

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MASONIC LODGE OFFICER EMBLEMS & PHILATELY



United States of America Masonic Lodge Officer Emblems & Philately

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At some point in the history of the Masonic Order it was decided that the fourteen lodge officers should be distinguished by wearing a collar with an emblem.* The emblem represented the office, and was specifically designed for that office.

Six of the fourteen emblems are based on the **working tools** of a Master Mason. Their designs are totally Masonic and one needs to refer to the ritual to find out their esoteric meaning.

The other eight emblems were designed to actually signify the **physical** duties entrusted to the officer. We see, for example that the secretary has crossed feather pens, and the treasurer crossed keys (symbolic keys for the box that held the Lodge money). The other jewels followed suit.

We can likely speculate that the Masonic Order either invented the design of these other emblems, or was highly instrumental in making the designs widely known so that some of them found their way into other (non-Masonic) applications (postage stamps being our main interest).

Whatever the case, when we see the designs of any emblems on stamps, we are immediately reminded of their application in Freemasonry. Stamps of this nature are what we call the Class 7 Masonic-related stamps.

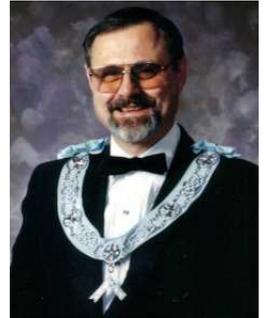
The officers' emblems illustrated

on the cover, and exactly as photographed on the following page, are in the collection of the Livingston Masonic Library, Grand Lodge of New York. They were first used in 1855, and may differ somewhat to the emblems currently in use, although the theme would be the same.

I need to mention that when these themes are combined with the numerous other inadvertent Masonic references found on postage stamps, the number is significant. Freemasonry embraces, or is associated with, literally everything in the field of human endeavor. As a result, no matter what is discussed there will likely be something Masonic to reflect upon.

The collar and emblem of the

Master of a lodge. The collars of other officers are larger and longer, but don't have any ornamentation.



*In Freemasonry, the emblems are called "jewels," because an officer was expected to treat that which he had been entrusted like a "jewel" (safeguard it, always keep it close, never lose sight of it).

Officers Emblems

United States Masonic Lodges



Master of the Lodge



Senior Warden



Junior Warden



Past Master



Secretary



Treasurer



Senior Deacon



Junior Deacon



Master of Ceremony



Steward



Chaplain



Marshal



Organist



Tiler

RELEVANT EXAMPLES OF STAMP DESIGNS

The following are some examples of stamp designs that reflect lodge officer emblems. The process for finding stamps of this nature is to review the stamp designs in stamp catalogs and see if there is anything shown that reminds you of Masonic ritual or Masonic processes. Keep in mind that this goes far beyond just the officer emblems. Of course, the better one's memory, then the greater chance of finding applicable stamps. The process is fun, and does result in a feeling of accomplishment. If you advise the Club of your findings, they will be published in our quarterly magazine. If you wish to write an article, such will be most welcome.

