexpensive) paper and were obviously a “quick fix” to facility postal services in the region now controlled by the Army.

Whatever the case, someone had to sit down and design the stamps and a die had to be made to produce them. The artistry is very good and the allegory on the last stamp shown is somewhat intriguing. The background symbols on this stamp are crossed Roman fasces, crossed arrows, crossed trumpets, and a central figure, which I believe is a ceremonial mace. In the foreground are circles with a square and a cross.

The Roman fasces is a symbol of governmental power. The same symbol is used on a

US stamp (#798), but is most familiar to Americans by its use on the back (or reverse side) of the Mercury Head dime. The crossed arrows are a symbol of military power; the trumpets are a symbol of declaration or proclamation; and the mace is a symbol of authority.

Now we come to the wreathed square and cross, which is shown on all of the stamps, so naturally was considered the most important symbolism. The square has equal “legs” and no graduations, so it is a true stone mason’s square (graduations, incidentally, which are now shown in Masonic symbolism, are an incorrect innovation—but do look nice).

Although all references to the square as a symbol of honesty, truthfulness, and morality are now connected with the Masonic Order, such definitely predated Freemasonry



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as we now know it. Both stone masons and carpenters use a square, although with the latter, one “leg” is longer than the other. I will venture a guess that a “moral lesson” was created soon after the square was invented.

Whether the designer of the stamps used the square as a general reference or Masonic reference will likely never be known, although I’m inclined to side with the latter. Wikipedia states the following:

Freemasonry in Russia started in the 18th century and has continued to the present day. Russian Freemasonry pursued humanistic and educational purposes, but more attention is given to ethical issues. It was a spiritual community of people united in an effort to contribute to the prosperity of the Motherland and the enlightenment of the people living in it.

One might reason that showing a square was intended to make people feel better.

The little cross shown below the square is neither a Masonic nor a Christian symbol. Again, according to Wikipedia:

It [a cross] may be seen as a division of the world into four elements (Chevalier, 1997) or cardinal points, or alternately as the union of the concepts of divinity, the vertical line, and the world, the horizontal line (Koch, 1955).

With regard to the third stamp shown, where we see two sheathed swords, such symbolize military power but not the desire to use it. Americans will recall this same symbolism on the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome in Washington, DC.

For certain, whoever designed the stamps knew what he (or she) were doing, but why an Army went to all the trouble of designing meaningful stamps, as opposed to designing very basic stamps, is an interesting question. All I can think of is that the General in charge had a flair for stamps. (*Russia, Army of the North #A1 to A5*)

Note: I do not have actual stamps, so if I have missed something in this analysis please let me know.



Roman fasces on the reverse of the American Mercury Head dime.



Soldiers of the Northwest Army. That Army later joined with the Army of the North.

Pope Francis' Visit: A Masonic Perspective

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

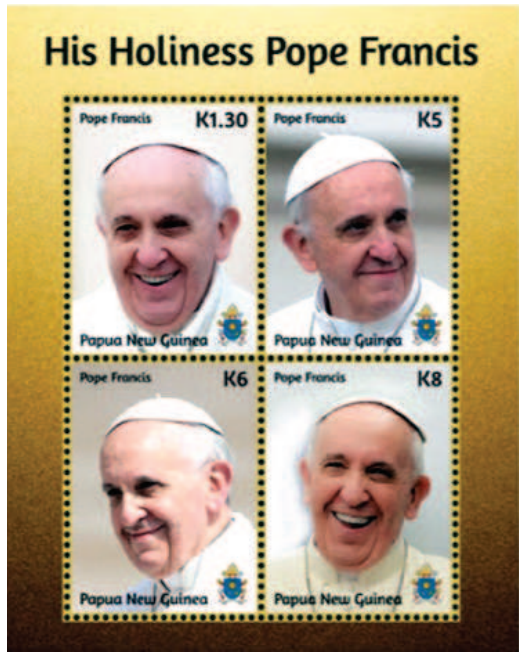
Two things we don't do in the Masonic Order is argue politics or religion, and I have no intention of doing that here. In listening to Pope Francis, however, it struck me that when religious references are taken out of what he said, his talks could have been delivered by a Grand Master.

Pope Francis used the same words we use: fraternity, love, liberty, brotherhood, faith, hope, charity and the list goes on. At one point he said, if you don't believe in God, then please just wish me well. In other words, what I am saying is for the benefit of mankind, with or without God in the equation.

Pope Francis did not use Biblical fire and brimstone to get his point across. He knows, as we all do, that such does not work in the 21st century. We have moved far beyond that mind-set. Nevertheless, he warned that if we don't start thinking about things, we will suffer a "fire and brimstone" of our own making.

Why did Pope Francis choose the United States for his message? It certainly applied to every country in the world. He was not targeting the US; he just knows that if anyone is going to listen to him, it will be the American people. Also, if any country can lead us out of the current situation, then it will be the United States. He did, by the way, point to the tremendous contributions of the US in helping people in third-world countries and countries ravished by war and natural disasters. The immediate take on this with many people is, here we go again; why does America have to take the responsibility with every crisis that comes along? It seems that the more the US does, then the more it is expected to do. The Masonic lesson here is, don't become weary of well-doing.

One of the things Pope Francis did from



Faith

Hope



Charity

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the outset was to apologize for the past. Those who are familiar with history can point to many indiscretions in the decisions of the Roman Catholic Church, which have caused untold strife. The pontiff effectively drew a line and said, so be it, let's move forward. He stated that we cannot judge the past with our current knowledge, which is very true. Even the Masonic Order cannot "throw stones," as it were, and even today we have a racial issue that has not been fully addressed.

Pope Francis touched on all the "hot potato" issues currently plaguing and dividing us. Generally speaking, he did not lay down any hard and fast rules but simply stated fundamental truths from which we were left to draw our own conclusions. In this way, he avoided dividing us any further. What he did stress most emphatically was the common brotherhood of mankind. He told us that we must think of people as individuals just like ourselves. Also, to acknowledge cultural, racial, and religious differences as values rather than impediments. He stressed that other than aboriginal people, all North Americans were the result of immigration, or were indeed recent emigrants. To sum up the whole of the his message, he gave us the age-old golden rule—Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

There can be no doubt that the Roman Catholic Church and the Masonic Order are still on the "same page" from the standpoint of philosophy. If anything, Pope Francis moved the goal posts a little by effectively stating that the issues are not simply religious issues. He expressed concern for all mankind. and said that everyone is a part of the solution.

I have stated before that the three primary degrees of Freemasonry are the foundation of the Masonic Order. Everything of importance is provided in those degrees. Every

Freemason since at least the mid 1700s (probably long before) has been entreated to apply the Masonic "creed" in his daily life. You don't need to plow through your ritual to find what I am referring to here. I have neatly packaged it for you.



Pope Francis effectively touched on each of these "virtues" in his well-crafted talks, and I will venture to say that so has every Grand Master in the history of the Masonic Order.

The importance of the Pope's visit was that he stated these age-old requirements on a world stage, and at a time when their importance is paramount.

From a Masonic perspective (as opposed to a religious standpoint), Pope Francis gets full marks. Hopefully his message will find fertile ground.

(Vatican City, Issued in 2014 and 1952)



Freemasonry and the Holy Grail

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Any mention of the Holy Grail naturally brings to mind the medieval Knights Templar organization, and from there it is just a short hop to Freemasonry. There is no direct organized connection between the two, but this does not mean to say that medieval craft free masons were not involved with Knight Templars and in Knight Templarism. The early free masons, of course, became organized and this led to Free and Accepted Masons which formed the basis for the Masonic Order. It is a “given” that aspects of medieval Knights Templarism found expression in the appendant bodies of Freemasonry, including the Order of DeMolay (founded in 1919). It needs to be stressed here that there is no “Templarism” in the Blue Lodges, so the same can be said for the Grand Lodges.

The medieval Knights Templars were destroyed (put to death) by, and in the name of, the Roman Catholic Church. Freemasons were also persecuted by the Church; however, to make a long story short, Freemasonry survived. It is this “survival” that leads to the speculation that Freemasonry per se is somehow connected with Knights Templar “secrets” and artifacts. The Holy Grail (drinking vessel used by Christ at the Last Supper) is the primary artifact that falls into this category.

From a practical stand-point, the Holy Grail was probably not anything extraor-



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dinary. The painting (fresco) by Leonardo da Vinci of the Last Supper shows a simple little drinking glass. This detail from the painting shows Christ's hand reaching for a half-filled glass of wine. However, even showing glass is highly questionable because in 33 AD glass was a bit of a luxury. Whatever the case, we have to wonder why the Pope of Leonardo's time did not say something about this detail. In other words, tell the artist that Christ had a chalice.



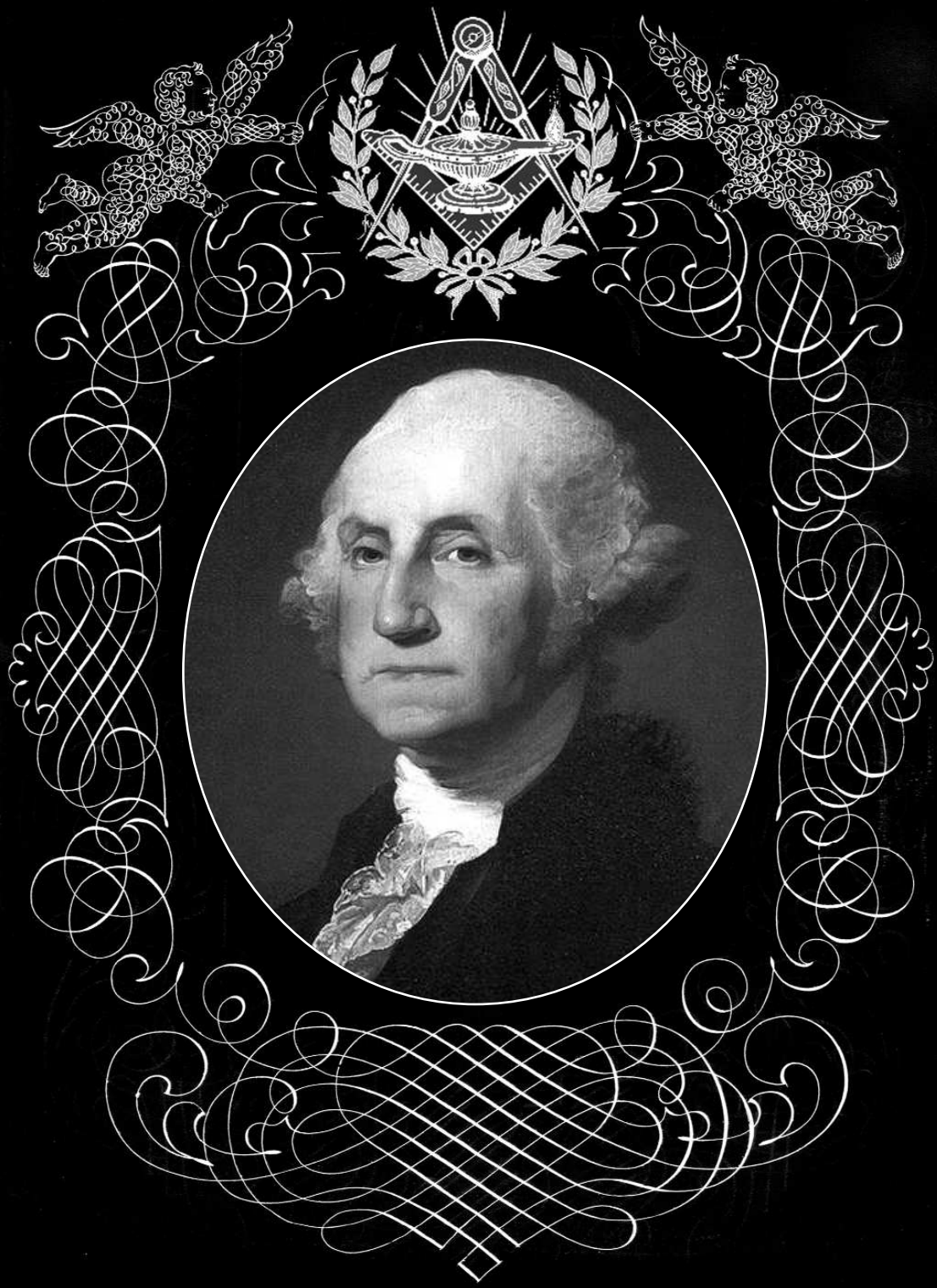
The most acceptable description of the drinking vessels used at the Last Supper is that they were little ceramic cups. In all likelihood, after the supper ended, all the dishes were gathered up, cleaned, and put back in the kitchen cupboard. It is of course possible that Peter (or another apostle) collected the little cup used by Christ and passed it on to posterity. We can reason that the cup was later mounted on a stand, giving rise to what we now envision as the Holy Grail. This is precisely what appears to be the case with the postage stamp illustrated; although an actual

image of the grail on the stamp, as seen here, appears to indicate that the cup is made of glass. This grail, by the way, is claimed to be the actual artifact

Generally speaking, this whole subject would not even be "on the table" were it not for several authors who in the 1980s and later wrote what are called "docu-fictions." In other words, novels that pretend to present actual facts. The books were commercial money-making schemes and they definitely paid off. Most academics will tell you that if a book that makes astounding claims is not published by a recognized university, then all you have are "astounding claims." By the way, you are not going to find university books at your local supermarket.

As I have stated in other papers, the Masonic Order does not have any "secrets." In other words, it does not have a vault somewhere containing earth-shaking artifacts and documents. Nevertheless, having said that, certainly individuals within the Order (or any Order for that matter) might have information akin to "secrets." Does a Freemason know the whereabouts of the actual Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, the Golden Fleece and so forth? This is possible, as it could be possible for any persons on the face of the earth. The conclusion here is that Freemasonry as an organization is not connected with the Holy Grail, and beyond that the decision is up to the reader.

(Stamp illustrated is a Spanish postal tax stamp issued in 1968.)



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