

**THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF
NEW YORK SALUTES
THE 2016
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS
OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA
MADISON, WISCONSIN
WITH
FRATERNAL BEST WISHES**



Greetings to Our Distinguished Grand Lodge Conference Brethren:

Many Freemasons are not aware that what is termed *Masonic Philately* is probably the largest postage stamp topical subject in the world. In other words, there are likely more stamps applicable to this theme than any other theme. How it came about is interesting.

In 1934, a group of Freemasons in New York City got together and decided to form a stamp club. They simply met regularly and discussed stamps. They were aware that some U.S. stamps depicted Freemasons—such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Andrew Jackson—but did not give this a lot of thought. Some brethren, however, were prompted to see if they could find any other famous Freemasons shown on stamps. They researched books and wrote to Grand Lodge secretaries. To their surprise, more Freemasons on stamps emerged.

The Club membership grew, and in 1944 it published a little newsletter. This greatly increased membership; with Freemasons all over the world asking to join the Club. When a stamp depicted a Freemason, it was featured in the newsletter. International members followed the U.S. lead and looked for stamps of this nature in their respective countries. In this process, stamps showing objects and themes connected with Freemasonry came to light. In time, there were enough applicable stamps to coin the term *Masonic Philately*.

During this time the Club newsletter soon became a multi-page journal called *The Masonic Philatelist*, which then graduated to a professionally printed magazine and widely-recognized publication on philately.

In 1956, Cuba issued a stamp specifically honoring the Masonic Order, taking the hobby to a new level—inclusion of what is termed a government issued Masonic stamp. Over the next 60 years, 34 countries did the same, and at this time there are 86 officially recognized stamps of this nature.



World-wide, there are estimated to be about 2,000 stamps depicting Freemasons, and stamps relating to Freemasonry (all categories) are estimated to be about 4,000. This does not include the same person on different stamps in the same country.

One of our Club's major accomplishments was to petition, and be granted, a stamp showing George Washington being inaugurated as the first President of the United States. The petition took place in 1936 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Club member, was in office.

At its peak, the Club had over 700 members. Copies of its publication, *The Masonic Philatelist*, continue to be sent without charge to public libraries, stamp associations, clubs, museums, and Masonic organizations throughout the United States.

One of the objectives of the Club is to draw attention to the astounding number of famous men who were Freemasons. Above all, this is the greatest testimony to the integrity of the Masonic Order. One of the highest honors a country can pay to a citizen is to have his or her image depicted on a postage stamp. It is believed that if more men were aware of our incredible history this will help to alleviate the troubling trend of decreasing lodge memberships.

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 80 years.



Wisconsin in Masonic Philately

In Masonic Philately, this stamp is used to represent and honor Wisconsin's government leaders. Most noteworthy is Brother Henry Dodge (1782-1867), US Army General, Governor of Wisconsin Territory, and one of the first two senators from Wisconsin. Fort Dodge, Iowa, is named after him. He became a Freemason in 1806 at Western Star Lodge



No. 107, Kaskaskia, Illinois. He later affiliated with Louisiana Lodge No. 109, St. Genevieve, Missouri, and served as master of this lodge.



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

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