



The MASONIC STAMP COLLECTOR

Journal of the Masonic Stamp Unit of the American Topical Association, published bi-monthly. Address all letters and submit material to the Editor, Nicholas G. Koutroulis, 4659 Sandalwood Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70127.

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WHOLE NO. 1

MASONIC STAMP UNIT REORGANIZED

It is exactly two years since the Masonic Stamp Unit was disbanded and the Newsletter discontinued. Brother Clarence Beltmann who run the Unit and published the Newsletter for several years was forced to give it up due to business pressures.

The Masonic Stamp Unit of the American Topical Association is again organized and will resume the publication of the Masonic Newsletter under a new Editor and a new format. The new Editor is Brother Nicholas G. Koutroulis of New Orleans, La. who was a member of the Masonic Stamp Unit and an ardent stamp collector of Masonic Philately, Masonic Postal History and research. Brother Beltmann did an excellent job in editing and publishing the Masonic Newsletter. The membership at that time was about 350. We will continue to publish an interesting and informative publication on Masonic Philately and related with the hope that our members will get more light through knowledge of stamps and enable them to expand and improve their Masonic collection. We will need the support of all members.

All members are requested to submit articles and information pertaining to Masonry on stamps for publication in the bulletin. Remember, the editor is there to edit and publish the newsletter. The more of a member participation the interesting the newsletter will be. Let's all help out by sending in material for publication now. Your editor will always be glad to answer any inquiries pertaining to Masonry on stamps and the Masonic Stamp Unit. A self-addressed stamped envelope will be appreciated for reply.

Your editor will try not to publish material already appeared in the newsletter previously or other Masonic stamp journals. However, this will be almost impossible to avoid due to conflict of various Masonic philatelic publications. Nevertheless, your editor will try his best.

The newsletter will be called the Masonic Stamp Collector. Hope you like our masthead. In order to keep the dues as low as possible, it will be necessary to publish the newsletter bi-monthly starting with September-October issue. The publication will be done by off-set printing and not mimeographed. Please bear in mind we must have material from members to publish in the newsletter.

Each one of you is urged and kindly requested to recruit new members for the Unit. The bigger the membership the better and larger the newsletter will be.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL

A 20c stamp portraying General George Catlett Marshall, the thirteenth in the "Prominent Americans" series of regular stamps, will be first placed on sale on October 24, 1967, at Lexington, Virginia, the site of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation and Library. General Marshall was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

Issuance of the stamp will be on U.N. Day, in recognition of General Marshall's role in international affairs. This year is the 20th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, under which seventeen billion dollars bolstered the war-ravaged countries of Europe. General Marshall was also U.S. Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and Ambassador to China. He received many decorations and high honors, including the Nobel peace prize in 1953.

Gen. Marshall was made a Mason "at sight" on December 16, 1941, by Ara M. Daniels, grand master of the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia, in the Scottish Rite Cathedral of the District. Distinguished leaders from many states were present, and Carl H. Claude who had served as senior warden on the occasion, gave the candidates a general briefing on Freemasonry, at the request of Marshall. Marshall's father had been an active Freemason at Uniontown, Pa., being high priest of Union Chapter No. 165, R.A.M. in 1889, and commander of Uniontown Commandery No. 49, 1883.

Marshall is also pictured on a stamp of West Germany, Scott No. 9N68. The Marshall plan is also depicted on several stamps of European countries.

DAVY CROCKETT

A 5c stamp in the American Folklore series was issued 17 August 1967 at San Antonio, Texas, where Colonel Crockett died in defense of the Alamo in 1836 as Texas struggled for independence from Mexico. The issuance date was the 181st birthday anniversary of the colorful trapper, hunter, and Congressman from the Tennessee backwoods whose exploits are legendary. b. August 17, 1786 in Limestone, Tenn.

Crockett is often referred to as a Mason, but no proof of his membership has been found. In 1897 it was claimed that a Mr. E. M. Taylor of Paducah, Ky. was in possession of his Masonic apron. On April 21, 1936 the Grand Lodge of Texas dedicated a Masonic memorial on the San Jacinto (Tex.) battlefield. The plaque on the monument carried a list of 48 names, including that of Crockett, stating "A tribute to the fidelity of pioneer Masons under whose outstanding leadership was laid the cornerstone of the Republic of Texas."

The Alamo is shown on U.S. Scott No. 1043, issued in 1956.

CHRISTMAS STAMP WINS COURT OKAY

Masons will be interested to note that issuance of a Christmas stamp with a religious theme doesn't violate the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state, a U. S. District Court judge ruled.

The Constitution does not demand separation of religion and state - only church and state - wrote Judge Alexander Holtzoff recently in rejecting a Protestant group's bid to block issuance of the stamp by the Post Office Department. The stamp, first issued last Christmas, is a five-color reproduction of Hans Memling's 15th Century "Madonna and Child with Angel" which hangs in the National Gallery of Art.

OLIVER H. KELLEY

On April 17, 1967, the U. S. Post Office Department issued a 5c stamp to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Grange, an organization founded on Dec. 4, 1867 at Washington D. C., as the voice of the American Farmer. Technically titled The Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It is organized in 37 States with a dues-paying membership of 900,000. It is a fraternal organization that meets behind closed doors and with secret signs and passwords, but frequently opens its meetings to the public for discussion of, and action upon, questions of community interest.

The founder of The Order of Patrons Husbandry was Oliver H. Kelley, b. 1826 and d. 1913. Kelley was a Mason and was raised in Cataract Lodge No. 2, A.F. & A.M., Minneapolis, Minn. on May 26, 1866. He was dropped from membership for non-payment of dues on December 3, 1887.

GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

The Philippines Government has again seen fit to issue a stamp depicting General Douglas MacArthur. The United States Post Office Department has consistently ignored Gen. MacArthur as the subject for a stamp.

Gen. MacArthur appears in the design of a set of two commemoratives the Philippines released on August 31, 1967. The pair have as their theme the "Battle of Corregidor". Also in the design is an outline of Corregidor Island, and descending paratroopers of the United States who recaptured it in 1945.

Gen. MacArthur was made a Mason "at sight" by the Grand Master of the Philippines Islands, on January 17, 1936. He affiliated with Manila Lodge No. 1, and received the 32nd degrees in the Manila Scottish Rite Bodies the same year. In 1937 was elected Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. On October 16, 1945 he was elected to 33rd degree by AASRSJ. When the Supreme Council 33rd of the Philippines was formed in 1951, he became a member of the Council and its Grand Orator.

MacArthur is also depicted on stamps of Philippines Scott Nos. 519-521. Also the Philippines issued a stamp, No. 629, to commemorate the landing of the United States liberation forces on Leyte in 1944. The design reproduces the marker erected on the spot where Gen. MacArthur landed and bears the inscription: "MacArthur's Leyte Landing, U. S. Liberation Forces, October 20, 1944."

WILLIAM H. SEWARD - ANTI-MASON

Some members request information on the Masonic affiliation of William H. Seward, U. S. Secretary of State who was instrumental in the purchase of Alaska from the Russians in 1867. To set the record straight, William H. Seward was not a Mason. Matter of fact he was Anti-Mason. In 1830 he was named as the anti-Masonic candidate for the state senate.

The 8c airmail Alaska stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of the Purchase.

NEW ISSUES

March 15, 1967, Andrew Jackson 10c Prominent Americans series. Mason.
April 26, 1967, John J. Audubon aquatint of Columbia jays, 20c airmail.
November 17, 1967, Redesigned 5c George Washington of regular series. Mason

DAVID BUTLER

A 5c commemorative stamp was issued on July 29, 1967 by the U. S. Post Office Department to mark the centenary of the admission of Nebraska to Statehood.

The first Governor of Nebraska was David Butler. Butler affiliated with Pawnee Lodge No. 23 at Pawnee City in 1879. His original lodge is not known.

PHOENIX, A MYTHICAL BIRD

On August 30, 1967 the Greek Post Office issued a set of three stamps to show the great importance of the National Revolution of April 21st 1967, to the history and life of the Greek Nation. The picture of the stamps shows the phoenix, a mythical bird, rising from the ashes, and symbolizes rebirth and rescue of the Greek Nation from the disaster to which destructive forces lead the country persistently.

The phoenix is a familiar old mythological legend. The bird was described as of the size of an eagle, with a head finely rested, a body covered with beautiful plumage, and eyes sparkling like stars. She was said to live six hundred years in the wilderness, when she built for herself a funeral pile of aromatic woods, which she ignited with the fanning of her wings, and emerged from the flames with a new life. Hence the phoenix has been adopted universally as a symbol of immortality. Aumont, the first Grand Master of the Templars after the martyrdom of De Molay, and called the Restorer of the Order, took, it is said, for his seal, a phoenix brooding on the flames, with the Latin motto, Ardet ut vivat, meaning She burns that she may live.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

On April 16, 1966, the U. S. Post Office Department issued a 5c stamp Scott No. 1308, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Indiana Statehood. The first Governor of Indiana, Jonathan Jennings, was a Mason.

Jennings was born in 1776 in Hunterdon Co., N. J. He emigrated to the Northwest territory, and was the first delegate from Indiana territory to U. S. congress from 1809-16; on the admission of that territory as a state, he was elected the first governor. He was Indian commissioner in 1818, and from 1822-31 was again a member of congress.

Jennings was a member of Pisgah Lodge No. 5, Corydon, Ind. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana in 1823-24. d. July 26, 1834.

FRANCIS EMORY WARREN

Territorial Governor and first elected Governor of Wyoming; U. S. Senator from Wyoming. b. June 20, 1844 in Hinsdale, Mass. Enlisted as a private in 49th Mass. Vol. Inf. in Civil War and won the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry on the battlefield at the siege of Fort Hudson. Moved to Wyoming in 1868. Here he was interested in real estate, mercantile, livestock business. He was appointed governor of Wyoming Territory by President Arthur in 1885 but was removed by Pres. Cleveland in 1886 and again appointed by Pres. Harrison in 1889 and served until elected as first governor of the state, Sept. 11, 1890.

Warren was a member of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Received AASR (SJ) degrees in Nove. 1900 and 33 on March 7, 1908. d. 1929.

U.S. No. 897, 50th anniversary of Wyoming Statehood.

U. N. - TOWARDS DISARMAMENT

The United Nations Postal Administration will issue a new commemorative stamp on the theme "Towards Disarmament" on October 24, 1967. The design of the stamp shows a portion of the text from the Book of Isaiah "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares." This stamp will be issued in denominations of 6c & 13c.

This quotation on the U.N. stamps has a special significance to a Knight Templar. During the knighting ceremonies the candidate when presented with his sword a lecture of explanation accompanies it. Part in the lecture are these words: "swords shall be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks;" when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

How interesting this stamp could be in a Masonic collection under the section of Masonic symbolism.

SIR WINSTON L. CHURCHILL

British statesman and author, son of Lord Randolph Henry Churchill. Born, 1874. One of the most outstanding leaders of the 20th century in both national and international affairs. Sir Sidney White, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England states that "Sir Winston Churchill was initiated into Freemasonry as a young man, but he never progressed in the Order, and has taken no part for many years." He was initiated in Studholme Lodge No. 1591, London, and raised March 25, 1902 in Rosemary Lodge No. 2851. He died on January 24, 1965.

Churchill is pictured on U.S. No. 1264 issued in 1965 and Great Britain as well as many other countries.

MASONIC TEMPLES ON STAMPS

Editor's note: The following article on Masonic Temples on stamps appeared in the Topical Time, July-Aug. 1967 and written by Bro. Marshall S. Loke. It is an excellent article on Masonic Temples appearing on stamps and the reproduction of same for the benefit of all is most fitting:

Most appropriate for a Masonic stamp collection not already so embellished would be a section, or at least an album page, devoted to stamps that show Masonic Temples. The number of such known stamps being rather limited, the preparation of that portion of the collection can be a comparatively minor project. As long ago as 1935, Honduras No. 328 pictured the Masonic Temple at Tegucigalpa, the capital city of that country. One of Honduras' most famous native sons, Francisco Morazan, was made a Freemason in Igualdad Lodge No. 1 Central American Confederation in 1830, and is portrayed on stamps of Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras and Salvador.

Another interesting stamp of Honduras, No. C178, appeared in 1949 as 'Recino Hall'. Since it resembles the interior of a lodge room in so many details, it can readily serve as a companion to the preceding as well as a discussion starter if so desired.

The beautiful new \$3,000,000 Masonic Temple in Havana, Cuba, on Carlos Terroero Street was the design of two stamps issued by Cuba in 1956. Two views of the 11-story building were shown on a 4centavos, No. 558, and a 12 centavos airmail, No. C135, respectively. Unfortunately the Temple has since been taken over by agents of the Castro regime and all the records, books and furnishings confiscated.

When the 16th Olympics were held in Melbourne, Australia, November 22-December 8, 1956, four stamps were released there in commemoration of the games. On one of these stamps, the 1 shilling, No. 290, is a view in multicolor of Collins Street in Melbourne. The building on the left with the red dome is the Freemasons Hall at 25 Collins St., and is the hoe of the United Grand Lodge at Victoria, A.F.&A.M.

Another Masonic Temple appears on one of the stamps issued by Surinam in 1961. The 20c value, No. 293, of the multicolore buildings set shows the front of the Masonry building of Concordia Lodge No. 9 located at Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam and incidentally marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of Masonry in that country.

Lodge Concordia was originally organized on November 17, 1761, but olosed after a few years. The lodge was reorganized in 1773 and occupied the building until 1960 when the government bought it. The Masons have purchased a large tract of land near Paramaribo for a new hall.

In China the most famous of Peking's numerous temples is that known as the Temple of Heaven located in the southern or Chinese section of the city. It is shown on stamps of China (1909) Nos. 131-33 and (1923) Nos. 270-73.

During the American occupation there were Masonic groups established under the Southern Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council. The Peking bodies at that time had memberships composed chiefly of U. S. Marines of the 4th ~~Division~~ *Regiment* who were stationed in that city. As they had no temple of their own, the degrees were all conducted in the Temple of Heaven.

There were times when Independence Hall in Philadelphia, U. S. No. 1044, served as a Masonic Temple, Previous to the time of the Continental Congress when the building was still called the State House, it was the regular meeting place of of a Philadelphia Lodge of Masons and in 1800-02 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had its home in the building. In 1926, Columbia Lodge No. 91 raised one of its candidates there.

Further research may bring other such items to our attention; and it is quite probable that more temples will make their appearance on stamps of the world.

FREEMASONRY IN AUSTRIA A CENTURY AGO

In the "Freemason's Monthly Magazine" of June 1846 there was an article concerning Freemasonry in Austria. It pointed out that the country was under Catholic sway and that "although Freemasonry established itself in those countries, the olergy opposed it with ultimate success." The article is of particular interest to Masonic philatelists because it can be illustrated with four Austrian stamps of the 1908-13 series. Quote below:

The first law against the practice of the Craft is that of the Empress Maria Theresa (No. 111) in 1764, in consequence of the refusal of three Masters of Lodges to make her acquainted with the secrets and arrangements of the Order. It does not appear that she was aware of her husband, Francis I of Holland, being a member. He was initiated at the Hague in 1731 when he was the Duke of Tuscany. The ceremony was performed by the Earl of Chesterfield.

That enlightened monarch, Joseph II (No. 112), allowed the Freemasons every

indulgence and privilege, restricting the number of lodges to three in large towns but giving distinct instructions to all departments in the state to assist and support the Freemasons. He publicly patronized them, and a Masonic Journal was published in Vienna. The enthusiasm of the people was at the highest, and daily prayers were offered for the prince.

When Leopold II (NO. 114) ascended the throne, affairs altered, the meetings were prohibited. His successor, Francis II (No. 116), went still further, requesting all the German princes to extirpate all secret societies, by whatever name they might be called . . . His wish in this respect was confined to Austria, but to be certain of its results, he insisted that every man officially employed should swear that he was not and never would become a member of either of the secret societies of Freemasons, Rosicrucians, Illuminati or whatever other name they might bear. No alteration has taken place and Freemasonry is not tolerated in Austria.

-- John A. Mirt

VALLEY FORGE STAMP

Masons are taught never to engage in any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of God. When Washington needed help to sustain his personal morale in the darkest days of Revolution at Valley Forge, he knelt on the snow and prayed.

The Masonic significance behind the 2c Valley Forge stamp of 1928 (No. 645) was no accident. The stamp shows George Washington kneeling in prayer and bears the motto: "In God We Trust." The design was chosen by Brother Robert S. Regar, then with the postoffice department and who served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in 1935.

On September 9, 1967, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania dedicated a statue of Brother George Washington at Prayer at Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The sculptor of the statue is Donald DeLue. The statue is over nine-feet tall and cost over \$80,000 contributed by the Masons and Masonic Bodies of Pennsylvania. It is located in The Congressional Medal of Honor Grove, part of the growing complex of the American Freedom Center. The Congressional Medal of Honor Grove honors those recipients of this nation's highest military award.

The statue is near the woodland where John Potts, the Quaker forge-master, is said to have seen and heard George Washington at prayer. It was at Potts' farmhouse that Washington was offered and accepted the owner's hospitality. Masonic legend states that Washington, stricken deeply by the suffering of his men, suffering which he was powerless to alleviate, knelt on the frozen ground and poured out his distress in prayer. Potts - himself, unseen and unheard - later said to his wife, "That man must conquer in the end." Although this legend may or may not be true, it is an indisputable fact that Washington occupied the home of Potts from December 25, 1777 to June 19, 1778.

The Masonic Stamp Club of Philadelphia sponsored a bi-colored stamp featuring the statue of Geo. Washington at Prayer. The cover was cancelled September 9, 1967 during the dedication ceremonies. Inside the cover there is a stuffer with data.

From the editor: You are urgently requested to submit items pertaining to Masonry on stamps. Send them to the editor. Proper credit will be given to all contributors.

