

**The Masonic Stamp Club of
New York
Salutes
The Society of Blue Friars
71st Consistory**



Crystal City, Virginia

Greetings to Our Distinguished Blue Friars and Best Wishes for the 71st Consistory

Two years after the Society of Blue Friars was formed in 1932, a group of New York brethren met and organized The Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Our first President was Brother Arthur Deas, a noted philatelist and numismatist.

At that time, these brethren were not aware of the extent of the connection between postage stamps and Freemasonry. They knew that George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and perhaps Andrew Jackson were Freemasons depicted on stamps, but did not give this a lot of thought.

Nevertheless, as time went on, a few of the Club brethren did some research (quite difficult in those days) and discovered a fair number of Freemasons shown on US stamps.

In 1936 the Club petitioned the United States Postal Service for a stamp showing Washington being inaugurated as the first President of the United States. President Franklin Roosevelt (a Club member) granted the petition and the first stamp shown on the next page was the result.

When the Club published a newsletter in 1944 (later a proper journal) Masons world-wide asked to join the Club. Masons on US stamps were featured in the Club publication and thus Masons shown on non US stamps quickly came to the forefront. It was at this point



The first postage stamps issued by the US show Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Franklin was assigned Number 1 because he was the first postmaster on what became American soil.

that the Club coined the term *Masonic Philately*. This ushered in the dawn of Masonic Philately becoming a recognized topical stamp collecting specialty. In time handbooks on this subject were published by the American Topical Association.

In 1956, Cuba issued a stamp specifically honoring the Masonic Order, the first stamps of this nature. It was followed by a second stamp of a similar design in that same year. Our great and time-honored fraternity had at last been paid one of the finest complements a country can pay. These stamps became known in philately as Government Issued Masonic Stamps.

Two years later, 1958, William Denslow's epic tome, *10,000 Famous Freemasons* was published. Club members now had massive documentation on famous Freemasons worldwide. When the subjects featured in this book were matched with those shown on postage stamps, the number of applicable stamps climbed into the thousands.

Over the next 6 decades, other countries followed Cuba's lead, and there are now 87 Government Issued Masonic Stamps. An outstanding Masonic stamp design is seen on a stamp issued by El Salvador in 2012, shown here.

In 1990, our late Brother Allan Boudreau, a past Club President, became Editor of the Club's publication. He was proclaimed a Blue Friar in 1992. Upon Bro. Boudreau's inability to continue with Club work in 2013, Brother Chris Murphy, current Club President and Blue Friar (1995) carried on as Interim Editor; he became Editor in January 2015 when



Brother Boudreau passed on to the GLA. In that same month, Brother Robert Domingue, a long-time philatelist and Editor of *The Philatelic Freemason* was proclaimed a Blue Friar.

In early 2014, the Club embarked on a massive program to post its archives on an Internet website and provide extensive information on Masonic Philately. We now have an open membership policy (no dues). We are a non-profit organization and operate strictly on donations. We welcome everyone world-wide to visit our website and avail themselves of the knowledge we have gained over 82 years.



Please visit us at
<http://www.msclnewyork.net/>

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