



# The Masonic Philatelist

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**Bro. James Naismith – Inventor of Basketball**



# ***The Masonic Philatelist***

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## **Contents**

Bro. James Naismith .....	3
A Very Masonic Cathedral .....	5
Cross Examination .....	8
The Shakespeare Files .....	9
Confederacy Complications .....	10
Pondering Pythagoras .....	12
The “Hap” Arnold Question .....	13
Philippines “Aguinaldo Insurrection” ...	14
Masonic Emblem Proprietary Stamps ...	15
Clark’s Private Die Stamp .....	16
The Cure-All Grand Master .....	17
The Potsdam Conference Stamp .....	18
How Influential are Postage Stamps? ...	19
Prehistoric Art & the Big Question ....	20
World’s Most Disgusting Stamp .....	21
Brother Lewis Wallace .....	22
<i>Royal William</i> – Masonic Connection ...	23
The Masonic Specialist .....	24
Stamp Rant .....	38
Uruguay Masonic Stamp .....	46
Behind the Scene - Austria No. 2044 ...	48
Talking About Skulls... ..	51

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## Bro. James Naismith – Inventor of Basketball

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

**B**asketball is an extremely innovative game. Just why it was invented by our eminent Brother James Naismith (1861–1939) is both intriguing and thought-provoking. There is an old saying: “Necessity is the mother of invention,” and this played a major part with Bro. Naismith.

As it happened, there was a problem, and Bro. Naismith was directed to solve it. In 1891, he was a physical education teacher at the YMCA Training School, Springfield, Massachusetts (now Springfield College). He had a rowdy class of boys with too much energy and no way to release it when the cold New England winter set in. In other words, the regular out-door games were “out.” We are told Naismith became very short-tempered with his class, and this situation was evidently brought to the attention of Naismith’s boss, Dr. Luther Gulick, head of Springfield YMCA Physical Education.

The two met and Dr. Gulick did not mince words. He considered the problem totally Naismith’s responsibility to resolve. He gave Naismith 14 days to create an indoor game that would provide an “athletic distraction.” Furthermore, the game must not take up much room, and must help to keep its track athletes in shape. What’s more, he explicitly emphasized that the game had to be fair for all players and not too rough.

This was a very tall order. The game, whatever it was to be, had to be played on a hard wooden floor, so injury would result if there were excessive body contact. Even if



a way was found to resolve this issue, what about goalies? They would be directly, and dangerously, in the line of fire with any sort of game involving a ball hurled or kicked at close-range. Wikipedia tells us:

In his attempt to think up a new game, Naismith was guided by three main thoughts. Firstly, he analyzed the most popular games of those times (rugby, lacrosse, soccer, football, hockey, and baseball); Naismith noticed the hazards of a ball and concluded that the big soft soccer ball was safest. Secondly, he saw that most physical contact occurred while running with the ball, dribbling or hitting it, so he decided that passing was the only legal option. Finally, Naismith further reduced body contact by making the goal unguardable, namely placing it high above the player’s heads [using a basket]. To score goals, he forced the players to throw a soft lobbing shot that had proven effective in his old favorite game “duck on a rock.” Naismith christened this new game “Basket Ball” and put his thoughts together in 13 basic rules.



## The Masonic Philatelist

Originally, the baskets used were just that, wicker peach baskets. When a goal was scored, the ball remained in the basket and the school janitor was directed to climb a ladder and retrieve it. It is said he suggested cutting out the bottom of the baskets, saving him a lot of trouble.

The subsequent development of the game I leave to the basketball enthusiasts to explore. Suffice it to say, Bro. Naismith came up with “just what the doctor ordered.”

By 1892, basketball had grown so popular on campus that Dennis Horkenbach (editor-in-chief of *The Triangle*, the Springfield college newspaper) featured it in an article

titled “A New Game,” and there were calls to name this new game “Naismith Ball,” but Naismith refused. By 1893, basketball was introduced internationally by the YMCA movement.

Officially, basketball is now the third most popular sport in America (after football and baseball). Also, it’s the 10th most followed sport in the world with an estimated 14,000 attendance per match.

Bro. Naismith was initiated in Roswell Lee Lodge, Springfield, Massachusetts, on February 10, 1894. He was passed to a Fellowcraft on March 17 and received his Master Mason’s Degree on April 28 of the same year. On January 9, 1922 he was admitted to Lawrence Lodge No. 6, Lawrence, Kansas, and he served as master of this lodge in 1927. He was also a Royal Arch Mason, Morning Star Chapter, Springfield, Massachusetts (date not known), and a 32nd Degree AASR Mason, receiving his degrees in 1927.

We can see here that Bro. Naismith became a Freemason after he invented basketball, although the game was still in its infancy at the time. Obviously he was highly impressed with the Masonic Order, and I am sure found the fellowship very enjoyable. We can muse of him excitedly discussing his new game with brethren on lodge nights. Many, if not most, men are interested in sports, so I am sure he was asked to do presentations, and he would have received tremendous moral sup-



Naismith's original basketball court, note the peach basket. I will guess the doors were in the middle and at the end of the auditorium so could not be avoided.



port—Freemasonry is absolutely unequaled in that regard. I can speak from experience here. Many times I have left lodge very proud of myself as a result of kind words from brethren on talks I had given or other things I had done. It's called positive reinforcement, and when it comes from an eminent brother, it is extremely reassuring.

Do I think Freemasonry helped Bro. Naismith to make his game so popular? At a time when the main “social media” processes were newspapers, magazines, and radio, I would say that Freemasonry did help. His achievement would have been discussed in Masonic circles when word got out that he was a Freemason. For certain, Freemasons in positions to “do something,” as it were, would have helped. Membership in all fraternal orders (Masonic, Odd Fellows, Eagles, Elks and so forth) always helps when it comes to matters that are for the good of the nation.

That the game of basketball became a highly popular sport is an ongoing tribute to Bro. Naismith. The good that the game has done for young people, and the enjoyment it has provided to millions of sports fans is beyond measure. Also, its entry into the world of professional sports provided major economic benefits and opportunities for aspiring players. We can all say, well done, Brother Naismith! (*Canada #1344a,b,c; USA #1189*)



Born in Ontario and educated at McGill University, Dr. James Naismith was a physical educator and Presbyterian minister with degrees in philosophy, religion, physical education and medicine. He authored numerous articles and books. He was posthumously elected to the American Academy of Physical Education in 1941; the Basketball Hall of Fame is also named after him.

**I Didn't Know That...** Freemasonry was introduced into Central America by a Jesuit priest. He sailed from Costa Rica in a small boat across the Caribbean Sea to Cartagena, Columbia. Here he secured a charter from the Grand Orient of Spain that was functioning in that republic. He then returned to Costa Rica and instituted

a blue lodge. Out of that grew the Supreme Council of Central America (1871), which covered the five republics in Central America. One of the founders of the Supreme Council was Francisco Calvo, presbyter, doctor of theology, and canon of the San Jose Cathedral. He became Sovereign Grand Commander.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**A Little Trivia:** In 1969 and 1979, the Canadian \$20 bill showed a scene of Moraine Lake in Banff National Park, Alberta, on the reverse. The view shown became known as the “Twenty Dollar View.” Then in 1984, a \$2 stamp was issued showing the same scene. Having the same image of a person or building shown on a bill and a stamp is not uncommon,

but this is the first I have seen a landscape. The bill is an engraving, and one might note how superior it is to the stamp. However, engravings are much more costly and I doubt there will be many used for stamps with the current economic environment in government postal services. (CDN #936)





## A Very Masonic Cathedral

Probably all cathedrals have Masonic content because they were built by stone masons, and then “free masons” (now Freemasons) who formed organizations that later evolved into what we call the Masonic Order. Just how far back these organizations go is difficult to determine. However, it would not surprise me if the stone masons who built King Solomon’s Temple had their special organization—forming such is a natural process with craftsmen and professionals.

The Strasbourg Cathedral shown on the adjacent stamp has special Masonic significance. Not only was it built by Freemasons who formed independent lodges, but it became their Grand Lodge when they amalgamated under an Act of Fraternity. The chief of the cathedral and his successors became the Grand Masters. All of this took place in 1459 and was brought to light in a document written in 1782 by Philippe-Andre Grandidier (1752–1787) a French Abbé who was made cannon of Strasbourg.

By 1782 the Masonic Order was essentially fully established, and this prompted Abbe Grandidier to remark, “I hold in my profane hands authentic documents and real records, dating more than three centuries back, which enable us to see that this much boasted Society of Freemasons is but a servile imitation of an ancient fraternity of actual masons whose headquarters were formerly at Strasbourg.”

We can therefore conclude that a form of organized Freemasonry dates back to AT LEAST 1459. Prior to that there were individual independent lodges that would likely date back to the advent of stone buildings.



In medieval times, the “free masons” and the Catholic Church were very close. The Church needed “grand edifices” and the masons needed work. As priests established parishes, it would be just a matter of time before a stone church was needed. As settlements grew into towns, which later became cities, a cathedral was required.

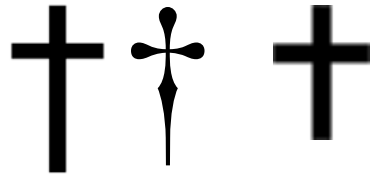
The Church did not have any problems with early Masonic fraternities whose rituals were essentially the same as we have today. What caused the rift? In my opinion, non-Masons (clergy) second-guessing what the Masonic Order was all about. However, things are now different, at least from my experiences. (*France, Issued 1939*)



## Cross Examination



Is a cross a Masonic symbol? Some brethren think so and point to this stamp showing the Mount of the Holy Cross in Colorado as having two Masonic reference—the cross and the All-seeing eye (in the State seal).



Daggers

Christian Cross

For certain, the All-seeing eye is a well-established Masonic symbol. However, the cross (specifically Christian cross) is not a part of basic Freemasonry (three degrees). It was not adopted into the ritual as we know it because speculative Masonry is not sectarian—it is universal. Nevertheless, the cross is definitely a part of the higher degrees, so it depends on where one wishes to draw the line. In ancient manuscripts the use of a cross to indicate the death of a person, may or may not be a Christian symbol. A thin cross with a long vertical line is actual a dagger, which has nothing to do with Christianity. It is a simplification of the actual dagger symbol. A Christian cross is shorter and thicker. The illustrations provided here show the differences.

Whatever the case, I would say that any cross shown on a postage stamp would be a representation of a Christian cross, despite its shape. I would also say the same for a cross used in current books or other writings. Daggers are hardly appropriate for showing death, but the “actual” dagger (second illustration) might be used as a footnote symbol. (*USA #1001*)



## **The Shakespeare Files**

In June 2000, we featured a great article entitled “William Shakespeare: Was He a Freemason?” by Brother Clyde D. Greene (MP. Vol. 65, No. 2). Bro. Greene brings to our attention the many possible Masonic-related references in various Shakespeare plays.

This subject has been one of great interest for probably 100 years or longer, and has been written about by many eminent and knowledgeable brethren.

Shakespeare’s time (1564–1616) was far too early for the admittance of “free and accepted Masons” in early stone mason lodges. This leads us to wonder where his assumed Masonic material came from, notwithstanding things he had been told or that he had read.

A rather fascinating twist is the idea that Shakespeare could have been instrumental in composing Masonic ritual. Our little play in the Third Degree is really quite remarkable, and we might wonder if early stone masons would have been able to create something of that nature. Indeed, the play is much the same as a Shakespeare play. Many lodges enact it with a fully costumed “degree team,” and it is very entertaining.

A book entitled *Shakespeare: Creator of Freemasonry* by Alfred Dodd (a Freemason) offers that Shakespeare is the “concealed man” of the great professors who constituted the literary school of the Rosicross (Rosicrucians). Given this is so, then the Celebrated Bard was involved with a society that measures in Masonic history.

The stone masons in Shakespeare’s time were highly respected and had a lot



of influence. It is not beyond reason that Shakespeare was contacted by them and he offered his advice as to their ritual. It might be that they showed him what they had and he “knitted” it all together—all three degrees. I have said before that the entire ritual is exceedingly good, and I think perhaps too good to have to come to us piecemeal. In this case, Shakespeare simply “borrowed” Masonic references for his plays.

The Masonic historian V. E. Allan summarizes with, “It would be gratifying to believe that the Great Bard was the one responsible for the literary quality of our ritual but, unfortunately, no known facts to support this view exist.” (USA #1250)



## Confederacy Complications

The first two US stamps illustrated commemorate (first stamp) the Final National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)—the Union Force; and (second stamp) the Final Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV)—the Confederate force. For the first stamp, we are told the design is “Union Soldier and GAR Veteran.” For the second stamp we are told “Confederate soldier and United Confederate veteran.”

Both stamps are identical except for the identification and the badges on the veteran’s hats. It appears the GAR stamp was issued (1949) and there was a request for a UCV stamp, which came out in 1951. I am guessing, but I think that rather than create tension\* by having a different design for the second stamp, the USPS simply used the same design. So the soldiers (both young and old) are representative of the Union and the Confederacy. As to differences in the style of the actual caps and hats of the two sides and organizations, they are close enough so as not to be able to say one way or the other in the stamp design. However, as a general rule, Confederate soldiers are shown with a wide-brimmed hat, as we see in Gettysburg issue (third stamp).

Was there anything wrong in doing things this way? Not really. However, this is likely the first and only time in philatelic history in which the same sol-



diers are identified as being on different sides in a major conflict.  
(USA #985,998, 1180)

\*Despite the fact that the American Civil War ended in 1865, there is continuing opposition to symbolism acknowledging the Confederacy.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Rare Photo:** In a previous MP issue, we discussed the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, built by Brother King Edward VII. In this photograph we see King George V at the wheel of the legendary craft, which now lies at the bottom of the ocean. The photo is in a book published in 1936.

King George V was not a Freemason, but both of his sons (Edward VIII, and Albert, (who became George VI) were.

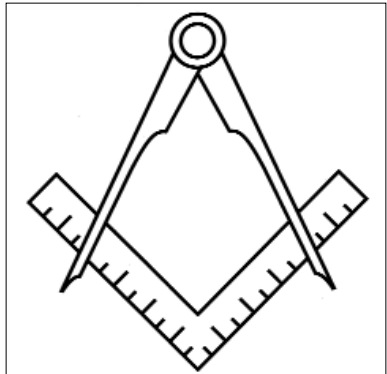


### **Dating the Masonic Symbol:**

The concept of using the square and compasses to imply a moral lesson seems to date back to at least 289 BC. In the works of the great Chinese philosopher Mencius (372–289 BC) the following is found in Book VI:

The Master mason in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the Square and the Compasses. Ye who are engaged in the pursuit of wisdom must also make use of the Square and the Compasses.

It is conceivable that stone masons learned of Mencius' words and through the centuries these working tools evolved into the Masonic symbol.



Mencius, from *Myths and Legends of China* (1922) by E. T. C. Werner.



## Pondering Pythagoras

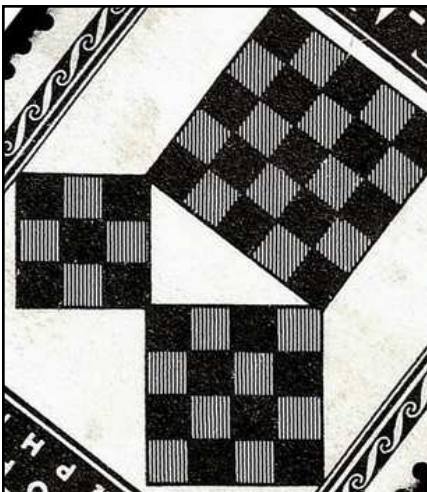
This stamp is particularly applicable to Freemasonry because it illustrates Pythagoras' theory of triangulation, which greatly aided early stone masons. Indeed, it may have been regarded as one of their "secrets."

The theory states that if the measurements of the two shorter sides of a right angle triangle are known, then the measurement for the other side (longest side or "hypotenuse") can be calculated.

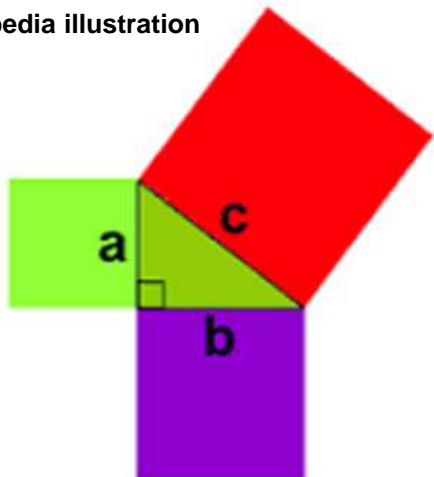
The way to illustrate this is usually provided with the right angle clearly shown, as seen below in the Wikipedia illustration. This has been altered on the stamp and in Masonic applications to make the design more pleasing to the eye (i.e., the largest box is made the lowest). (*Greece, #583*)



*The square of the hypotenuse equals the sum of the square of the other two sides.*

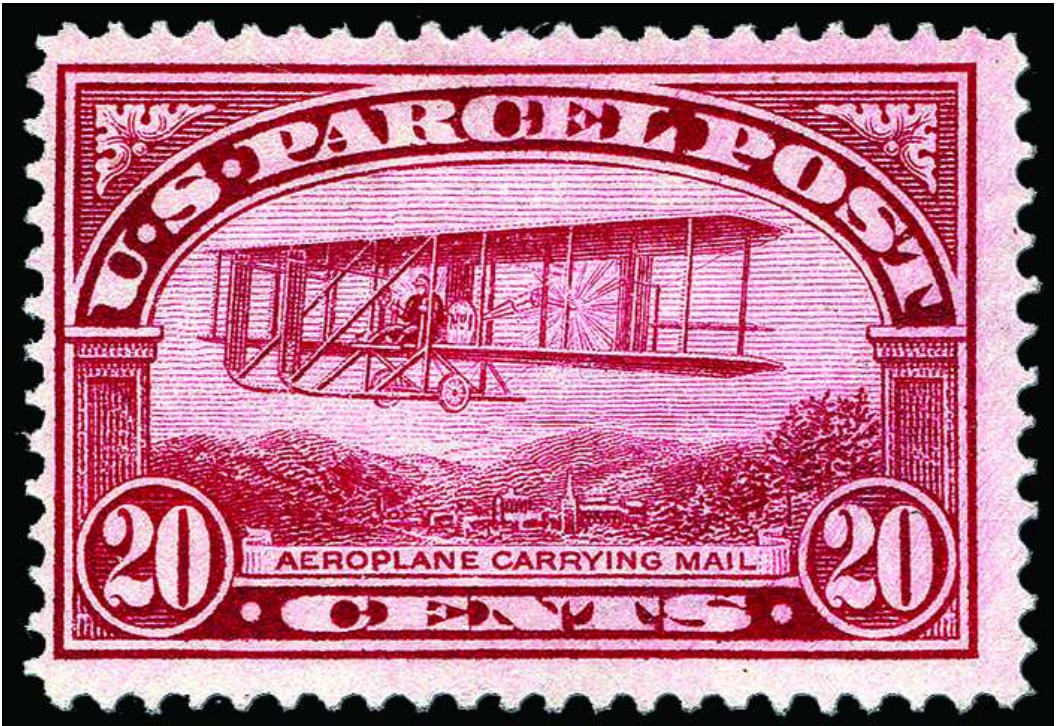


Wikipedia illustration





## The “Hap” Arnold Question



Brother Clifford K. Cyphers brought to my attention that legend has it that the pilot seen on this stamp is our noted Brother Henry. H. “Hap” Arnold. My first thought was that Arnold was in the army at the time the stamp was issued (1913) so I doubt he would have got a job carrying mail. However, what is there to say that the plane seen is carrying mail as the stamp shows. Arnold made his first flight on May 14, 1911, so he could have (and probably was) photographed. In all likelihood, the Postal Service simply found a suitable photograph of a plane and used it for the stamp design. In this case, the pilot seen could indeed be Arnold.

The famed aviator is also said to be the pilot in the DeHavilland biplane seen on



this stamp. However, in this case we see “U.S. MAIL” shown on the plane, so unless this was added, I have my doubts that the pilot is Arnold.(USA #Q8, C6)



## **The Philippines “Aguinaldo Insurrection”**

The Aguinaldo Insurrection is another example of where aspects of the Masonic Order were used to unite men in a common cause. The following Philippines

“Revolutionary Government” stamps are accepted as government issues and thereby included in the Scott Catalog. Masonic influence is obvious.



The “Insurrection” started in a quest for Philippine independence from Spain, and it essentially succeeded. However, it sort of migrated into the Spanish-American war and ended up in a Philippines war against the United States.

From a Masonic philately point of view, the stamps illustrated are certainly appropriate for a Masonic collection because of the symbolism.

To see the entire history of this event please refer to the following MP issues posted on our website: Vol. 11, No. 4 and 5, 1956.

*(Philippines, Issued 1898-99. The fourth illustration is a registration stamp. The fifth is a newspaper stamp.)*



## The USA Masonic Emblem Proprietary Stamps



These two stamps have been making the rounds in Masonic circles for over 100 years. They were created in the late 1800s as the result of the US government allowing private companies to design their own internal revenue stamps. In other words, have stamp dies for their exclusive use. The



government still produced (printed) the stamps. There was a slight financial gain for companies because they could get the stamps at a 5-10% discount.

Also, the stamps provided another means for advertising.

The type of company involved in this case was one which made percussion matches (matches you can strike). The first

company owner to produce stamps (used from 1870 to 1874) was L.G. Hunt, as seen here on his stamp (lower left). When Henry Clark bought the company (date not known), he produced the Masonic symbol stamps (used from 1877 to 1878). This is the first stamp above on the left and it shows his name. When Charles Hale bought the company in December 1877, he used the same stamp design, but put his name on it (right stamp above). His stamps overlapped with Clark's stamps, and both stamps ceased to be used in 1878.

The symbol shown on the stamp is in the Fellowcraft Degree, which leads me to doubt that either Clark or Hale were Freemasons. Also, I doubt that any Mason would put the words "The Match" in the center of the symbol. This appears to be a simple case of using the symbol because it looked nice and added a little mystique.

(USA #R061, R0106, R0113).



## Clarke's Remarkable Private Die Stamp

Perhaps one of the most unusual private die stamps is the one seen here used for a medicine. It depicts a man beating a skeleton, with the intended message, "Use our product and you will beat death." If you look closely you will see an hour glass and a scythe—associated with time and death. The man is using a company bottle (seen below, right) as a club.

The company used the same image in an ad, which was used to create the private die that produced the stamps.

The stamp was used in 1880. Only 9,000 were printed and have a current catalog price of \$225 each, about what Mr. Clarke paid for all 9,000. In 1998, the design was used in the USPS Celebrate the Century series as shown below. (USA #RS56, 3182f)





## The Cure-All Grand Master

In the early 1800s a Dr. George W. Merchant concocted a medicine that was said to cure basically any ailment in both man and beast. It could be used both internally and externally. He called it “Merchant’s Gargling Oil” and established a business to sell the product in 1833 at Lockport, New York. The medicine became quite popular, and he sold his company to a M. H. Tucker for \$50,000 in 1855. Soon after, a young man by the name of John Hodge went to work for what became M. H. Tucker & Co., becoming the company’s secretary in 1858. Hodge married Tucker’s daughter, and when the latter died in 1865, Hodge’s wife inherited a large share of the business. John Hodge took control of his wife’s interest and went on to obtain the entire business. During this time (1861) Hodge became a Freemason.

He was a very shrewd businessman with a talent for advertising and took the company to a remarkable height, making many millions of dollars. He was also a very active Freemason, and in 1894 became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. Unfortunately, he did not finish his term; he died the following year at age 57. Remarkably, Merchant’s Gargling Oil was still being sold as late as 1933.

Obviously, the question on everyone’s mind is, “Did the medicine really work? The fact that it was 44% alcohol would have certainly aided its effectiveness, although when taken internally, the relief would have been very temporary. Whatever the case, people evidently thought that it worked, and very often that is the main “ingredient.”

The stamp illustrated is in the Scott Catalog Private Die Proprietary Stamps section.

(USA #RS 179)

(Ref. MP Vol. 12, No. 7, 1956)





## The Potsdam Conference Stamp

This remarkable stamp shows at least two Freemasons—Harry Truman on the extreme right and James Francis Byrnes on his right. Winston Churchill, also a Freemason, was there, but does not appear to be in the photograph.



The Potsdam (Germany) Conference was a meeting of the victorious leaders of the Allies in Europe who attempted to confront the delicate balance of power of the opposing governmental structures—democracy and communism—as a result of World War II. The Conference was held at Cecilienhof, the home of Crown Prince Wilhelm Hohenzollern, in

Potsdam, from July 17 to August 2, 1945. Participants were the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. The three powers were represented by Communist Party General Secretary Joseph Stalin, Prime Ministers Winston Churchill (and later, Clement Attlee), and President Harry Truman. (*Germany, Issued c.1970*)



### **How Influential are Postage Stamps?**

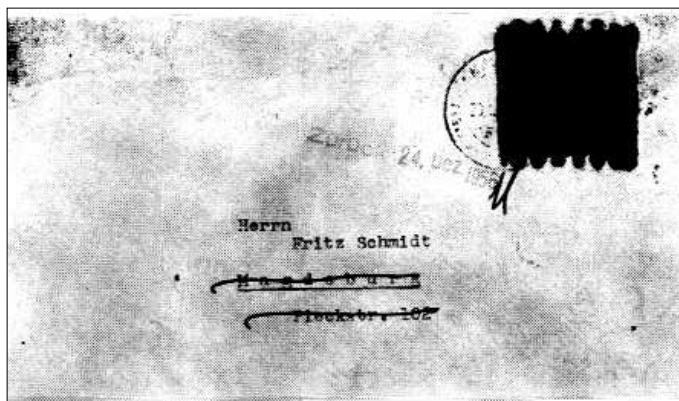
In 1955 West Germany issued a stamp to mark the tenth anniversary of the expulsions of Germans from beyond the Oder-Neisse Line (border between Germany and Poland). When this stamp was used as postage from West Germany to East Germany, postal authorities in the latter totally obliterated it with black ink. This was done to suppress any influence the stamp might have on East Germans.

In May 1957 a Masonic Stamp Club member, Dr George Camnitzer, showed club members an envelope with a blacked-out

stamp. The entry shown below is in *The Masonic Philatelist*, May 1957 (Vol. 13, No. 9).

The old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words is more true for stamps than any other printed media because of the millions of stamps produced, and here is as good example of that.

Although stamps no longer retain their former glory in highly developed nations, they are still a “force to be reckoned with” and will likely always remain so into the foreseeable future.



**DR. GEORGE CAMNITZER:** And speaking of “old pros,” the good doctor showed but one item, which we illustrate here: An envelope showing how East Germany suppresses any possibility of her peoples from even thinking of freedom. The stamp, which is shown in mint form, was completely blacked out.

The stamp depicts the expulsion of the German people from E. Germany in 1943.



It is interesting to note that the same design was used for the twentieth anniversary of the same event.



## Prehistoric Art and the Big Question

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

Prehistoric Art has been a matter of wonder since it was first discovered. It presents an important question: Why did prehistoric people create it?

Recently, this question was intently pondered upon the study of a carving of two reindeer swimming that was created about 13,000 years ago. In reading about this artifact in the book *A History of the World in 100 Objects* by Neil MacGregor (2011), an exceeding profound explanation is provided by Dr. Rown Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The following is quoted from the book:

You can feel that somebody's making this who was projecting themselves with huge imaginative generosity into the world around, and saw and felt in their bones that rhythm. In the art of this period you see human beings trying to enter fully into the flow of life, so that they become part of the whole process of animal life that's going on around them, in a way which isn't just about managing the animal world, or guaranteeing them success in hunting. I think it's more than that. It's really a desire to get inside and almost be at home in the world at a deeper level, and that's a very religious impulse, to be at home in the world. We sometimes tend to identify religion with not being at home in the world, as if the real stuff were elsewhere in Heaven, and yet if you look at religious origins, at a lot of the mainstream themes in the great world of religions, it's the other way around—it's how to live here and now and how to be part of that flow of life.

Certainly, Dr. Williams' words are inspir-



Prehistoric artists and their art.  
(Mozambique, Issued 2011)



Reindeer swimming; carved from bone  
13,000 years ago.

ing, and I only wish he knew more about Freemasonry. If he did, he would see that the Masonic Order is all about creating harmony in “that flow of life,” which is being totally torn apart by “not being at home in the world.”

Readers are referred to the 2003 controversy regarding Dr. Williams and Freemasonry, for which he has apologized. But this bodes well with my advice as to non-Masons talking about Freemasonry.



## The World's Most Disgusting Stamp



This innocent looking stamp is likely the world's most disgusting. The little article seen on the right explains the reason. One of the stamps was presented by Bro. Joseph Munk at a meeting of our Club in October 1957.

One has only to think for a moment about the anguish and despair on the minds of people who purchased the stamp.

Stamps of this nature must be a constant reminder to guard and uphold democracy.  
(Germany, Issued 1940s)

(Reference MP Vol.  
3&4, Nov./Dec. 1957)

### **THERESIENSTADT PARCEL TAX STAMP**

This stamp was obligatory on all parcels sent to the Jewish inmates of this particular concentration camp. Upon permission from the German Gestapo, the Post Office clerk affixed this stamp to the parcels. The charge was 1000 Kr.

The reason for the high cost was two-fold: First, to extort the sum from relatives of the inmates and second, to prevent many packages from entering the concentration camp. Upon arrival of the packages in the camp, the wrappings were removed and destroyed, therefore the stamps in used and undamaged condition are very rare. Bro. Munk told us that this stamp was given to him by an inmate of the camp.

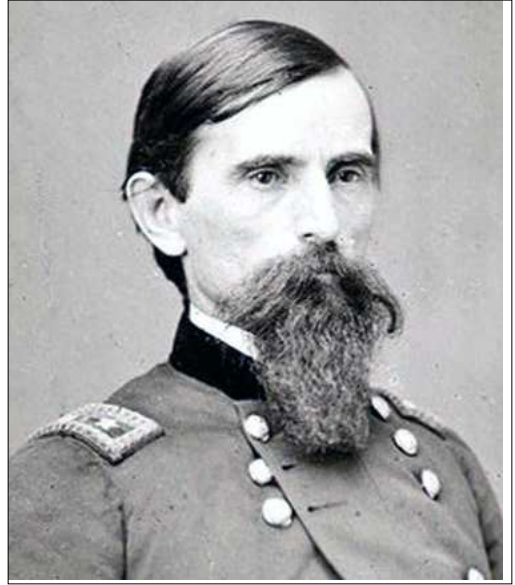


## The Masonic Philatelist

### Brother Lewis Wallace Author of “Most Influential Christian book of 19th Century”

I am sure there is hardly a Club member among us who did not see the epic 1959 movie *Ben Hur*. The movie is based on the novel written by Bro. Lewis Wallace. The following summary is from Wikipedia:

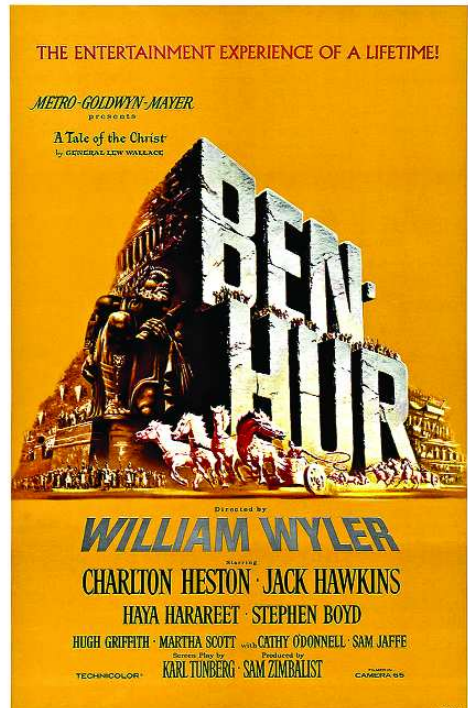
Lewis “Lew” Wallace (1827–1905) was an American lawyer, Union general in the American Civil War, governor of the New Mexico Territory, politician, diplomat, and author from Indiana. Among his novels and biographies, Wallace is best known for his historical adventure story, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* (1880), a bestselling novel that has been called “the most influential Christian book of the nineteenth century.”



General Lewis Wallace

Bro. Wallace was raised in Fountain Lodge No. 60, Covington, Indiana, on January 15, 1851. He later affiliated with Montgomery Lodge No. 50, Crawfordville, Indiana.

The main actor in the film, Charlton Heston, is shown on this stamp and on a US stamp, however there is no reference to the movie on the latter. (*Umm Al Qiwayn*, Issued 1969)





## **The *Royal William* and Her Masonic Connection**



The *Royal William* was the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean under her own power (1833). She was commissioned by brewer John Molson (St. John's Lodge No. 374, Montreal, Quebec) and a group of investors from different colonies across British North America. This absolutely astounding stamp did more to give the grand old lady her place in history than anything else. (*Canada, Issued 1933, and 1986*)



**This 1985 US stamp** was a special phosphored test stamp intended to improve stamp quality while reducing manufacturing costs and minimize the risk of revenue losses caused by re-use of stamps after cancellation ink is removed. The varnish, which prevents cancellation ink from penetrating into a stamp, is not present when pre-phosphored paper is used. The little “T” in the center at the bottom of the stamp design likely stands for “Test.” (Reference: MP Vol. 43, No. 4, December 1987.)



## The Masonic Specialist

**BOND, SHADRACH** (1773–1832); political leader and government officer; first governor of Illinois after statehood; Temple Lodge No. 26, Reisterstown, Maryland.

**Primary Stamp:** Country USA No.1339

**Year:** 1968

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Illinois Statehood Issue

**Designer:** George Barford

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** George Barford

**Design:** Illinois farm scene



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp commemorated the 150th anniversary of Illinois statehood. The design for this stamp was the winning entry in a contest sponsored by the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission. George Barford, an associate professor of art at Illinois State University, won the contest, which attracted more than 1,400 entries.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Bond later affiliated with Western Star Lodge No. 107, Kaskaskia, Illinois. He served as master of this Lodge in 1815 and 1818; then from 1827 to 1829. Also, he was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

**BOONE, DANIEL** (1734–1820); American frontiersman and explorer; as a hunter and trapper, he gained unique knowledge of the unexplored Kentucky region; he escorted settlers to new settlements; he established Boonesboro, which began the colonization of Kentucky; some evidence indicates that Boone may have been a Freemason.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 904

**Year:** 1942

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Kentucky Statehood Issue

**Designer:** William A. Roach

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** Mural by Gilbert White





## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Design:** Daniel Boone and three frontiersmen

**Secondary Stamp (s):** USA No. 1357

**Stamp Facts:** While the primary stamp (#904) does not specifically honor Daniel Boone, it is actually closer in association than the secondary stamp (#1357) which does honor him. The reason for this oddity is that the primary stamp actually shows the image of Boone, not just his name.

Contrary to popular belief, Daniel Boone never really had a coonskin hat with a tail hanging down the back as shown on the primary stamp. He wore a type of bowler hat, quite fashionable in his time. Figuratively speaking, he wore a lot of different hats. Aside from being an Indian fighter and pioneer, he filled various public posts as a legislative delegate, sheriff and deputy surveyor. After moving to West Virginia, he was named lieutenant colonel of Kanawha County and again chosen as a legislative delegate. When he moved on to Missouri, he was appointed district magistrate.

A remarkable painting by George Caleb Bingham, which is entitled *Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers through the Cumberland Gap* (1851/52), shows Boone in his bowler, a red neck scarf and fashionable jacket and trousers. He does, however, appear to be wearing moccasins.

The secondary stamp #1357 (shown here) depicts a Pennsylvania rifle, powder horn, tomahawk, pipe and knife, with a carving "DANIEL BOONE." The design of this stamp was probably inspired by the fact that Boone carved his initials in a tree. The tree section was removed and is now in a museum in Frankfort, Kentucky (shown below).

There is, however, an anomaly with the stamp design. The knife shown on the stamp appears to be a bowie knife. This type of knife was invented by James Bowie (1799-1836). It is believed Bowie invented his knife in the 1830s, over ten years after Boone had died. Furthermore, actual mass production of the knife did not commence until 1840, twenty years after Boone's death. It is therefore highly unlikely Boone carved anything with a bowie knife. The image showing hands in combat is an illustration from a book entitled *Fort Boonesborough*, by Dick Ruehrwein (1982). The hand on the left (arrow) is Boone's hand. Note that the knife he is holding is not a bowie knife.







USA #903 reversed image to match above painting.

The old painting (top) by William Ranney (1849) depicts Boone's first view of Kentucky. While this scene is certainly less romantic than that of the postage stamp (lower) with its view of the countryside, it is probably more accurate. Note the similarities with the stamp—the man leaning on his rifle; the man shading his eyes. This painting was probably used for inspiration of the stamp design.





USA #904 detail. Note that all the men are wearing coonskin hats, an occurrence that has been questioned by historians. The inset is a detail of Boone from George Caleb Bingham's painting, *Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers through the Cumberland Gap*.

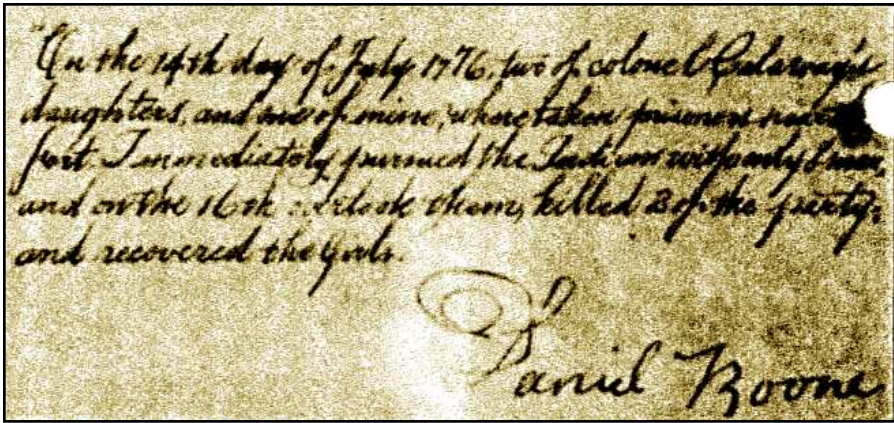
The following image shows part of a tree in which Boone is alleged to have carved his initials. While difficult to see, there is definitely a “DB” carved in the wood. Although the postage stamp show Boone’s full name, the idea to show a carved name likely came from these carved initials.





## *The Masonic Philatelist*

The following image is of a note written in Boone's own hand. What it reads is shown below the image.



On the 14th day of July 1776, two of colonel Caloway's daughters, and one of mine, were taken prisoners near the fort. Immediately pursued the Indians with only 8 men, and on the 16th overtook them, killed 2 of the party, and recovered the girls. Daniel Boone

For that time and place, this is an excellent report and it further confirms that Daniel Boone was an educated and skilful administrator.

**Additional Masonic Information:** The Grand Lodge of Kentucky appropriated \$50 for Boone's grave monument, and apparently a depiction (artwork) of Boone's funeral includes a person wearing a Masonic collar. This would indicate a Masonic burial. It must also be remembered that Boone spent some of his time in public service positions. He was a legislative delegate and a district magistrate. These positions would have brought him into contact with many Freemasons at that time.

The grave monument marking the resting place of Daniel Boone and his wife Rebecca; located in Frankfort, Kentucky. (Photo: Wikipedia Creative Commons.)





## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**BOOTH, BALLINGTON** (1859–1940); reformer, Salvation Army leader; founder of the Volunteers of America; Montclair Lodge No. 144, New Jersey.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 2039

**Year:** 1983

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Voluntarism

**Designer** Paul Calle

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Hands reaching out



**Secondary Stamp (s):** USA No. 1267

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp recognizes the importance of contributions volunteers have made to the progress and development of the United States. The hand in the upper right portion appears to be a male hand. The hand in the lower left portion appears to be a female hand.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Booth later affiliated with Charter Oak Lodge No. 249, New York City, New York. He was past grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New York, a Royal Arch Mason, 32nd Degree AASR Mason and a Shriner (Kismet Temple).

**BORDEN, SIR ROBERT LAIRD** (1854–1937); Prime Minister of Canada (1911–1920); Saint Andrew's Lodge No. 1, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Primary Stamp:** Canada No. 303

**Year:** 1951

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Prime Ministers

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Sir Robert Laird Borden



**Secondary Stamp (s):** CDN No. 588

**Stamp Facts:** The year the primary stamp (#303) was issued is printed on the stamp in the lower right hand corner.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Additional Masonic Information:** Borden was initiated on May 4, 1880. He was passed on July 27 of the same year and then received his Master Mason's degree on May 21, 1881. He demitted from his lodge on April 3, 1888 and there is no record of him joining any other lodge.

**BORGLUM, GUTZON** (1871–1941); sculptor and painter; best known for his Mount Rushmore carvings in the Black Hills of South Dakota; Howard Lodge No. 35, New York City, New York.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No.1011

**Year:** 1952

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Mt. Rushmore Memorial Issue

**Designer:** William K. Schrage

**MP Class:** Class III

**Artwork:** Mount Rushmore Memorial  
by Gutzon and Lincoln Borglum

**Design:** Sculptured heads on Mt. Rushmore



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 837, 1114, 1408, 2523, 4268, C88

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#1011) was issued to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Mount Rushmore got its name from Charles E. Rushmore, a New York attorney, long before the memorial was created. Rushmore just happened to be in the area and he inquired of his guide the name of the mountain. As it had no name, the guide told the lawyer, "From now on we'll call it Rushmore."

The idea of carving faces in the cliffs of Mount Rushmore was conceived by Doane Robinson, a South Dakota historian. Robinson, however, envisioned the faces of three Western heroes: Kit Carson, Jim Bridges and John Coulter! Robinson reasoned that the work would improve tourism in the area. Gutzon Borglum was contacted on the project and it was Borglum himself who proposed carving the faces of four influential American presidents. He worked with his son, Lincoln (see the following entry), who finished the project after Gutzon's death.

Thanks to Gutzon's and others' artwork, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, 1862-65, finally found his way onto a regular United States postage stamp with the issuing of the Stone Mountain Memorial stamp (secondary stamp #1408) in 1970. Davis is the second figure from the left.





## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Additional Masonic Information:** Borglum served as master of his lodge in 1910. His lodge still possesses the gavel he used as master. It is in the form of a bronze lion's paw holding a stone from Solomon's Temple. In 1915, he was appointed grand representative of the Grand Lodge of Denmark. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in New York City Consistory on October 25, 1907. Gutzon executed a bust of Edward M. L. Ehlers who was grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York. This bust is now in the New York Grand Lodge Library. His memorial, which is called "Silence" is in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hospital, Masonic Home, Utica, New York. The cornerstone of Borglum's studio on the hills above Stamford Connecticut was laid with Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Master of New York.



The magnitude of the Borglums' (father and son) carvings is almost incomprehensible, and unequaled to this day. The number of people who have gazed with amazement at the memorial would be in the billions. This begs the question as to why there is not a stamp honoring the Borglums. Surely they deserve the honor more than numerous other people who have stamps showing their likeness.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**BORGLUM, LINCOLN** (1912–1986); sculptor; assisted his father, Gutzon Borglum, in the creation of the Mount Rushmore carvings; completed the work after his father's death; Battle River Lodge No. 92, Hermosa, South Dakota.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 4268

**Year:** 2008

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** American Landmarks

**Designer:** Carl T. Herrman

**MP Class:** Class III

**Artwork:** Mount Rushmore Memorial by Gutzon and Lincoln Borglum

**Design:** Sculptured heads on Mt. Rushmore



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 1011, 1114, 1408, 2523, C88

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp shows a digital photograph of Mount Rushmore that has been altered using computer processes to provide an artistic effect.

**Additional Masonic Information:** No further information.

**BOTTOMLEY, JAMES LEROY** (1900–1959); baseball player; member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; Nokomis Lodge No. 456, Nokomis, Illinois.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 1381

**Year:** 1969

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Professional Baseball

**Designer:** Alex Ross

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not applicable

**Design:** Batter



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 855

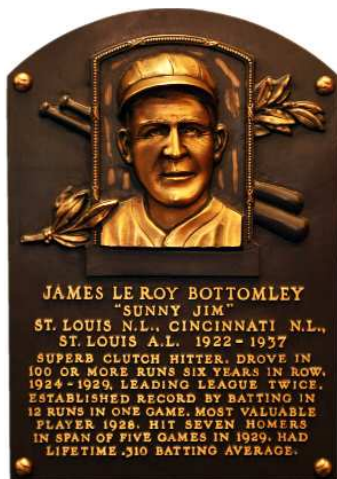
**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp (#1381) marked the 100th anniversary of baseball as it relates to salaried players. The Red Stockings of Cincinnati (later Cincinnati Reds) became the first team to pay team members (1869). The secondary stamp (#855) commemorated the centenary (1839-1939) of



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

the game of baseball itself. (See entry under Alexander Joy Cartwright for information on the history of baseball as it relates to the secondary stamp #855.)

**Additional Masonic Information:** No further information.



**JAMES LEROY BOTTOMLEY**  
"SUNNY JIM"  
ST. LOUIS N.L., CINCINNATI N.L.  
ST. LOUIS A.L. 1922 – 1937  
SUPERB CLUTCH HITTER. DROVE IN  
100 OR MORE RUNS SIX YEARS IN A  
ROW,  
1924 – 1929. LEADING LEAGUE TWICE.  
ESTABLISHED RECORD BY BATTING IN  
12 RUNS IN ONE GAME. MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYER 1928. HIT SEVEN HOMERS  
IN SPAN OF FIVE GAMES IN 1929. HAD  
LIFETIME .310 BATTING AVERAGE.

Bottomley's Hall of Fame plaque. The wording is shown on the right.

Bottomley's nickname, "Sunny Jim," was given him because of his very pleasing nature, smiling face and cocked hat. As mentioned on his plaque, Bottomley holds the major league record for the most runs batted in a game. On September 16, 1924 he brought in 12 runs with a total of six hits. Four runs were the result of a grand slam in the fourth inning.

**BOUDE, THOMAS** (1752–1822); brick mason; built Independence Hall; St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 1044

**Year:** 1956

**Type:** Regular Postal

**Issue:** Patriotic Series or Liberty Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class III

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Independence Hall



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 1546, 1622



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**Stamp Facts:** The building on the primary stamp (#1044), now known as Independence Hall, was originally called State House. The name “Independence Hall” was given the building through common usage.

The secondary stamp #1546 is a view from the back (looking south) of Independence Hall. (Note that there are ten (10) windows across, not six (6) as in the front of the building which has the entrance section.)

The secondary stamp #1622 has considerable significance for a regular postage stamp. In 1777, Congress met in Independence Hall and adopted a flag of “thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white on a blue field, representing a new constellation.” This flag replaced the so-called “Continental flag,” often seen in paintings of the American Revolution.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Boude was the first secretary of St. John’s Lodge, Philadelphia. This lodge laid the cornerstone of Independence Hall (then State House). Benjamin Franklin, grand master, presided at the ceremonies. Boude later became Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

**BOWELL, SIR MACKENZIE** (1823–1917); prime minister of Canada (1894-1896); St. Lawrence Lodge No. 640, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (English register).

**Primary Stamp:** Canada No. 350

**Year:** 1954

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Prime Ministers

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Sir Mackenzie Bowell



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** No information

**Additional Masonic Information:** Bowell was initiated in the stated lodge at age 40 on August 2, 1864. He was passed on September 21, and received his Master Mason’s degree on September 28 of the same year. At that time, this lodge was on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England. This lodge is now St. Lawrence Lodge No. 14, Montreal, Quebec (Grand Registry of Quebec, Canada). He joined this lodge because he had failed to gain accept-



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

ance on his request to join a lodge in Belleville, Ontario two years earlier. He therefore made application in another Masonic jurisdiction (i.e., a lodge on the English registry).

In 1897, Howell affiliated with Eureka Lodge No. 283, Belleville, Ontario. Also, he was a charter member of Moira Lodge No. 11, Belleville, Ontario. Another source says he affiliated with Belleville Lodge No. 123, Belleville, Ontario rather than Eureka Lodge. It is possible he affiliated with both lodges because on his 90th birthday three lodges in Belleville (probably Eureka, Moira and Belleville) gave a banquet in his honor. Howell was buried with Masonic honors.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that Howell was Grand Master of the Orange Association of British America.

**BOWLES, WILLIAM AUGUSTUS** (1763–1805); British soldier; became Indian War Chief of the Five Civilized Tribes; original lodge not known; honorary member of Prince of Wales's Lodge No. 259, London, England.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 972

**Year:** 1948

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Indian Centennial Issue

**Designer:** Not indicated

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Map of Indian territory and seals of five tribes



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp commemorated the arrival of the Five Civilized Indian Tribes to the Indian Territory, which later became the State of Oklahoma. The five tribes were, as shown on the stamp, the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole. They were called the “civilized tribes” because of their willingness to adopt the ways of civilization.

The spelling of the word “Muscogee” as shown on the stamp is unusual (i.e. use of a “c”) and is not found in a standard dictionary. The common spelling is “Muskogee” (use of “k”) which is derived from the word “Muskogean.” While we are familiar with the term “Creek” Indians, this term actually came before the term “Muskogee.” The following quotation is from the *Encyclopedia Americana*:





## *The Masonic Philatelist*

When South Carolina was settled by the English in 1670, that section of the Creek Indian tribe, later known as the Lower Creeks, was living principally in the upper course of the Ocmulgee River, then called by the white colonists Ochese Creek. The Indians there came to be known to them as Ochese Creek Indians, and later this name was simplified to Creeks. The name Muskogee, Muscogee, or Muscogulgee later applied to them, seems to have been given by Shawnee Indians and designates a swampy country or one filled with creeks.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Bowles was made an honorary member of Prince of Wales's Lodge on January 20, 1791 while on a trip to England. He was apparently a member of another lodge, but details are not known. He was made Provincial Grand Master of the Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians by the Grand Lodge of England.

**BOWRON, JAMES** (1844–1928); president and later Chairman of the Board of Gulf States Steel; credited with having brought Alabama to the front as an active factor in the production of steel; Mason, no details.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 1090

**Year:** 1957

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Steel Industry Issue

**Designer:** Anthony Petrucci

**MP Class:** Class IV

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** American eagle and pouring ladle



**Secondary Stamp(s):** None

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of the steel industry in America. The symbolism of the design is intended to convey the idea that the growth of America (represented by the eagle), and the growth of the steel industry (represented by the pouring ladle), have paralleled one another.

The eagle shown on the stamp is not an American eagle. It is the eagle of heraldry. Refer to entry under David Rice Atchison for a discussion on eagles.

**Additional Masonic Information:** No further information.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

**BRADLEY, OMAR NELSON** (1893–1981); General of the U.S. Army; among the first American generals to see action in World War II; head of the U.S. 12th Army Group on D-Day; West Point Lodge No. 877, Highland Falls, New York.

**Primary Stamp:** USA No. 3394

**Year:** 2000

**Type:** Commemorative

**Issue:** Distinguished Soldiers

**Designer:** Phil Jordan

**MP Class:** Class II

**Artwork:** Not indicated

**Design:** Omar Nelson Bradley



**Secondary Stamp(s):** USA No. 905, 934

**Stamp Facts:** The primary stamp has what appears to be a stylized “A” on the right side. This likely stands for “Army.” However, the other three stamps in this series have symbols (not letters)—no meanings are shown in the *Scott Catalogue* for any of the stamps.

The secondary stamp (#905) symbolized the nation’s war effort and its goal of victory. There are thirteen stars around the eagle, probably representing the thirteen original colonies that formed the United States. However, this symbolism is not really appropriate. World War II certainly involved more than thirteen states! The eagle is clutching arrows, symbolic of the nation’s ability to defend itself.

The secondary stamp (#934), which commemorated the achievements of the United States Army in World War II, has a few very interesting twists. The planes overhead shown on the stamp were not actually a part of the scenery on the day the soldiers paraded in Paris. They were later added to the photograph to appease the Army Air Force command. The planes created a lot of controversy because many people thought they looked like B-29s, which saw combat only in the Pacific Theater. Also, while it appears the soldiers are marching through the Arch de Triomphe, they are actually marching around it on both sides. The grave of France’s Unknown Soldier lies in the path under the arch, so this route naturally was not taken.

**Additional Masonic Information:** Bradley received his Master Mason’s Degree in the stated lodge in 1923.





# **Murphy's**

## **STAMP RANT**

***Errors, Oddities & Oversights***  
**USA & CANADA**

### **Book Two: Design Curiosities – Part 6**

#### **ROYALTIES AND ROYAL TIES**

Because we are inclined to view royalty in a somewhat different light, we might overlook the fact that this stamp shows a great grandmother and her great grandson. The stamp commemorated the centenary of responsible government in Canada (1848– 1948).



Great grandmother Queen Victoria is shown because it was in her reign that responsible government commenced; great grandson King George VI is shown because he was the reigning monarch at the 100 year mark. (CDN #277)

#### **RULING OUT THE RULER**

Puerto Rico's first gubernatorial election in 1948 is commemorated on this stamp. The stamp shows the word "INAUGURATION" followed by the date "JANUARY 2, 1949." These inscriptions refer to the inauguration of Luis Muñoz-Marin, the first



elected governor of Puerto Rico. The reason Muñoz-Marin's name or image is not shown is obviously due to the now defunct U.S. Postal Service "living person" rule. Although there were a few technical exceptions, the rule stated that living people must not be honored on postage stamps. (USA #983)



### **RUNNING COMMENTARY**

**S**tance of the runner shown on this stamp does not appear to be correct as the figure's left foot is even with his right knee. The official description of the starting stance states, "one knee on the ground, one foot several inches in front of the other and both hands resting behind the starting line."



Also, it is apparent the "set" call has not been made in the stamp scene because the runner's left knee is still on the ground and he is not leaning forward. The official rule in this regard is, "on the command 'set' the runner raises his knee from the ground and leans forward." The official postal service description for the stamp states, "the likeness of an Olympic runner in crouched position as if ready for the starting signal." The starting signal is a gun shot, and this being the case, the



runner shown has definitely missed the "set" command. For a stamp of this nature, a runner in the "set" position was probably intended. Unfortunately, the stamp designer or originator of the artwork did not have sufficient knowledge of the sport and evidently did not check his work with someone who had such knowledge. An enlargement of the stamp detail is shown on the left. (USA #718)

### **SAILOR STORY**

**A**lthough an actual photograph was used for the design of this stamp, the faces of the individual sailors were altered. This action was taken so that the sailors could not be recognized by anyone, save the sailors themselves. Undoubtedly there is a key to the identity of the sailors locked-up in an old cabinet somewhere—a significant find for a writer. (USA #935)





## SAYING IT WITH SIGNS

Design of this stamp is after a painting by Joseph Boggs Beal (1841–1926). In the actual painting, the signs displayed in the background can be read and they carry the following messages:



*Westward the star of empire takes its way;  
The girls link on to Lincoln,  
Their mothers were for Clay*

*Abe the giant killer*

*The little giant chewing up old Abe*

*Free territories and Free Men  
Free Pulpits and Free Preachers  
Free Press and a Free Pen  
Free Schools and Free Teachers*

The stamp appropriately cuts off another sign that is further to the right in the painting. It reads as follows:

*Edgar County for the tall sucker*

Seen here is the entire painting.

Although the stamp is remarkably close to the painting for the portion depicted, there are minor differences.

We might note that there is nothing new as to insults in political campaigns, although in recent years they have become more prevalent.



USA #1115)



## SCHOOL DAZE

This stamp, which is in the Americana Issue of 1975–81, shows Morris Township School No. 2, Devils Lake, North Dakota. Oddly, the design shows the side of the school building rather than a front view or partial front view. The theme of the stamp stresses laying future foundations which implies a different view on education. Could this possibly be the reason for the different view of the school building?



## SECOND INVASION

This Canadian stamp shows three automobiles. The one in the center is none other than the Volkswagen or “peoples’ car” of Hitler’s Germany. The following illustration is an enlargement of the car depicted.



The story of this vehicle is remarkable. The idea to have such a car was dreamed-up by Adolf Hitler and Ferdinand Porsche in May 1934. Hitler envisioned his “peoples’ car” as an incentive (propaganda). His stipulations were that the car must carry two parents and up to three children. Operationally, the car was to provide at least 35 miles per gallon of gasoline and cruise at 60 miles per hour.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

Moreover, it was to be sold at a top price of 1,000 Reichsmarks (about \$400 at the time). This low price was to be made possible by considerable sponsorship on the part of the German automobile industry—naturally at Hitler’s command. In the following photograph taken in May 1938, Hitler is seen inspecting one of the first Volkswagens produced.



Despite Hitler’s dreams, the car never actually found its way to the people during the dictator’s time. While German citizens were encouraged to pay installments for their “Volkswagen,” no vehicles were delivered to private citizens. The factories that were to produce the car were too busy manufacturing military vehicles. The money collected from the people went into the government’s coffers to support the Third Reich.

When the Allies crushed Germany in 1945, the Volkswagen plants, for the most part, were reduced to piles of rubble, and Führer Hitler unceremoniously shot himself. After the war, a British commission looked at the future of the Führer’s dream car and decided it was too ugly and too noisy to become a success. The Americans agreed with the British, commenting, “It isn’t worth anything.” Nevertheless, the car was later produced in Germany and when American advertising agency came up



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

with the pet name “Beetle” for the car in 1959, a dramatic turn of events resulted—Americans loved it. The following photograph shows the car as it appeared in 1959. The body design was primarily identical to the original design.



By 1972, the sales figure for the Beetle surpassed the legendary Model T Ford. In all, since the Volkswagen’s shady inception, over 50 million of the little vehicles have been produced. The style of the car was not significantly changed until 1999. Even with its new modern look, however, it still carries the image of its original design. (CDN #1639)

### SHAKY BUSINESS

A number of explanations have been offered as to how the custom of shaking hands came into use. One explanation, however, makes a lot of sense and is highly amusing. Folklore has established that when an ancient villager met a stranger, his immediate reaction and that of the stranger was to reach for their daggers. If after talking for a while the men established that there could be mutual trust between them, they offered their right hands (their weapon hands) as a token of goodwill. This explanation also offers a reason as to why women never traditionally used the custom of shaking hands. Women were not bearers of weapons, so the act had no significance. (USA #1266)





### SHODDY SODDY

The sod hut or “soddy,” as the structure was commonly called, shown on this stamp is very poorly constructed. The early homesteaders were far more skilled in making these structures than the stamp leads one to believe. Furthermore, the structure shown on the stamp has two pipes protruding from the roof. One pipe is the stovepipe, as evidenced by the smoke coming from it. The other pipe appears to be a vent because it has a covered top. In all of the sod hut plans, illustrations and photographs your author has reviewed, not one had a vent of this nature, (plans found in history books call for a stovepipe only at a cost of 30 cents). Nevertheless, the design of the stamp is said to be based on a period photograph, so we must concede the soddy shown probably existed. It does not appear, however, to be representative. (USA #1198)



### SHORT RUN LONG RUN

One of the most romantic episodes in the history of the Wild West is certainly the Pony Express. Established in April 1860 to speed mail service across the country, the system operated from St. Joseph, Missouri to San Francisco, California. It took a certain breed of man to put his life on the line and ride solo through miles of hostile country. An advertisement in a San Francisco paper appropriately listed the qualifications as follows:



*Young skinny wiry fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily, orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week. Apply, Central Overland Express, Alta Bldg., Montgomery St.*

Over one hundred individuals took the challenge, including William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill. The venture, how-



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

ever, was a business disaster. Despite the cost of \$5 per letter, the service did not make a profit. And although the Pony Express is deeply woven into American history, it actually lasted only eighteen months. Completion of the trans-continental telegraph lines in October 1861 made the service obsolete. One further note, although the name “Pony Express” has a nice ring, ponies (small horses, 450-850 pounds) were not used for transporting mail. Such horses would have had difficulty meeting the rigorous demands placed upon them. Regular horses (850-1,300 pounds), the faster the better, were used.

As to the actual stamp, a close examination indicates that there appears to be something wrong with the horse’s back right leg. This leg does not look natural, and if the hoof is touching the ground, then the horse has three hooves on the ground. When a horse is in motion, only two or one of its hooves touch the ground.

Another issue concerning this stamp is that the rider does not appear to have a “standard” mochila (stamp design is confusing). This essential piece of gear is a square section of leather with pockets on each corner to hold mail. The device is designed to fit over a saddle. The adjacent photograph shows a mochila on display in the U.S. National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C.

We can see that such a device would be highly conspicuous. The pockets are spaced far enough apart so as to not impede the rider’s legs. The following is an enlargement of the saddle area on the stamp.





## *The Masonic Philatelist*

From this illustration, it appears that the stamp designer was unsure of this piece of equipment—the rider’s leg is on top of the front “pocket.”

Another Pony Express stamp issued in 1960, as shown here, definitely corrected the faults seen in the first issue.

With this stamp, the horse definitely has only one hoof on the ground, and the mochila is very evident as we can see in the following stamp detail enlargement.

(USA #894, 1154)



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### **Grand Orient of Uruguay Masonic Stamp**

The latest (2015) Masonic stamp from Uruguay commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Grand Orient of that country.

The stamp design presents both interesting and amusing facts, which I will present in point form:

1. The background of the stamp shows a “star-decked heaven.”
2. The three columns are the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian (Wisdom, Strength and Beauty).
3. The young male figure is a candidate in the Third Degree. At this point, he would have received his obligation, but has not yet “traveled.” He is holding a stone



mason’s mallet, which is “used to break the corners off rough stones,” and he is figuratively looking to the future and the construction of his personal Temporal Building.

4. The “floor” of the stamp is a Mosaic pavement (checkered with good and evil).



5. The seal on the right side of the stamp has in its center compasses and a square, but the square does not exceed the legs of the compasses. When this is done, we get the letter “A” which stands for “Alpha,” a reference to God, or the Supreme Architect of the Universe.”

6. The compasses and square are in a triangle, which is a Masonic symbol of the Deity.

7. The lettering bordering the triangle show Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

8. The chain that borders the central design is a symbol of common brotherhood.

While Grand Orient Freemasonry does not insist on members believing in a Supreme Being, it is plain to see that the design of this stamp is totally based on Ancient Freemasonry in which such belief is essential. Generally speaking, it is

impossible to make Freemasonry compatible with the idea or concept of atheism. All symbols in Freemasonry lead directly or indirectly to the concept of Hope in a life hereafter. What Grand Orient Freemasonry says to candidates is, “Here is our philosophy, but you don’t have to believe it to be one of us.”

Although the concept of “non-intelligent design” (no God) is feasible, such cannot be considered when it comes to Freemasonry as we know it to be. The entire Masonic system would need to be restructured to accommodate “non-belief.” A Freemason may be either a creationist or evolutionist when it comes to human beings; however the nature of the Order demands that when it comes to the universe itself one needs to be a creationist (belief in a Supreme Entity).

Whatever the case, the stamp is really quite good, and very different from other government Masonic stamps. Whoever designed it had a good grip on Ancient Craft Freemasonry. (*Uruguay, Issued 2015*)

**B**ro. Sergio Ferrando of Italy brings to our attention this stamp. It shows a plumb line and a liberty cap. It celebrates the Bicentennial of the French Revolution (1789–1989). The plumb line is an important Masonic symbol, so the part played by the Masonic Order is inferred.

In this case, the “plumb” is in an “A” frame, which makes it a level. However, the device would not work because the



plumb weight must be above the legs of the frame. (*Uruguay, Issued 1989*)



**Behind the Scene – Austria No. 2044**

Christopher L. Murphy and Ken Elston

*With thanks to Bro. Rubén Manasés Achdjian for advice and stamp imaging*



Austria used this painting of a Masonic “gathering” for a stamp sheet in 2006. The painting is by Ignaz Unterberger (c.1748–1797), created in 1789. One source states: “From 1782 Ignaz Unterberger was a member of the Freemason’s lodge New Crowned Hope.” He is not shown in our “accredited” lists (Denslow, Wikipedia), but he could have been overlooked. Apart from this one statement, we have not been able to confirm his ever being a Freemason. Nevertheless, many of his paintings contained Masonic symbols.

The section used for the actual stamp

is outlined. The actual stamp sheet is shown on page 50. The painting title is, *Initiation Ceremony in a Viennese Masonic Lodge during the Reign of Joseph II (1789)*. The stamp title is “Freemasonry in Austria.”

It is a Class I, Government issue Masonic stamp, and we are all pleased to see such stamps. A casual look at the stamp tells one that it is a Masonic gathering of some sort, but the form of a lodge meeting is implied with ritual (two separate rituals?) in progress.

Not a lot makes sense in the painting from a practical Masonic point of view,



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

and the reason here is simple: It is a painting of a scene in a stage play. You can see the curtains being drawn by the man on the extreme right. It is definitely not as the painting title states, except with the knowledge of a stage play. Also, it is not a depiction of “Freemasonry in Austria” as the stamp states.

The play was called *Die Freymaurer* (Lady Mason), and it was by Friedrich Ludwig Schroder. He was a German playwright, actor, dramatist and a prominent Masonic leader. The image seen here shows him in his Masonic regalia. The play is about a woman who pretends to be a man and tries to join the Masonic Order. She is finally compelled to reveal who she was when told about the proofs she would have to endure—confronted by a glowing sword and human skull. If you examine the stamp you can see the sword and skull on the table at the upper left (detail from the stamp is shown on the right). The play was staged at the Imperial Theatre in Vienna in 1785 as part of the celebration at the consolidation of several Lodges and the creation of the Lodge of New Crowned Hope. The occasion is set out in the book *Mozart's Operas* by Daniel Hertz (page 257).

The artist, Ignaz Unterberger, apparently attended the play and later painted the scene we see.

With stage plays, one can expect exaggerations, frivolity, and even satire. If you look closely at the painting, all of these aspects are evident—enormous ashlars, sense of disorder, members brandishing swords, and so forth.

All Freemasons will immediately see that the central figure in the stamp (the lady candidate) is wearing a blindfold,



Friedrich Ludwig Schroder



Stamp detail showing the sword and skull.



## *The Masonic Philatelist*

but is inappropriately clothed; no doubt to accommodate the plot.

Studying the painting in detail reveals many Masonic-related anomalies, but they are not worth addressing because the scene is one of fantasy to begin with.

Some Freemasons might be a little surprised that a play of this nature and a painting from a scene were created, especially given the playwright was a Freemason, and the artist may have been such.

The reason is that the play does not show a Masonic meeting, but a parody of

such where essentially “anything goes.” The painting, as it is of a scene in the play, is therefore equally invalid. The playwright and the artist were at liberty to do anything they wanted to do as nothing Masonically meaningful was being disclosed. Generally speaking, the stamp belongs in the performing arts category rather than Freemasonry.

How the painting got selected for the stamp design if Masonic officials were consulted is a good question. It appears everyone simply thought it looked fine— just as we did when the stamp was first issued.



The sheet and stamp issued by Austria entitled “Freemasonry in Austria.” It is plain to see that the individuals are all actors—highly diverse in appearance and obviously “acting.” As to the skull on the back table, skulls are used in lodges in some countries as a symbol of mortality, beyond that they have absolutely no other significance.



## The Masonic Philatelist

### Talking About Skulls...

The human skull has become a symbol of impending *unnatural* death. In other words, it is used as a warning. We see it (often with cross-bones) on containers of dangerous chemicals. Nazi Germany used it as the insignia for its Secret Service, and it is one of the most popular “expressions” used for tattoos. In the days of the great sailing ships, a skull and cross bones was the flag of a pirate ship. Perhaps the best example of a skull on a stamp was the Marshall Islands issue of 1998 warning about nuclear bombs (shown on the right).

What Albert Mackey says about skulls and skull and cross-bones, is seen on the right. However, what he is referring to is the specific reference to such in American Masonic work. You won’t find it in American Craft Lodge Masonry, but it is used in American Masonic Templarism, and both Craft Lodges, and ancillary degrees in other countries.

Whatever the case, in Masonic tradition the skull was used to remind us of human mortality; simply as a recognition, as it were, of impending death (nobody can escape death). The inference here is for one to live his life as a good and upright man, for he never knows when he will be called to the GLA.

Why does Freemasonry, to a fair degree, dwell on the impermanency of life (recall the lecture on Chalk, Charcoal, and Clay). It is because we need to acknowledge death without fearing it.

From the “profane” perspective skulls are fearful objects. From the Masonic perspective they simply teach a little lesson like the working tools and numerous other objects in Freemasonry.

\* The Roman Catholic Church now acknowledges that its persecution of the Knights Templar organization was wrong. Its rituals and symbols were not demonic or against the Church.

**Skull.** The skull as a symbol is not used in Masonry except in Masonic Templarism, where it is a symbol of mortality. Among the articles of accusation sent by the Pope to the bishops and papal commissaries upon which to examine the Knights Templar, those from the forty-second to the fifty-seventh refer to the human skull, “cranium humanum,” which the Templars were accused of using in their reception, and worshiping as an idol. It is possible that the Old Templars made use of the skull in their ceremony of reception; but Modern Templars will readily acquit their predecessors of the crime of idolatry, and find in their use of a skull a symbolic design. (See *Baphomet*.) \*

**Skull and Cross-bones.** They are a symbol of mortality and death, and are so used by heralds in funeral achievements. As the means of inciting the mind to the contemplation of the most solemn subjects, the skull and cross-bones are used in the Chamber of Reflection in the French and Scottish Rites, and in all those degrees where that Chamber constitutes a part of the preliminary ceremonies of initiation.



A very old Masonic tracing board showing a skull and cross-bones. Note the acacia at the top and the working tools. The lecture would be about hope, not fear and morbidity.





# New Club Publication!

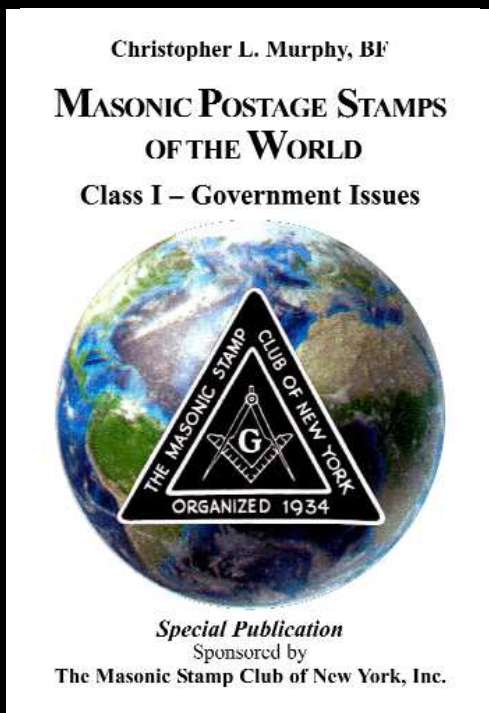
All of the known Class I Government Issued Masonic postage stamps (those that specifically honor the Masonic Order) are now presented in a full-color booklet by Chris Murphy.

The booklet is 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches, staple-bound, glossy paper, and contains 32 pages. The countries that issued the stamps are in alphabetical order. A short profile of the country is provided with an image of the stamp (or stamps) issued. The Scott stamp number, year of issue, and design particulars are provided along with a discussion on the stamp design headed "Masonic Notation" where applicable.

A separate section headed "Honorable Mention" shows stamp images and information on stamps that have high Masonic content, but are not Class I stamps. Another section discusses what are termed "Notable Novelties"—unofficial Masonic stamps.

The work is available free as a download (e-book) on our Club website. However, for those who need, or wish to have, a professionally printed booklet, an autographed copy may be obtained from the Club for a donation of \$15 US (post paid) or greater amount.

Those who have Internet access please visit our Club website and view the booklet. We are sure you will be pleased with this publication, which provides the most comprehensive treatment of the subject to date.



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