



The Masonic Philatelist

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***Freedom – Her Remarkable Story
& Masonic Connection***

The Masonic Philatelist

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Happy 100th Birthday!

Bro. Alvin C. Beckett

Our Club extends its best wishes and congratulations to Dr. Alvin Beckett who celebrated his 100th Birthday on February 10, 2016. Bro. Beckett has collected stamps since he was about 8 years old, and is still an active collector. He is a very early member of our Club.



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Freedom – Her Remarkable Story & Masonic Connection

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Originally named Freedom Triumphant in War and Peace, what is now known as the Statue of Freedom has adorned the US Capitol since 1863.

The idea of having a statue atop the Capitol dome appears to have originated with Thomas U. Walters, the building architect. His drawing of the building showed the outline of a statue representing Liberty. Congress liked the idea and asked the noted sculptor Thomas Crawford (already working on interior decorations), to design a statue. Crawford proposed an allegorical figure representing Freedom. He designed the statue essentially as we now see it, but with one exception—Freedom was given a liberty cap rather than a military helmet.

Ironically, the senator in charge of construction of the capitol and its decorations was Jefferson Davis from Mississippi, who later became President of the Confederacy. As a liberty cap is an old Roman symbol of an emancipated slave, it is said that Davis exploded with rage. He had already clashed on this issue with Crawford as to interior decorations of the Capitol. Davis considered the cap an affront to militant slaveholders, in his own words: “its history renders it inappropriate to a people who were born free and would not be enslaved.” If you have a little problem with the logic here, you are not alone.

Whatever the case, Crawford retreated and gave Freedom a military helmet with stars and an American eagle head with a crest of feathers.

From a distance, the entire headdress blends in and adds a little mystery to what



Head of Freedom and workers, providing a good sense of scale.

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is seen, but if you think it's rather odd up close, you are not alone here either. Really, the Liberty cap would have been much more appropriate. Artists of Crawford's caliber know what they are doing, and it must be stressed that the United States had used the Liberty cap on coins since their inception. We have to wonder if Senator Davis noticed this.

Crawford created the statue plaster model in his studio in Rome, Italy. He planned to ship it in parts to the United States. He completed the work, but died (1857) before the model left his studio. It was packed into six crates and shipped from Italy on board a small sailing vessel in the spring of 1858. During the voyage the ship began to leak and stopped in Gibraltar for repairs. After leaving Gibraltar, the ship began leaking again to the point that it could go no farther than Bermuda, where the model was stored until other transportation could be arranged. Half of the crates finally arrived in New York City in December, but all sections were not in Washington, DC. until late March 1859.

Congress contracted Clark Mills, owner of a local Washington foundry, to cast the statue in bronze. Mills, a Freemason (Lebanon Lodge No. 7, Washington DC), started work in 1860.

While Freedom was being cast the foreman in charge of the casting went on strike. Instead of paying him the higher wages he demanded, Mills turned the project over to Philip Reid, one of the slaves working at the casting facility. Reid presided over the rest of the casting operation.

The statue was cast in five main sections. Work was halted in 1861 because of the Civil War, but by the end of 1862 the



Thomas Crawford, the artist who created the model of Freedom.

statue was finished. The sections were moved to the Capitol grounds and assembled by Reid for temporary display. The cost of the statue, exclusive of installation, was \$23,796.82.

Late in 1863, construction of the

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Capitol dome was sufficiently advanced for the installation of the statue, which was hoisted by former slaves in sections and assembled atop the cast-iron pedestal. The final section, the figure's head and shoulders, was raised on December 2, 1863, to a salute of 35 guns answered by the guns of the 12 forts around Washington.

The following is a description of the statue as provided by Wikipedia:

Freedom is a colossal bronze standing figure 19½-feet (6 meters) tall and weighing approximately 15,000 pounds (6,800 kg). Her crest peaks at 288 feet (88 meters) above the east front plaza of the U.S. Capitol. She is a female allegorical figure whose right hand holds the hilt of a sheathed sword while a laurel wreath of victory and the Shield of the United States are clasped in her left hand. Her chiton is secured by a brooch inscribed "U.S." and is partially covered by a heavy, Native American-style fringed blanket thrown over her left shoulder. She faces east towards the main entrance of the building and the rising sun. She wears a military helmet adorned with stars and an eagle's head which is itself crowned by an umbrella-like crest of feathers. Although not actually called "Columbia," she shares many of her iconic characteristics. Freedom stands atop a cast-iron globe encircled with one of the national mottoes, *E pluribus unum*. The lower part of the base is decorated with fasces and wreaths. Ten bronze points tipped with platinum are



Clark Mills, the artist who created the bronze casting of Freedom. He was himself a noted sculptor with the added skill of creating bronze monuments. His famous sculpture/bronze, Lieutenant General George Washington, is in Washington Circle.



Clark Mills foundry in Washington, DC. The sign above the large front doors reads, "CLARK MILLS, SCULPTOR." It does not appear he normally cast statues created by other artists.

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attached to her headdress, shoulders, and shield for protection from lightning.

It is generally acknowledged that the unsung hero of the Freedom Statue project was Philip Reid. My personal feeling here is that Mills was less inclined to take personal control because the actual statue was not of his creation. As a result he delegated the work.

Whatever the case, a Freemason created the bronze version of the statue and it therefore has a Masonic connection. I get the feeling that Mills agreed to do the casting as a patriotic duty, perhaps even Masonic duty, more than



Philip Reid (photo from Wikipedia).

anything else. Artists are inclined to be very temperamental. (USA #989)

From the Editor's Desk...

In April, I turn 75. I certainly have no plans on “going anywhere” by choice, and can likely keep going into the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, I would be more comfortable if I knew there were somebody who could take over our Club in the unlikely event I will not be able to carry on.

In many ways, publishing our quarterly is much easier than it was before the age of computers. However, the downside is that one must be able to use a computer, particularly with regard to a publishing program (software) and imaging (scanning and photo coordination).

Of course, services of this nature can be contracted, but such are very expensive, and therefore hardly a viable alternative.

Many people are now into publishing and it is my hope that a Club member will step forward and start getting involved in our publishing process.

The second requirement is a dedicated interest in Masonic Philately. In other words, the enthusiasm to find material for publishing.

Unfortunately, depending upon submissions from members is not reliable. It is for this reason that I have serialized some existing material. I would say I have enough in this regard to carry on for about 15 years, or longer. What I am saying here is that about one-half of what is needed is already available. It just needs to be formatted into our magazine.

I am not “pushing the panic button” here, I am just making the first call. Our Club is financially stable and it would be a shame if we don't have the energy to keep it going. If anyone wants to discuss this further with me, I would be pleased to hear from him or her. Just send me an email and I will explain things in detail.

Ed.

From the Archive...

Over the years, Bro. Boudreau and others have sent me First Day Covers (FDCs). Long before I was even a Freemason, our Club sponsored the FDCs seen here with the inserts shown. They are certainly worth a read.



George Washington The Mason

It is easy to note how the Masonic teachings of Brother Washington had much influence on his way of life.

In his many speeches we find these lofty Masonic ideals have a direct bearing on his Creed. For example:

"Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother."

"... It is peculiarly pleasing to find my conduct so affectionately approved by a fraternity whose association is founded in justice and benevolence."

"To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity . . . may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race . . . by a Society whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice . . . I sincerely pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe may bless you here, and receive you hereafter into his immortal Temple."



Benjamin Franklin The Mason

All Masons are justly proud of the Creed of Brother Franklin which played such an important role in the early years of our County.

He was ever mindful of his Masonic teachings when he said:

"But that the most acceptable service of God is doing good to man."

"And that God will certainly reward virtue and punish vice, either here or hereafter."

"For my own part, when I am employed in serving others, I do not look upon myself as conferring favors, but as paying debts. In my travels and since my settlement, I have received much kindness from men, to whom I shall never have an opportunity of making the least direct return; and numberless mercies from God, who is infinitely above being benefited by our services. Those kindnesses from men I can therefore only return to their fellow men, and I can only show my gratitude for these mercies from God, by a readiness to help his other children and my brethren."

We can see here that Bro. Washington considered the teachings of Freemasonry to be the key to world peace; and Bro. Franklin that "serving others" should be our purpose in life.

Somewhere in our ritual we are instructed to not become weary of well-doing, and there's a definite connection here with what these eminent Brethren have stated.

Liberty is a bit much...

This is an interesting stamp. It was issued by China in 1945 (although 1943 is shown). We see the Statue of Liberty, and the flags of Great Britain, China (at that time), the United States and an image of Chiang Kai-shek (1887–1975).

To trace this man's history would take volumes. Indeed, I can remember when hardly a day went by without him being in the news.

Although showing the flags of Great Britain and the US gets a pass, I would say Liberty is totally out of place for the time. Chiang Kai-shek was really not too "liberal." Nevertheless, his retreat from Communist China led to the establishment of Taiwan, which is a really great democratic nation with universal suffrage. This was certainly not Chiang's plan but it came about anyway, with immense credit to the people. Taiwan is the



19th-largest economy in the world, and it is ranked highly in terms of freedom of the press, health care, public education, economic freedom, and human development. Communist China is not happy with this, claiming that the island which forms Taiwan belongs to it. (*China #593*)

Soldier Stamp: This stamp showing a lone US soldier running across a battlefield at Bastogne, Belgium, caught my eye. The following is from Wikipedia:

The Siege of Bastogne was an engagement in December 1944 between American and German forces at the Belgian town of Bastogne, as part of the larger Battle of the Bulge. The goal of the German offensive was the harbour at Antwerp. In order to reach it before the Allies could regroup and bring their superior air power to bear, German mechanized forces had to seize the roadways through eastern Belgium. Because all seven main roads in the Ardennes mountain range converged on the small town of Bastogne, control of its crossroads was vital to the German attack.



The siege lasted from December 20–27 when the besieged American forces were relieved by elements of General George Patton's Third Army.

The stamp made me reflect a little. How many Masons were killed in that war and never had a chance to be individually honored on a postage stamp? The same applies to subsequent wars (see page 34). (*Belgium #CB2*)

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Brother Truman's Return from Brazil

In 1947, Brazil issued the stamp shown here commemorating Bro. Harry Truman's official trip to that country in September of that year. He and his family flew to Rio de Janeiro and returned to the USA aboard the *USS Missouri*. This battleship would have certainly measured significantly in Bro. Truman's mind as it was on the ship's deck that the Japanese signed their surrender, ending the war with Japan. The Statue of Liberty is seen on the right side of the stamp, and in this case it is highly appropriate. (*Brazil # 673*)



Japanese foreign affairs minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signs the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on board USS Missouri as General Richard K. Sutherland watches, September 2, 1945. There can be little doubt that Brother Truman stood in this exact spot when returning from Brazil. The "Axis of Evil" was the greatest affront to Liberty in world history, and the "buck stopped" on Bro. Truman's desk to end World War II. I would say that of all US Presidents, Bro. George Washington, Bro. Franklin Roosevelt and Bro. Harry Truman stand closest to the Great Lady.

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Here is the text of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender. What it ended is so beyond horrific it defies words. Lady Liberty did prevail, but at a cost that can never be repaid.

We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, China, and Great Britain on 26 July 1945 at Potsdam, and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are hereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.

We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese Armed Forces and all Armed Forces under Japanese control wherever situated.

We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, aircraft, and military and civil property, and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by agencies of the Japanese Government at his direction.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to issue at once orders to the commanders of all Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.

We hereby command all civil, military, and naval officials to obey and

enforce all proclamations, orders, and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper to effectuate this surrender and issued by him or under his authority; and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically relieved by him or under his authority.

We hereby undertake for the Emperor, the Japanese Government, and their successors to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith, and to issue whatever orders and take whatever action may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by any other designated representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that declaration.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at once to liberate all Allied Prisoners of War and civilian internees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance, and immediate transportation to places as directed.

The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the State shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate these terms of surrender.

Signed at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 09.04 on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945.

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Opus Dei Discussion: This stamp commemorates the birth of Father Josemaria Escrivá de Balager (1902–1975) founder of the Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei. In 1939, one high-ranking (and highly critical) Jesuit Priest called the organization, “a form of Christian Masonry.” Basically, as far as I can see, the objectives of Opus Dei are exactly the same as Freemasonry—friendship, morality, brotherly love, temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, faith, hope, and charity. The main difference being is that Opus Dei is centered on the Roman Catholic faith (Christianity). Generally, Freemasonry does not stipulate any particular faith, other than a belief in a supreme being. However, this is not the same world-wide and this has resulted in a non-recognition by the USA, Canada, and



other Grand Lodges of those who have dropped the requirement.

Whatever the case, the Masonic Order realized from its inception that religion could not be a barrier to unite men in its objectives. (*Dominican Republic #1386*)

A New Newsletter

In January Bro. Rubén Manasés Achdjian of Buenos Aires, Argentina, sent me the first issue of his Masonic Philately e-newsletter, *La Viuda: Filatelia de Temática Masonica. (The Window: Philately & Freemasonry)*. It is, of course, in Spanish, and upon seeing it, I dearly wish I understood the language. The newsletter is very well presented, indicating that our Brother has a good command of computer skills. Those of you who know Spanish can email Bro. Achdjian and request a copy. <achdjian1963@gmail.com>

The stamp seen here is featured, and it is highly intriguing. It depicts General Francisco de Paula Santander (1792–1840) in full Masonic regalia. He was a military and political leader during the 1810–1819 independence war of the United Provinces of New Granada. He became President of the

Republic of New Granada, now Colombia. He was known as “The Man of the Laws.”

The stamp recognizes the part played by Freemasonry in General Santander’s life and the struggle for liberty; so our Order

is honored in this way. The checkered border would represent the Mosaic pavement, and the colors in the top left and right side are the colors of Colombia. Here I will mention that red represents the blood spilled for Colombia’s independence. CLM (*Colombia, Issued 2012*)



Brother Franklin's Retreat

It is perhaps a little ironic that on this stamp Bro. Franklin has his “eyes on Canada.” The stamp was issued in 1976 jointly with the USA (same design used for the US stamp) to commemorate the US bicentennial. Canada recognizes Franklin as a great statesman, and also as the first postmaster of North America. However, “back in the day,” things were not quite so amicable.

During the American Revolution, Franklin went to Montreal to persuade Canadians to join the revolution. When British warships arrived, he made a hasty retreat. Nothing daunting, during the peace negotiations with Britain, it is believed he intimated that Britain should give Canada to the USA.

Franklin was certainly not alone in his idea. As time went on, the prevalent attitude in the USA was “Manifest Destiny” meaning that the US not only could, but was destined to “stretch from coast to coast”—which it certainly does, but not quite as far north as Bro.



Franklin had in mind. For certain, the War of 1812 sort of extinguished the flames of US expansion.

At the present time, there are very strong arguments for Canada and the USA to merge into one country. There is even a Canadian organization called United North America with the objective to merging the two countries. Brother Franklin never started anything he could not finish, so I honestly think he's working on the sidelines. (CDN #691)

Bro. Hines and Highways: We might be inclined to take for granted our astounding highways and freeways. They are well constructed and every effort is made to make them safe and properly marked with warnings and directions. Out West, we even have rest stops with coffee and cookies.

Little known in the world of highway construction is our Brother Edward N. Hines (1870–1938) of Ashlar Lodge No. 9, Detroit Michigan. Brother Hines designed and built the first mile of concrete road in America. He also originated the idea of having white lines to separate traffic lanes.

The illustrated stamp is in the Beautification of America Issue (January 1969). There are four themes—planting trees, shrubs, flowers and so forth in cities and parks, and along highways and streets. (USA #1367)



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

Class II: CHURCHILL, Winston: Prime Minister of Great Britain for two separate terms; highly prominent as the leader of Great Britain in World War II. He was by birth half American, and became an honorary American citizen in 1963. He is seen on this stamp with his customary scowl. The stamp was issued in 1965, the year Churchill died (*Chad #C24*)

Class II: LAFAYETTE, Marquis de: French officer and hero of the American Revolution. The stamp shows two ships in battle which is not that appropriate for Lafayette, but is symbolic of the Revolution. (*Chad #C212*)

Class II: SAN MARTIN, Jose de: South American soldier and liberator; he made possible the victories of Simon Bolivar. What was discussed in his secret meeting with Bolivar in 1822 has never been revealed. However, San Martin eventually went into self-exile in Europe. (*Chile #263*)

Class II: WASHINGTON, George: First president of the United States. The image shown is obviously based on a bust created by Jean Antoine Houdon. The red, white and blue background colors are the colors of the USA, but when shown as bars they are not appropriate. If the stamp is turned clockwise, we see the flag of France. (*Chile #492*)

Class II: STALIN, ROOSEVELT and CHURCHILL: Leaders of their respective countries (USSR, USA, and Great Britain). The stamp was issued in 1945 to commemorate the end of World War II. The images of the three men are overprinted on an existing stamp showing coffee picking that was issued in 1939. The idea here was to apparently represent the war years (1939 to 1945). Stalin, of course, has never been honored on a North American stamp, and was definitely not a Freemason. (*Columbia #469*)



Have You Ever Wondered...?

The first US stamp to depict a ship was issued in 1869 and shows the *SS Adriatic*. I have wondered for years about its story and how it got on a stamp. The following is from Wikipedia:

SS Adriatic (Collins Line), operated by the Collins Line (trans-Atlantic packet) {established 1848 New York} commissioned 1857, and was among the first ships to be depicted on a postage stamp when used on a 12c value of the United States in 1869 [It was the first]. The line began with four paddle wheel steamships, the *Atlantic*, the *Arctic*, the *Baltic*, and the *Pacific*. Each were 282 feet in length and 2,680 tons burthen [or burden]. They were built by W.H. Brown of New York at a cost of \$700,000 each. The last addition to the fleet was the *Adriatic* in 1857, the finest and fastest vessel afloat at that time. She was built by Steers in New York and was 355 feet long, 50 feet broad, with a gross tonnage of 3,670 tons. Her machinery, which was constructed at the Novelty Iron Works of New York, consisted of two oscillating cylinders, each 100 inches diameter working up to 3,600 indicated horsepower, with a steam pressure of 20 pounds to the square inch. Her paddles were 40 feet in diameter and at 17 revolutions per minute gave her a speed of 13 knots on a daily consumption of 85 to 90 tons of coal. The company broke up after losses due to ship wrecks. In September, 1854, The *SS Arctic* [Not *Adriatic*] collided with a small steamer, the *Vesta*, off the coast



of Cape Race in a dense fog. She sank with a loss of 323 lives including the wife, the only son, and a daughter* of Mr. [Edward] Collins (...)

It was after this tragedy that Collins planned to make a new ship that would be bigger, faster, and more luxurious than anything to that time—the *SS Adriatic*. Wikipedia continues:

The loss of the *SS Pacific* two years later proved the death knell of the Collins Line. The *Adriatic* was laid up after making a few fine voyages, and finally came to an end as a coal-hulk in West Africa.

Thus we can see the significance of the ship. It needs to be mentioned that the Collins Line carried mail, so the *Adriatic* would measure in postal history. (USA #117)

*Another account states, "only daughter and youngest son."

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BENTONELLI, JOSEPH (1898–1975); vocalist; famous opera tenor with the Metropolitan Opera; voted one of Italy's four most popular tenors (1934); Norman Lodge No. 38, Norman, Oklahoma.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 2054

Year: 1983

Type: Commemorative

Issue: The Metropolitan Opera

Designer: Ken Davies

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not applicable

Design: Original state arch and
current 5-Arch entrance-Metropolitan Opera building



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp was issued to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The design combines features from the original opera building and the new building. The background is ornamentation from the proscenium arch of the original building. The foreground is the five-arched entrance to the new building. The old ornamentation shows the names of the composers Verdi and Wagner.

Additional Masonic Information: Bentonelli received his Master Mason's degree in the stated lodge on November 22, 1920. He was also a AASR. Mason, receiving his 32nd degree at Guthrie, Oklahoma on October 24, 1940.

BERLIN, IRVING (1888–1989); composer; among his famous compositions is *God Bless America*; Munn Lodge No. 190, New York City, New York.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 3669

Year: 2002

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Irvine Berlin Issue

Designer: Greg Berger

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: Not applicable

Design: Berlin and score of *God Bless America*



Secondary Stamp (s): No. 2054

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Stamp Facts: Image is from a photograph of the subject.

Additional Masonic Information: Berlin was initiated in the stated lodge on May 12, passed on May 26, and received his Master Mason's degree on June 3, 1910. He became a life member of this lodge on December 12, 1935. He was also an AASR Mason, receiving his 32nd degree on December 23, 1910. He was initiated into Mecca Shrine Temple on January 30, 1911 and became a life member of the Shrine in December, 1936.

BERRY, GEORGE L. (1882–1948); union official and U.S. senator from Tennessee; one of the founders of the American Legion; honorary member of St. Bride Lodge No. 2617, London, England.

Primary Stamp: USA No.1369

Year: 1969

Type: Commemorative

Issue: American Legion Issue

Designer: Robert Hallock

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Eagle from the Great Seal



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp commemorated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion. The design on the stamp is supposed to be the Great Seal of the United States. However, there is an error. The blue band directly under the eagle's head on the official seal is a rectangle. It does not have "shield" corners like that shown on the primary stamp. One may compare the primary stamp design with the Great Seal shown on USA #CE1, which was designed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to see the difference. Another stamp that shows the correct Great Seal is USA #1194.

Additional Masonic Information: Berry's original lodge name is not known. However, he was also a Knight Templar and a Shriner.

BERRY, WALLACE (1889–1949); actor; awarded a gold medal as the "World's Best Actor," by the International Motion Picture Exposition, Venice, Italy, 1934; Blaney Lodge No. 271, Chicago, Illinois.

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Primary Stamp: USA No. 926

Year: 1944

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Motion Picture Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Motion picture showing for armed forces in the South Pacific



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp commemorated the 50th anniversary of motion pictures and paid tribute to the cinema industry's contribution to the war effort.

Additional Masonic Information: Berry was also a 32nd degree AASR Mason and a Shriner.

BERRYMAN, CLIFFORD K. (1869–1949); cartoonist; originator of the “teddy bear” character; winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 1943; Temple Noyes Lodge No. 32, Washington, District of Columbia.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 3182i

Year: 1998

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Celebrate the Century

Designer: Richard Waldrep

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: “Teddy” bear



Secondary Stamp(s): No. 1940

Stamp Facts: The information on the back of the primary stamp states: “America’s ‘teddy’ bear was created in 1902. A cartoon depicting President Theodore ‘Teddy’ Roosevelt’s refusal to shoot a captured bear while hunting in Mississippi is said to have inspired its cartoon.”

Berryman’s cartoon prompted Morris Michton, a Brooklyn toy merchant, to make a stuffed bear, which he placed in his shop window to attract attention. Customer requests for the “Teddy” led Michton to manufacture the new toy. In Europe, a tourist showed Berryman’s cartoon to Margaret Steiff, a German toy manufacturer, and this led to the production of “teddy bears” in that country.

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Additional Masonic Information: Berryman was a past master of the stated lodge. Also, he was a Knight Templar and a Shriner.

BIDDLE, EDWARD (1738–1779); political leader; delegate to the first Continental Congress; Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1544

Year: 1974

Type: Commemorative

Issue: First Continental Congress Issue

Designer: Frank P. Conley

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not applicable

Design: “We ask for but Peace, Liberty and Safety”



Secondary Stamp(s): USA No. 1543,1545,1546

Stamp Facts: The stamps in this issue commemorated the 200th anniversary of the assemblage that paved the way for the creation of the United States. The quotation on the primary stamp is from the First Continental Congress.

Additional Masonic Information: Biddle received his Master Mason’s degree in the stated lodge on March 29, 1763.

BLACK, LA FAYETTE HUGO (1886–1971); lawyer, prosecuting attorney and judge; U.S. senator from Alabama; associate justice of the Supreme Court; Ashland Lodge No. 356, Ashland, Alabama.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 2172

Year: 1986

Type: Regular Postal Issue

Issue: Great Americans Series

Designer: Christopher Calle

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: Not indicated

Design: Hugo L. Black



Secondary Stamp(s): None

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Stamp Facts: The primary stamp honors Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Additional Masonic Information: Black received his Master Mason's degree in the stated lodge in 1909. Later, he became a life member of Birmingham Temple Lodge No. 636, Birmingham, Alabama. He was also a Royal Arch Mason and a Knights Templar. He received his Royal Arch degree on June 2, 1915 in Mineral City Chapter No. 101, and his Commandery orders on October 13, 1916 in Cyrene Commandery No. 10. Both of these Masonic bodies are in Birmingham, Alabama.

BLAIR, JOHN JR. (1731–1800); lawyer; delegate to the Philadelphia Convention on the Federal Constitution; justice of the first Supreme Court of the U.S.; Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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): USA No.991,1894-1896

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 individual people shown. John Blair Jr. is number twelve (12). (See MP Vol. 56, No. 4, December 2000, page 13—issue is posted on the Club website).

Additional Masonic Information: John Blair Jr. was made a Master Mason on December 23, 1773 in Williamsburg Lodge. However, he was not initiated in this lodge. It is thought that he was initiated in the Lodge of St. James, England. The records of Williamsburg Lodge show he signed the by-laws of this lodge on July 6, 1773. Furthermore, on September 7, 1773, he was fined one shilling, three pence for absence. He was elected master in May 1774 and served as the first grand master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia (1778–1784).

The Masonic Philatelist

BLAKE, JAMES HERBERT, “EUBIE” (1883–1983); musician—pianist and composer; awarded a gold medal for his contributions to the arts and music; wrote the hit presidential campaign song *I’m Just Wild About Harry*, which was dedicated to President Harry S Truman; Hiram Lodge No. 4, New York, New York; Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 2988

Year: 1995

Type: Commemorative

Issue: American Music Issue

Designer: Thomas Blackshear

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not applicable

Design: James Herbert “Eubie” Blake



Secondary Stamp: None

Stamp Facts: No further information.

Additional Masonic Information: No further information

BLASDEL, HENRY G. (1825–1900); first governor of Nevada; Santa Cruz Lodge No. 38, Santa Cruz, California.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1248

Year: 1964

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Nevada Statehood Issue

Designer: William K. Schrage

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicated



Design: Virginia City and outline map of Nevada

Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp commemorated the centenary of the admission of Nevada to statehood. The outline of the map of Nevada on this stamp gives the impression that the line that borders California is a straight line. This border follows 120 degrees latitude and therefore slopes out. In other words, Nevada’s northern border is about 15 miles shorter than the distance across the state at its widest point.

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Additional Masonic Information: Blasdel later affiliated with Carson Lodge No. 1, Carson City, Nevada and he became a Master of this lodge.

BLECKLEY, ERWIN (1894–1918); lieutenant in the Air Service; first congressional medal of honor winner in the US Air Service (awarded posthumously). Albert Pike Lodge No. 303, Wichita, Kansas.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 2045

Year: 1983

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Medal of Honor Issue

Designer: Dennis J. Homm

MP Class: Class IV

Artwork: Not indicate

Design: Three medals



Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: There are three (3) different types of medals of honor depicted on the primary stamp. The use of the singular “medal of honor” as shown on the stamp is misleading. The medal on the left is the Army-Air Force medal. This medal was used when the Air Force (or Air Service) was part of the Army. The medal in the center is the Air Force medal which was used after the Air Force became a separate military establishment. The medal on the right is the Navy-Marine Corps medal.

Additional Masonic Information: No further information.

BOLIVAR, SIMON (1783–1830); soldier, statesman; freed six present day Latin American countries from Spanish rule; he joined the Masonic Order in Cadiz, Spain; founded and served as Master of Protectora de las Vertudes Lodge No. 1, Venezuela.

Primary Stamp: USA No. 1110

Year: 1958

Type: Commemorative

Issue: Champion of Liberty Issue

Designer: Not indicated

MP Class: Class II

Artwork: From a portrait painted
by Ricardo Acevedo-Bernal

Design: Simon Bolivar medal



The Masonic Philatelist

Secondary Stamp(s): None

Stamp Facts: The primary stamp shows the torch of liberty and two olive branches above a half ring that is holding a medal. An actual medal does not appear to have been used for the stamp design. In other words, an image of a medal was created by the stamp designer.

Additional Masonic Information: As indicated, Bolivar joined Freemasonry in Cadiz, Spain. He received the AASR degrees in Paris, France and was also knighted in a Commandery of Knights Templar in France (1807). While on a diplomatic mission to London, England in 1810, he was also active in Freemasonry in that country. In addition to founding and serving as master of Protectora de las Vertudes Lodge No. 1 in Venezuela, he founded (1824) the Lodge Order and Liberty No. 2 in Peru. In 1828 when the anti-Masonic wave was sweeping over the world, Bolivar forbade meetings of Masons in Venezuela. His apron and Scottish Rite collar are on exhibit in the New York Grand Lodge museum.

Bolivar's Death: These unusual stamps of Columbia show Simon Bolivar on his death bed. I have not seen other stamps of this nature. The following is from Wikipedia:

"On 17 December 1830, at the age of 47, Simon Bolívar died of tuberculosis in the Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino in Santa Marta, Gran Colombia (now Colombia). On his deathbed, Bolívar asked his aide-de-camp, General Daniel F. O'Leary, to burn the remaining, extensive archive of his writings, letters, and speeches. O'Leary disobeyed the order and his writings survived, providing historians with a wealth of information about Bolívar's liberal philosophy and thought, as well as details of his personal life."
(Columbia #408, 888)





Murphy's

STAMP RANT

Errors, Oddities & Oversights

USA & CANADA

Book Two: Design Curiosities – Part 5

PARTY POOPERS

If by some stretch of the imagination this stamp would have been issued 1,700 years ago, it would have been met with great condemnation by the Christian Church. Two reasons for the Church's position would have been given. First, as all infants are born with the original sin of Adam, birthdays were not appropriate for celebrations. Second, birthday celebrations (including the cake and candles) were relics of pagan practices. Contrary to popular belief, the "feast days" for saints celebrate the death day of the saint, not his or her birthday. The Church had no problem with celebrating death days because the person passed on to the glorious afterlife. (USA #2272)



PATTON PENDING

General George S. Patton Jr. and the Armored Forces of the United States Army in World War II are honored on this stamp. General Patton is shown on the stamp, in action, with four stars on his cap. Patton was promoted to a temporary four star general in mid April, 1945. The war with Germany ended on May 7, 1945. While Patton later received full four star status, he did not achieve this distinction during the war. However, Patton was definitely in action during his temporary four star period as the stamp shows. During the first week in May, 1945 his Third Army columns pushed into Czechoslovakia. The town of Plzen was liberated shortly before the armistice. (USA #1026)



PEACHES, PISTOLS AND POTSHOTS

This stamp is printed on peach blossom colored paper. The paper color is intended to symbolize that an important phase of the Shiloh battle (American Civil War) was fought in a peach orchard. (USA #1179)



PEALE APPEAL

This stamp commemorated the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Charles Wilson Peale, shown on the stamp, was one of the founders of this academy. Peale's self-portrait painting, from which the stamp was designed, is in that academy. The painting shows the artist's life interests—natural curiosities and art. Unfortunately, the stamp designer missed inclusion of Peale's art symbols—a pallet and paint brushes (shown below) which are on the table to the left of Peale (right side of stamp). (USA #1064)



PETITE POSTAGE

This 1978 issue was an experimental stamp specially designed in a smaller size so that a pane of 150 stamps could be produced in place of the usual 100 stamps. Although the idea was very practical, it did not meet with public approval. Nevertheless, later the same stamp size was used for the Dolley Madison stamp (USA #1821) released in 1980. In this case, the stamp was apparently accepted without fuss. (USA #1734).



PILGRIM POSTULATING

Landing of the Pilgrims is commemorated on this Pilgrim Tercentenary (1620-1920) stamp. Although people we call “Pilgrims” were certainly around in 1620, they would not have answered to this name until 1793—one-hundred and seventy-three years later. The name “Pilgrim” came about as a result of a sermon by Reverend Chandler Robbins in 1793. Up until that time, these hardy people were simply called the “Old Comers” or “Forefathers.” The term “Pilgrim Fathers” did not come about until 1820 when Daniel Webster used it in a speech that was later published. (USA #549)



PLANE PUZZLING

Design of this stamp presents a number of interesting questions. The pilot is definitely getting out of the airplane. We know this to be a fact because the plane’s motor is running, as evidenced by the propeller. If he is getting into the plane, then who started the motor? Also, we note that the plane’s wheels have been blocked and that there are two people standing in front of the plane’s left wing (right facing). Surely, these people would not be standing there if the plane was about to take-off. Now, given the pilot is getting out of the plane, we have to question if the plane’s motor would still be running at the speed indicated by the propeller. We would naturally assume the pilot turned the motor off before he got out and it would take a few moments for him to shut-down everything and unhitch



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himself. However, if we assume that the motor would continue running as indicated, we must wonder if the wheels would be blocked while the propeller was still turning. It is not, of course, impossible to conjure up a set of circumstances under which all of the stamp conditions would be met. However, while such would be possible, we would



have to wonder if the circumstances would be probable. Your author is certainly no authority on things like this, and if there is a logical explanation, he would like to hear it. (CDN #C7)

PLEDGE PUZZLER

One line of Francis Bellamy's pledge to the United States flag is shown on the illustrated stamp. However, the line shown, "One nation indivisible," is the line in Bellamy's original version of the pledge. This line 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 these words are omitted on the postage stamp is puzzling.



Furthermore, we are told the stamp design is based on the first Great Seal of the United States, but there are many significant differences as seen by the following illustration of the first Great Seal. Most important, the stamp shows a bald eagle whereas the first seal shows the eagle of heraldry. Also noteworthy, the stamp shows seven colored bars on the shield depicted whereas the first seal shield has six (which are the reverse of the stamp design arrangement). All of the other differences are highly noticeable to the point that it's plain to see that only the basic concept (if that) of the original seal design found its way onto the stamp. (USA #1596)



POSTAGE WITH A POKE

In the background, on the left side of this Canadian stamp, there is a building which one might just dismiss as “part of the scenery.” Not so—this building is Jordan’s York Hotel which was situated on King Street East in what is now the city of Toronto. It was in this hotel that the Canadian Legislature met after the destruction of the Government Buildings by invading United States forces in 1813. The following is an enlargement of this stamp detail. (CDN #313)



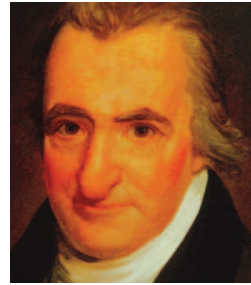
POSTAL PAINE

A number of written works have been credited with changing the course of history. Among these works is *Common Sense*, a pamphlet written in 1776 by Thomas Paine who is honored on this stamp. This pamphlet inspired over 100,000 people to emigrate to America and helped set the stage for the Declaration of Independence. Subsequent pamphlets written by Paine greatly raised the morale of the revolutionists and increased support for their cause. Paine’s unique ability to stir things up with his writing pushed the limits of tolerance with government officials wherever he traveled. In England, he was accused of treason. In France, he first found great support and was elected to the French legislative assembly. However, a turn of events in this country landed him in jail where he wrote his controversial book, *The*



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Age of Reason. Atheistic implications in this work earned Paine considerable scorn, both in Europe and America. Largely through the efforts of James Monroe, Paine was released from jail, but he then wrote a series of letters to George Washington accusing the President and Gouverneur Morris of persecuting him. Paine's return to America was greeted by a great public outcry of disapproval. He had poisoned himself with his own pen and died in poor health and extreme poverty. The original painting on which the illustrated stamp is based is by John Wesley Jarvis. The painting resides in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. In the painting, however, Paine is almost smiling. He has very bright, clear eyes and his eye brows do not meet. These details are not the same on the postage stamp. The official U.S. Postal Service description of the stamp states in part, "even the unusual dark blue (stamp color) contributes to an awareness of this man's personal history." It appears the stamp designer followed through with this theme and intentionally gave Paine an almost austere and somewhat menacing expression, as seen in the adjacent comparison with the stamp image first and the painting below. (USA #1292)



QUEBEC RIGHT FIGHT

Idola Saint-Jean (1875-1945), who fought for women's right to vote in Quebec, is honored on this stamp. In the background of the stamp, directly to the right of Idola, there are three women wearing signs. Two of the signs, that of the woman in the center and right hand side, can be partially read. One sign is in French, the other in English and French. It is doubtful many of the signs would have had English. The rest of Canada had granted women the right to vote some five years before Idola got busy in Quebec in 1922. This date makes the scene on the stamp sometime in the mid 1920s. The three ladies, however, appear to be from a much earlier time.



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Nevertheless, Idola had a long and bitter fight on her hands. Quebec women were not even allowed to control their own bank accounts in 1922, let alone vote. It would be 18 years before Idola got her way (1940). She, personally, did not have much time to exercise her new right because she died five years later. With the rest of the country on her side, 18 years is a long time. Apparently the main argument that all suffragists encountered was that the politicians (men) were of the opinion that women themselves did not want the vote. Ironically, if a vote had been conducted on this question, the whole issue could have been resolved very quickly. (CDN #881)

QUESTIONABLE CHRISTMAS STAMP

The theme of this stamp touted as “Canada’s and the world’s first Christmas stamp,” is the expanse of the British Empire. The stamp shows the first line of a stanza from a song entitled, *A Song of Empire*, by Sir William Morris. The complete stanza is as follows:



*We hold a vaster Empire than has been!
Nigh half the race of man is subject to our Queen!
Nigh half the wide, wide earth is ours in fee!
And where her rule comes, all are free.
And therefor 'tis, oh Queen that we,
Knit fast in bonds of temperate liberty.
Rejoice to-day, and make our solemn jubilee!!*

What kind of Christmas stamp gloats about possessions? Even the term “XMAS,” as shown on the stamp is offensive. Despite the fact that “X” is a Greek letter that symbolizes Christ, many Christians do not like the connotation in another sense—the common use of “X” to signify an unknown or non-entity. One further note—the original stamp is a blotchy mess, as can be seen in the following enlargement.

Certainly, the technology was available at the time the stamp was issued to have done a better job. It appears this stamp was a rushed afterthought.



The stamp was reprinted in 1998 to honor Sir William Mulock, the postmaster general in 1898. Mulock was instrumental in the introduction of the two-cent international postage rate. The reprinted stamp is as shown on the right. In this case the mess is not quite so evident because of the reduced size of the map. (CDN #86, 1722)



RECONSTRUCTING FORT DUQUESNE

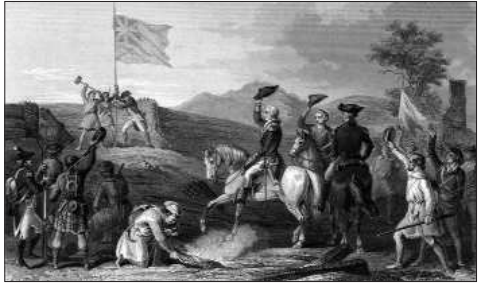
Design of this stamp is actually a compilation of the imaginations of five different people. A painting of the probable scene by J. R. Chapin was used as the basis for an engraving by T. R. Smith (c. 1850). This work, however, does not show a burning fort or General Forbes on his litter. Henry Marcus Moran created a painting (c. 1945) of the scene that shows these details. The postage stamp designers, William H. Buckley and Douglas Gorsline, combined both scenes. In the process, they added a little of their own imaginations. The following illustrations enable the reader to trace the design of this unique stamp. (USA #1123)



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Enlargement of the stamp design



Engraving by T. R. Smith



Painting by Henry Marcus Moran



Composite photograph by author
(using T. R. Smith's engraving and stamp
details.)

ROOSEVELT COVER-UP

The design of this U.S. National Recovery Act stamp was taken from a poster drawn by Rudolph L. Bortel. The arrangement pictures four individuals in an “all for one, one for all” pose, that is very appropriate for the desired stamp theme. In his enthusiasm for the project, however, Bortel made one of the figures (second from left) resemble President Franklin

Delano Roosevelt, who instigated the National Recovery Act. As U.S. Postal Service regulations forbid depicting a living person on a stamp, a mustache was added to the Roosevelt look-alike, as seen in the stamp detail (left). Bortel also missed out on a little detail that further adds to the intrigue of this stamp. The inscription on the stamp reads, “In a common determination.” However, the “Roosevelt” figure is out of step with the other three figures.

(USA #732)



The Masonic Philatelist

A Very Dubious Distinction

Our eminent Brother, Richard Bedford Bennett, has the dubious distinction of having a mode of transportation named after him.

During the great depression, many rural people could no longer afford to operate their cars. As a result, they removed the car motor and had what was left pulled by a horse, or two horses.

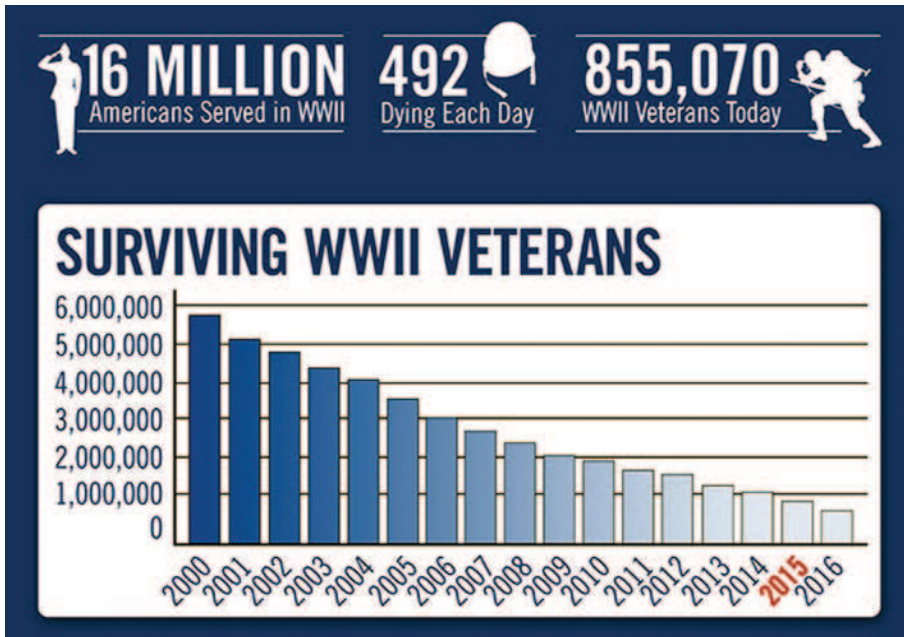
In Canada, this “vehicle,” as it were, became known as a Bennett buggy, named after Bennett, the Prime Minister in office at the time, who was blamed for the poor economic conditions. In the US it became known as a Hoover wagon, named after President Herbert Hoover for the same reason. The following are examples of Bennett buggies. (CDN #357)



The Masonic Philatelist

Some Sobering Thoughts

As World War II drifts further and further into history, we might tend to forget the size of this conflict. It lasted only about 6 years, but was far larger than any war in the history of the world. Of course, those Americans who served and are still with us will have vivid memories. However, their number is rapidly decreasing as can be seen in the following chart, created in 2015.



Given a service person was 18 years old in 1945, then he/she would now be 88. If he/she were 18 in 1941, then he/she would now be 92. This means that all of the remaining veterans are likely between 88 and 92 years of age. At the current death rate, the last surviving US World War II service person will leave us in about 2021.

For certain, many thousands of World War II service people who were killed in battle were Freemasons, and I would say a considerable number of those still with us are also brethren.

We can never repay the debt we owe all those who served or who supported the war effort in other ways. All we can do is say, although we were not there, we do, and always will remember you. (USA #905)

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Masonic Men of the Year



For 89 years, *Time* magazine has selected a “Man of the Year” for its cover. The criteria for selection is based on the amount of influence the individual selected has had on our lives—both positive and negative. The following covers show the Freemasons. Three shown were acknowledged more than once; what is shown is the first cover. Keep in mind that this is strictly the “Man of the Year” recognition. Many Freemasons have been on the magazine cover for other reasons. Those shown here are, from left to right,: Charles Lindbergh (1927), Walter Chrysler(1928), Franklin D. Roosevelt (1932), Winston Churchill (1940), Harry Truman (1945), George C. Marshall (1948) and Martin Luther King (1963).



Henry Ford's Biggest Recall

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

One of the most damaging hoaxes of all time, which is still making the rounds, is a document called *The Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion* or *The Protocols of the Meeting of the Learned Elders of Zion*. The *Protocols*, as they have come to be known, were originally published in Russia in 1903. The ridiculous document details a master plan for world conquest by Jewish people. The purpose of originating and publishing the document was purely anti-Semitic. It portends to be the official plan or plot developed by a secret Jewish organization. Many people were fooled by the *Protocols*. In Germany, about 100,000 copies were published in 1920. Adolph Hitler refers to the *Protocols* in his book, *Mein Kampf*. Although Hitler acknowledges them to be a hoax, he nevertheless embraces them as the true aims of the Jewish people. In Hitler's own words.

It's completely indifferent from what Jewish brain these disclosures originated; the important thing is that with positively terrifying certainty they reveal the nature and activity of the Jewish people and expose their inner contexts as well as their ultimate final aims.

Readership of, and interest in the *Protocols* in the United States was given a boost in 1920 when Henry Ford published parts of them in his newspaper the *Dearborn Independence*. He also funded printing of 500,000 copies that were dis-



tributed throughout the US in the 1920s. When Ford realized the foolishness of this action, he profoundly apologized and proclaimed his friendship with the Jewish people. It appears highly evident, however, that Ford himself never really sat down and read the *Protocols* prior to publishing them. Had he done so, he would have seen that the ridiculous "plan" was to be surreptitiously implemented through the Masonic Order, after which the Order would be destroyed. In this way, the *Protocols* served to discredit both the Jewish people and the Masonic Order. Ford joined the Masonic Order in 1894. He was a staunch member of his lodge for almost 53 years. We can reason, therefore, that in addition to common sense, his Masonic knowledge would have made him realize the total invalidity of the claims made in the *Protocols*.

Whatever the case, one must admit that the *Protocols* are deviously clever. The author, or authors "cover all bases," as it were, in the following statement.

I beg you to note that among those making attacks upon us will also be organs established by us, but they will attack exclusively points that we have predetermined to alter.

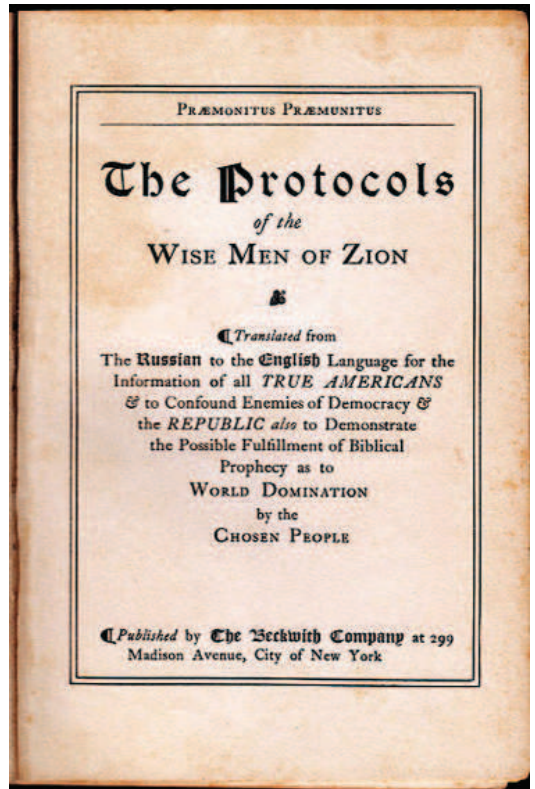
While there are claims the *Protocols* date back to the late 1700s, current research indicates they were probably composed in the early 1900s. The person thought to be responsible for the hoax was Pyotr Ivanovich Rachkovsky, head of the Russian Secret Service abroad. He was headquartered in Paris for 18 years, being recalled in 1902. One of his former aides admitted in 1917 that the *Protocols* had been created in Paris and that Rachkovsky gave the order to create them. From this statement, it appears there were more than one author, with Rachkovsky as the “mastermind.”

The question might be why on earth would I want to get into this ridiculous issue in our quarterly? The answer is that many years ago a young Freemason wrote to me highly distraught about the document. This was when the Internet was in its infancy, so he had to send me a hard copy.

I too was taken aback with a cursory reading. Keep in mind that it is exceedingly well written and properly presented. I then diligently read it, analyzed it, and researched the source.

There can be little doubt that the *Protocols* have served to fuel the fires of suspicion as to Masonic aims and objectives by ill-informed and shallow people (particularly some media people).

Just why Henry Ford chose to “run” with something of this nature defies logic.



Cover or title page of a 1920 New York publication of the *Protocols*. I have not confirmed that this was the publication Henry Ford financed, but believe it is.

Unfortunately, people who are highly successful in a particular discipline (especially celebrities) are automatically given high credibility in non-related disciplines. As a result, when Ford published the *Protocols*, his name gave them unwarranted legitimacy. It was a serious blunder, which will never be completely erased. All we can do is state the facts and move on. (USA #1286A)



Rushmore Revisited

The Mount Rushmore monument, created by the eminent Freemasons Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln, was again featured on a US stamp (2008). It's a nice stamp, although perhaps somewhat contemporary for some of us.

The problem with depiction of the carvings is that no matter what one does, the scale is not apparent. In other words, something is needed as a reference to judge the immense size of the heads.

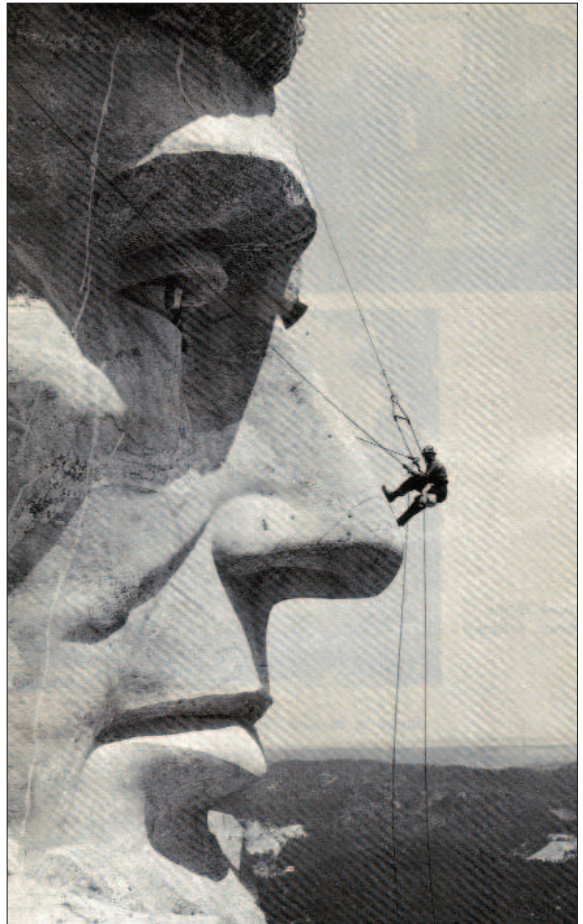
The photograph seen here does exactly that. We see a worker scaling down the nose of Abraham Lincoln and immediately realize the relative comparison.

The Borglums were highly gifted in their ability to conceptualize gigantic proportions. In all the Borglums and 400 workers created the monument. Their knowledge of how to use explosives to "get what they want" was amazing.

The entire sculpture was essentially created between 1927 and 1941. Gutzon died in the final year and his son completed the project. Originally, it was planned that the figures would be sculptured from head to waist, but insufficient funding forced the carving work to end.

Lincoln Borglum died in 1986 at the age of 73, ironically the same age as his father at his death.

Mount Rushmore is a national treasure. Works of that nature are very rare. That the sculptures were created by two Freemasons is also highly noteworthy. (USA #4268)



George Washington's Last Direct Relative in the Male Line

On April 9, 1991, a news article by reporter Jack Alexander was published in the *Weekly World News* with the following headline:

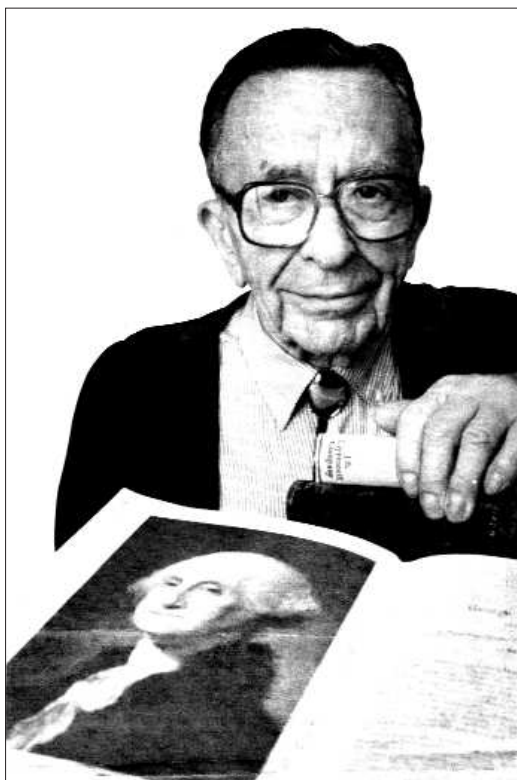
I cannot tell a lie...

I'm the last twig on George Washington's family tree

The article featured Bill Washington of Bradley, Illinois, who's photograph, as seen here, was featured. Bill, who was 85 years old at the time had documentation that proved he was the great (to the 5th power) grandson of Augustine Washington, the father, of George Washington, first President of the United States.

Although there are thousands of Washington descendants, none, except Bill, can be traced back to Augustine. Bill descended from Lawrence, one of George Washington's half brothers, thus the direct male connection.

For certain, Bill would no longer be with us. He did not have a brother, and his sister had died some years earlier. He is survived by two daughters (no sons). As a result, he was the "last twig" as he claimed.



While some might question various newspapers, I will venture to say that this article is likely genuine. We are told that genealogist had traced Bill down and contacted him in the mid 1970s. However, he already knew of his lineage but "never paid any attention to it. The only similarity noted to George Washing is that Bill has a similar nose.

Bill's occupation is not stated, we just know that he worked for 41 years, liked to fish, and dabbled in photography.



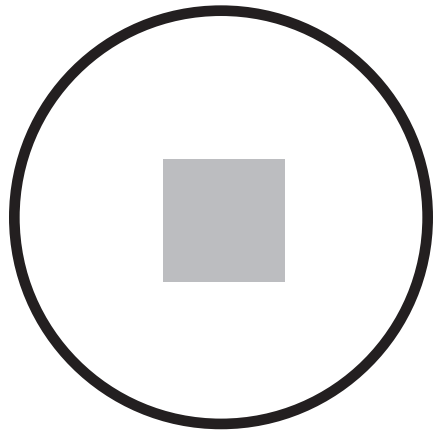
The Washington Monument's Secret?

We might be pushing the envelope a bit, but there could be something to a little “high flying” interpretation of the Washington Monument. For sure, there were no planes or helicopters around at the time the structure was built; however there were hot-air balloons that ascended to considerable heights. As a result, viewing objects on earth from high in the air was not unknown. The adjacent photograph shows the Washington Monument from the air at an angle. If the angle were “plumb-line straight” to the top center of the the structure, then the diagram here would be about what you would see. It’s hardly a point within a circle, but such is not out-of-the-question.



Is it possible that brethren involved in the building of the Monument thought about this? They obviously did not mention it, or we would know for sure.

As a matter of fact, I don’t think they thought about very much other than that the obelisk is essentially a grave stone that symbolizes resurrection, or a life hereafter (keep in mind it was intended to inter Washington’s remains in a tomb below the structure). (*USA, Issued 1960*)



The Cutting Edge: Although lodge tylers are now normally equipped with an ordinary sword, such is not the true “implement of his office.” Our ancient brethren used what is called a “wavy sword” as seen here. It represents the Biblical flaming sword that was placed at the east of the Garden of Eden to guard this entrance. Artists often show an angel holding the sword. It did not have a scabbard because it was always “ready.”

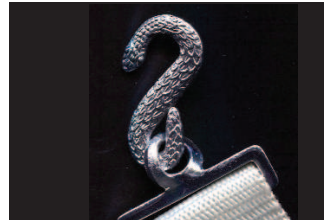


Snake Symbolism

Although the Bible provides a record from “creation,” as it were, certainly few people on the earth were aware of its message for untold centuries. Such people created their own religions with rituals and numerous symbols. Generally speaking, all religions have as their basis the principle of the universe: Birth, Life, Death and Re-Birth. Such was represented by a circle, and the animal used to represent this theme was a snake. The creature was

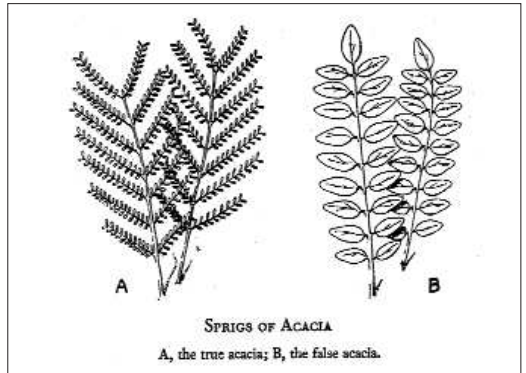
shown with its tail in its mouth as seen here (top). Whenever a snake was seen, people were reminded of its symbolic significance.

On your Masonic apron, you will see that the “S” hook used to fix the apron around your waist is a snake. Its use reflects the meaning explained here. It has nothing to do with the Biblical snake that the devil became to tempt Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.



The Acacia Secret – Made in USA

True acacia branches do not terminate with a single leaf as illustrated here (A). This was likely the type of acacia referenced in the Ritual of the Third Degree. It is found in Egypt where it is called “Egyptian thorn.” The “acacia” used in Masonic symbolism is not really acacia at all. It is actually the Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacaci*) (B), which is also called “False Acacia.” It is a native plant of Eastern North America, and other than its “sprigs” is very different from true acacia. It was not introduced into the Eastern hemisphere until the seventeenth century (1600s). Obviously, someone took it there and it became confused with the true acacia (*Acacia vera*). I suppose that when early Masonic artists asked what



acacia looked like, they were provided with a sprig of false acacia. Then again, they might have been given both, and decided that the false version with its “top leaf” was far better art-wise — looked much nicer when it is made into a wreath.

For certain, when we look at Masonic art (regalia, paintings, jewelry

and so forth), we can zero-in on that little top leaf and say to ourselves “Made in USA.”

False acacia depicted on a British stamp issued in 2009. The planting of the tree depicted is dated c. 1762.



Elvis – Forever Remembered



Bro. Norman Lincoln brings to our attention the new US “forever” postage stamp depicting Elvis Presley (1937–1977). He was not a Freemason, but those of us (probably most of us) who were around in the early “Elvis era” will fondly remember him as an important part of our teen years.

In all, 70 countries have featured Elvis on stamps. In the US alone, previous stamps sold depicting him totaled more than 600 million. His records (78s, 45s and LPs) are believed to have sold about 1 bil-

lion copies. During his entire career he appeared in 31 movies, 2 documentaries, and many television programs.

I saw “The King” when he came to Vancouver, BC (August 31, 1957). and performed at our over-crowded Empire Stadium. It was certainly a “forever” event for me, as the new stamp appropriately shows.

Many thanks to Bro. Lincoln for providing the information given here. Long live the King.

(USA, Issued 2015)

THE ADAM FACTOR

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Can the Biblical Adam and his sons, Cain, Abel and Seth, be connected with Freemasonry? The short and direct answer to this is NO. However there is an esoteric connection that is both interesting and amusing, and was likely on the minds of our ancient brethren who created Masonic ritual. Unfortunately, it has resulted in many “attacks” against the Order by religious zealots, especially Christian fundamentalists. Where I show Point Numbers in the following, please consider what is said in connection with Masonic ritual.

Adam was given a certain “secret” by God and he passed down this secret to his sons, Cain and Abel. Here you need to stretch your imagination and conclude that this was the first “secret society,” or more correctly, a society with a secret—Point One.

Cain killed Abel and became the evil side of the society, which had connections with the devil involving satanic oaths—Point Two, strictly on the word “oaths,” which means solemn promises. Adam’s third son, Seth, born after Abel’s murder, was also given the “secret” and Adam and Seth became the good side of the society. Both Cain and Seth passed the secret down to their descendants—Point Three. Please don’t ask how they managed to have descendants, this is not a scientific discussion.



Top: Adam and Eve; Lower: Cain and Abel.

The Masonic Philatelist

Time goes on; we now have many people in both “camps”—evil and good, and we have arrived at the time of Noah who was in the good society and naturally possessed the “secret.” During this time, there was an on-going “battle,” as it were, between the two factions (evil and good) and evil effectively got the upper hand. God decides that He has had enough and plans to destroy all the inhabitants of the Earth, save Noah and his family—Noah’s ark and the Great flood follow. When the flood abated and the world started anew, Noah recorded the “secret” in some way and put it in two pillars—Point Four. The location is not known, but the secret was evidently very involved.

We now have just a good secret society, but it does not last long because Noah’s son, Ham (apparently tempted by the devil) turns “evil.” As a result we again end up with two camps, but this time they “mingle.” The end result is one world with both good and evil people mixed, and the on-going battle between the two, but good always triumphs over evil in the final analysis.

You are probably wondering about those pillars. They (tongue in cheek) were safely transplanted to King Solomon’s Temple and are now “owned” by the Masonic Order—Point Four reinforced.

For certain, our ancient brethren sifted through all of this speculation and developed a “system” as it were, which we now enjoy. However, I sincerely hope that I have not misinterpreted any misinterpretations and will stand corrected if anyone wishes to

comment and provide me with some “light” from their perspective.

How did I get embroiled in this rather obscure subject? As it happened, some time ago an old house in my neighborhood was demolished and carted away. I walked across the empty lot and saw a large, round granite stone. It fitted perfectly in my hand and I mused that such was likely man’s first weapon. This led me to think of Cain and Abel, concluding that Cain likely used a stone like this to kill his brother. I made a sculpture of a larger than normal hand holding the stone (Cain was a very large man). I later added a black raven because after Cain murdered his brother, he looked over and saw a raven standing by the body. The raven was scratching the ground as if to turn the earth. God had sent the raven to tell Cain that he must bury the body. Hence the origination of God’s law that we must bury the dead.

Granite, by the way was part of Biblical “creation” so the stone you see in the following images was likely around in some form when the evil deed took place. I later added a clock to my *Hand of Cain* sculpture to mark the relentless passage of time.

As to the stamps illustrated, they sort of “Came to pass,” and can be justified as part of a Masonic collection as a reminder of what they represent. (*Adam and Eve, Vatican City, Issued 1994; Cain and Abel, France, Issued 1997*)

Now, having taken you on this rather strange and complicated journey, I am compelled to take you just a little bit further to set the record straight.

The Masonic Philatelist

When our ancient brethren composed Masonic ritual, they did not reinvent the wheel. They used everything they could find (including symbolism) in the “Ancient Mysteries,” as our distinguished educator Albert Mackey calls them, to make a point. This material is included the Old Testament and other writings connected with “religions,” society, customs, and so forth. They took what they could find and REDIRECTED it to substantiate what I call the 12 Commandments of Freemasonry, which are:



In the EA degree a candidate is told that nothing in Freemasonry will conflict with his duty to God, his country, his neighbor or himself. The inference here is to the above “commandments” which are the foundation of every religion and desired conduct of human interactions since the beginning of



Hand of Cain sculpture.

The Masonic Philatelist

“human” time (albeit not always followed as they should have been).

It does not matter what one’s particular religion might be (Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and so forth), none will deny even one of these “commandments.” In short, the Masonic Order “aced” the entire field.

Yes, Masonic ritual goes slightly off track with a bit of a bias to Christianity. Even Mackey grimaces a little here. Some scholars say that it was there from the start, but I think it sort of crept in later—perhaps to make Christians a little more comfortable. Whatever the case, it is not a major issue.

Certainly, if one examines the origination of some of the “Ancient Mysteries” and Masonic symbolism, he or she will see that they were originally associated with ancient “gods” in Hebrew, Greek, Roman, and Asian cultures. The foremost example is Masonic use of the sun and the moon to illustrate dependency (they are always on time). The sun was likely the first “god” in human existence, but to connect Freemasonry to sun worship is absurd. There are all sorts of examples of this “disconnect” in Craft Freemasonry (Blue Lodge) and beyond. The first seven Masonic “commandments” are allegorically represented by women, but to conclude that Freemasons worship ancient female goddesses is beyond absurd.

There is really no end to what you can do with ritual and symbolism, be it Masonic, religious, pagan or cultural. You can go in any direction—towards good or

evil. The same can be said for interpretations of the Old Testament, the Talmud and the Quran or Koran. The New Testament went in a completely different (opposite) direction. Rather than an “eye for an eye” it says “turn the other cheek,” and unequivocally supports the Masonic Commandments, and provides us with the Golden Rule.

Generally speaking, Freemasonry has always taken the New Testament route (turn the other cheek) on issues raised by journalists, film/television producers, and individuals (essentially “witch hunters”) who would far sooner write than read; thus we end up with what are called “docu-fictions” that intentionally stress the perceived or imagined negative to increase public attention.

Just to be clear, the actual ten commandments given by God to Moses are just as important in Masonic philosophy as the Masonic “commandments” I present in this paper. Freemasonry simply took the essence of God’s Commandments and created its “dogma” (set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true).

I also need to stress that Freemasonry is NOT a religion by any stretch of one’s imagination. In most countries it simply acknowledges a Supreme Being or Creator of the Universe. Some countries have departed from this “acknowledgement” to accommodate the “disbeliever.” Nevertheless, I repeat, you will not find one person of any religion or position in life who would disagree with even one of the Masonic Commandments.

Birth of Old Glory – Little Messages

Seen here is a highly romantic, but probably highly inaccurate depiction of the “Birth of Old Glory.” In this case, we would have to conclude that Betsy Ross went to the home of a very wealthy person with the flag and two children. For certain, what we see is not the home of a widowed seamstress, and there is no mention of her having children.

Nevertheless, the scene is not impossible, it is just improbable, and the artwork is superior. Most artists are dreamers, that is what accounts for their creativity.

Note the little footstool in the foreground with a hat and stick placed on it. That is likely George Washington’s hat and stick. Right behind the stool is a large book, which is obviously a Bible (no other books of that nature were available at the time). You might think that this little arrangement is out-of-place; why would somebody put a footstool there, and then put a Bible on the floor? What we have here is an “artistic message.” It tells us that George Washington is a religious man and he is acting with trust and faith in God. Masons will recall in the EA degree, “Your trust being in God, your faith is well founded.” I don’t know if the artist was a Mason, but he would not have to be to include such a “message.” He would have simply thought about the mind-set of the time when most American colonists were



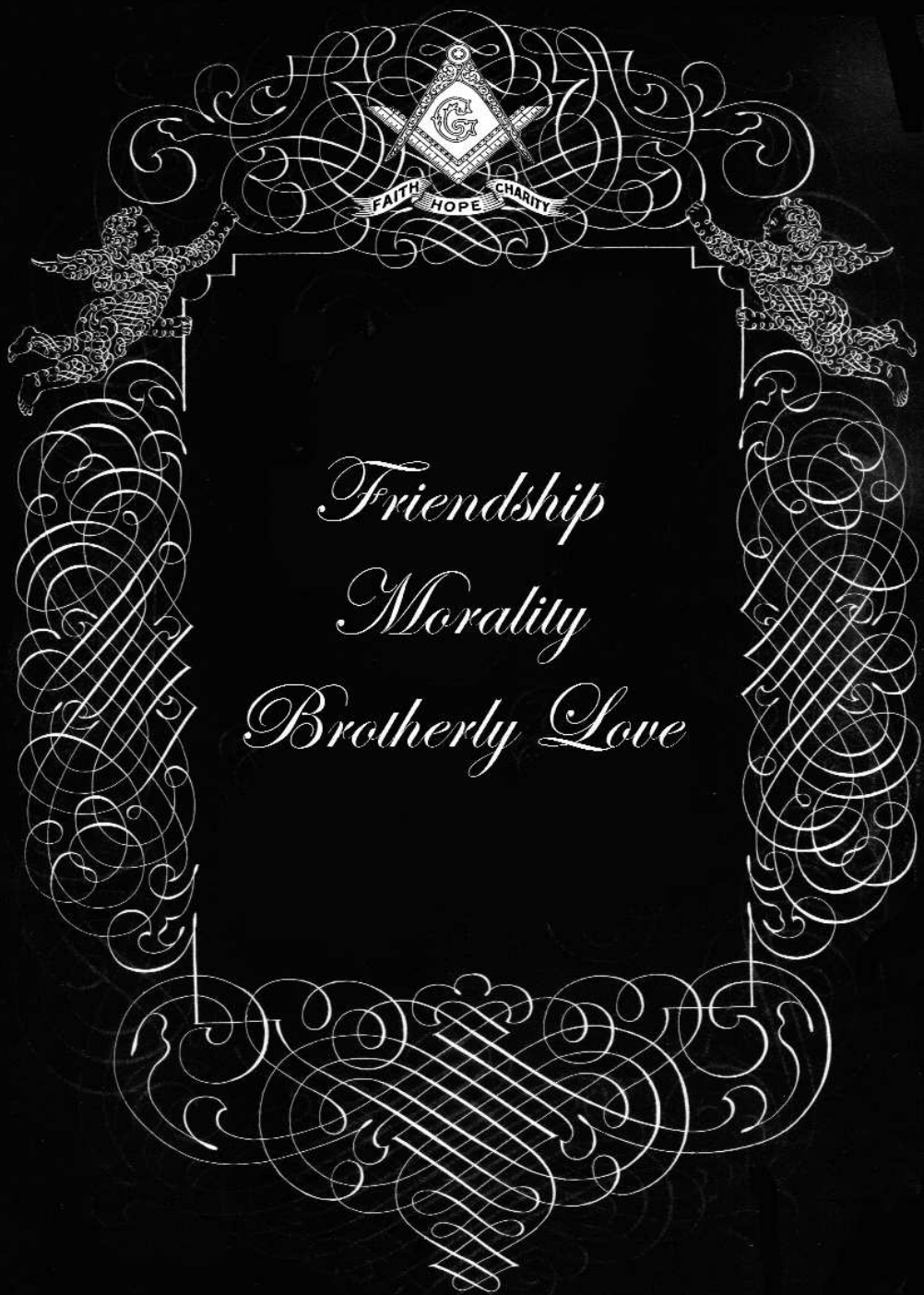
both religious and very forthright. Indeed, it was freedom of religion in America that brought great numbers of immigrants to that country.

One other little “message” is seen in the fact that George Washington and one of the other men have swords. It is unlikely they would have been wearing such for this little friendly gathering. The message is, “We are fighting for the freedom of our people and this flag will unite us in that cause.”

Please note that this is a personal interpretation. It is not based on any “professional” account of the painting. However, art is always in the “eye of the beholder.”
(USA #1004)



The traditional scene of the “Birth of Old Glory.”



Friendship
Morality
Brotherly Love