



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. 7

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the beginning of the second year of the new Masonic Stamp Unit and the newsletter. The response of our membership in renewing their dues has been most gratifying. Thank you for your promptness and continued support. However, there are still a few of our members who have not renew their membership yet but I trust this is only an oversight on their part and not abandoning the most interesting and educational topic of all - Masonic stamp collecting.

MEMBERSHIP CREDIT: Your help is needed to obtain new members in our Unit. I earnestly urge you to secure new members. The life of any organization is its membership. In appreciation for your help in getting new members, each sponsor will receive a 50¢ credit toward his dues for every new member recruited. Please, help our Unit grow. The prospective member does not necessarily has to be a stamp collector. Many Masons are interested in the educational aspect of Masonry and I am sure they would find our publication interesting and informative for their use.

MEMBERS OF THE MOVIE INDUSTRY: Bro. Jerry R. Erikson, MSU #42, Box 424, Pico Rivera, Calif. 60660, is the author of several series of articles appearing in the Royal Arch Mason magazine pertaining to the old "233 Club" - an exclusive club formed by Masons in the Motion picture industry in the 1920s. A reprint of the first article with many listings of names of Movie Stars who are Masons may be ordered direct from Bro. Erikson at 20¢ each. These series are most interesting and enjoyable reading material.

SPIRO T. AGNEW MASON? Members are asking if the Republican Vice-presidential candidate, Spiro T. Agnew, is a Mason. Any information on Mr. Agnew whether or not he is a Mason will be appreciated. Perhaps, someone of our members residing in the area of the Grand Lodge of Maryland may check and let us know.

MASONIC COVER CLUB: Members in the Masonic Cover Club will find enclosed, Masonic cover No. 7 - Walt Disney. The next issue coming up is on the American painting series, October 18, which stamp depicts Thomas Grosvenor - a detail from "The Battle of Bunker's Hill." Covers are being printed for the Souvenir sheet to be issued by Mexico in compliment to EFIMEX '68. The souvenir sheet will depict Hidalgo along with the various emblems of the Philatelic Societies of the Americas. I am planning to be on hand for the first day of issue ceremony during the first day opening of exhibition. I will only have 200 covers serviced and every member on the list will receive same according to his standing order.

☐ A checkmark here indicates that your membership in the Masonic Stamp Unit is expiring with this issue of the Masonic Stamp Collector. A statement is enclosed. Please remit now to the editor. Fees: U.S. and Canada, \$3.00; Foreign, \$3.50. Please make checks payable in U.S. Funds to the Masonic Stamp Unit.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: In the last issue of the MSC under the heading "report from Topex '68" I editorialized on Masonic exhibits and how exhibits never receive major awards in important National shows and I stated a few reasons. My comments were on a general nature and I gave my constructive views on the matter. Bro. Robert A. Domingue, MSU #207, wrote me the following letter in which I think our members should find his remarks informative and interesting:

"I just received issue No. 6 of the "Masonic Stamp Collector" and wish to forward a few comments regarding my exhibit at TOPEX '68. First, I want to thank you for being one of the judges - the final scoring represented one of the fairest, from a Masonic topical standpoint, I have seen in many exhibits. Most judges, especially those unfamiliar with the topical, are unfamiliar with the amount of time and effort associated with the research involved - the number of letters and the months, even years, of waiting for responses.

"I disagree with the implications of your newsletter editorial for several reasons. (The implications being those of too much write-up.) First of all, the pages you saw in my exhibit were taken directly from my collection as it presently sits on my shelves. The page format and content was patterned after that of Bro. Samuel Brooks who has captured international exhibition firsts with such exhibits. I am of the firm belief that each page (or series of pages for a single individual) must be self-supporting and contain all the information required to define his Masonic biography and provide a sketch of his personal biography. In addition, some philatelic information must also be presented to provide the tie-in between Freemasonry and philately. Perhaps I am unique but I steadfastly refuse to produce special exhibition pages which deviate from these principles just in an attempt to garner prizes. To date, this philosophy has earned me one "Best of Show," two "firsts," three "seconds," and one "third" in local (New England) exhibits, one "first" and one "second" in TOPEX exhibitions, and the Staat Memorial Award for three consecutive years. This performance has, to some extent, substantiated this attitude. Following a "defeat" at the Masonic Stamp Club of New York exhibit last year similar comments regarding write-up were offered; but, upon explaining my philosophy, the brethren seemed to understand.

"There is, however, one additional point which I would like to emphasize. In my estimation, a Masonic topical collection and exhibition will very rarely win a major prize in any major competition other than TOPEX - simply because there is not enough philatelic significance which can be demonstrated without drawing away appreciably from the Masonic aspects. In fact, I feel that every topical is in the same situation. However, in Masonic stamp collecting there is, or should be, a far stronger motivation - that of spreading knowledge of the Craft. In my first few exhibits, my primary concern was that of "winning." However, as of late, I have realized that this should be only a subordinate driving function. The primary reason for our existence should be that of spreading knowledge of and about Freemasonry. Every Mason realizes that the prominence and population of the Craft is declining each year in this country and that something should be done to preserve its eminence. Although perhaps small, I like to consider that my exhibits of Freemasonry in Philately are my contribution to the cause. I like to feel that many people are exposed to Freemasonry during these exhibits and perhaps some (or maybe only one) are intrigued enough to inquire further into the subject. Consequently, I am of the firm belief that the exhibition pages must contain sufficient information to really interest the people and not the judges. Perhaps I am taking the wrong approach but my devotion to the Blue Lodge overpowers the desire to gather more certificates, ribbons, medals, or Paul Revere Bowls which are just tucked away in a closet." End.

A Collector, of course, may exhibit any way he sees fit according to his talents, desires, imagination and motivation. There are no specific rules, and no hard-line

directions how to exhibit. This is the reason why stamp collecting is such a well diversified hobby. However, there are certain "principles and patterns" to be followed if one expects to be in a competitive position in any philatelic exhibition.

I admire Bro. Domingue's remarks that as of late winning is only his "subordinate driving function" and that the motivation should be in spreading knowledge of the Craft. Fine! Every exhibitor of every topic has, more or less, a motive of a sort in exhibiting. Spreading knowledge of the Craft to uninitiated, I think, may be accomplished in so many other ways as well. For example, I have two frames displaying Masonic Covers which I exhibit at our local show every year on a non-competitive basis strictly for the benefit of the viewers and for the emanation of Masonic light and information. But, personally, if I have to pay \$5 per frame in a National show plus the effort of preparation I want to win. I still believe and advocate less write-up makes a more pleasant and interesting exhibit (if well presented) to a non-collector as well as to a collector. How many of us spare the time in an exhibition to read every page exhibited? Many viewers by-pass collections with too much write-up. People just don't have the time and inclination to read everything available in the frames. I have attended many exhibitions - International, National and otherwise; Topical and others - the response is always the same. The less crowded exhibits (no matter what the subject) and best presented are the most popular ones. Judging is also based on this principle. No matter where or what type of show, this seems to apply. Local shows are somewhat different. A gold medal at a local show is not necessarily a gold medal winner in a regional or a national show. In my experience as an exhibitor and as a judge I found that sufficient information on the pages that interests the judges will most of the time interest the people.

Masonry, like any other topic, can only be exhibited in a group of "Topicals" whether be Topex or other National show as long there is a topical category. Of course, it is very unlikely that a topical will win the "Grand Award" in any other show other than Topex, but the exhibit may still walk away with a gold medal.

The reason I am making all these remarks is that many collectors exhibiting "Masonry on Stamps" complain for not winning any awards. Matter of fact, some go as far as to say that the judges are "prejudiced" which may be true in some cases. But, I've known many judges who were Masons and the reply is still the same. About a year ago I was a judge in a National show and under the category of topicals there was one Masonic exhibit. Honestly, I took one look and passed it by. If I remember there were three frames about 27 pages entitled something like "Masons of the Revolution". Each page had only one stamp of common finding and three-fourths of each page with historical and Masonic write-up. I am sure this brother, well-meaning, probably criticized the judges of being prejudiced and everything else. That is why I am reiterating my statement that if we are going to win in exhibitions we must change our format of exhibiting. Less write-up will also give us more coverage of the subject, more stamps to exhibit, more philatelic information, in a usually limited number of frames.

I believe, by winning awards of our Masonic exhibits our cause will be strengthened and the spreading of Masonic knowledge will be more pronounced.

BACK ISSUES STILL AVAILABLE: Back issues of the Masonic Stamp Collector are still available in limited supply. Complete Vol. No. 1 (issues 1-6) may be had from the editor at \$3.00 or 50¢ each or any issue.

THANKS FOR COVERS: to Bro. Raymond H. Vater, MSU # 173, for a cover commemorating 175 anniversary of Union Lodge #95, Elmira N.Y. - attractive Masonic cachet. . . . to Alan W. Bunn, MSU #67, for Australian first day cover of Olympic games stamps.

. . . to Bro. Bruno S. Guglielmi, MSU #235, Sanremo, Italy, for Italian Masonic co-
vers on Giosue Carducci, F. Baracca, Gian Domenico Romagnosi, and Giuseppe Garibaldi.

NEW ISSUES AND COMMENTS

On June 19, 1968, Italy issued a L.25 stamp, Scott #983, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Maj. F. Baracca World War I aviator. Bro. Baracca was a member of Loggia "Dovere e Diritto" of the Or. di Lugo di Romagna. Also a member of Sovrano Capitolo Rosa Croce (R.S.A.A.). It is hoped that Bro. Bruno S. Guglielmi will furnish us more information on this stamp. . . . Chile issued on April 23, 1968 a stamp, Scott #367, depicting Brothers San Martin and O'Giggins, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Battles of Chacabuco and Maipu. Also a similar airmail stamp was issued, #C280 and a souvenir sheet #C280a. . . . September 12, 1968 saw a release by the Post Offices of the Cook Islands a series of eight postage stamps commemorating the bicentenary of the departure of Captain James Cook on his explorations of the South Pacific. Speaking of Capt Cook, there was an article appeared in the "New Age" Scottish Rite magazine, June 1968 issue, entitled "Masonry and Royalty in Hawaii" The author, Bro. Harold W. Kent of Honolulu, begins his article by saying: "Masonry first came to Hawaii in the person of Captain James Cook on January 18, 1778. Cook, the explorer and navigator who sighted the island of Oahu on that day and as discoverer named the islands the Sandwich Islands after Earl of Sandwich his patron, was a Mason and member of the Grand Lodge of England. . . ." I recently wrote to Bro. Kent asking him if he had any more substantiating information on Capt. Cook's Masonic status. I will report in my next newsletter of my findings. . . . On August 1, 1968, the island of Malta issued four stamps to honor the fourth centenary of the death of Grand Master La Valette. He joined the Order of St. John of Jerusalem when he was 20. During his long service he held newarly all the most important posts in the Order. He was undoubtedly one of the most remarkable Grand Masters who ruled the Order receiving lavish praises from all the Christian world. The Pope had offered him a Cardinal's hat which he declined. This set would have a particular signifoance to a Masonic collector who is also a Knight Templar. . . . Israel's festival stamps for 1968, issued August 21, were: "Jerusalem-the Old and New City." It consists of 5 stamps showing stylized drawings of various parts of the city.

MEMBERSHIP LIST, CONT'D

236. Robert A. Smith	43-15 45th Street	Long Island, N.Y. 11104
237. Adrian Faigin	7949 West 80th St.	Playa Del Rey, Ca. 90291
238. Mariano Sih Chay Juat	Gerona, Tarlac	Philippines C-406
239. Thomas A. Bates	126 - 5th Street	Seal Beach, Ca. 90740

DAVID FIDANQUE DE CASTRO

David F. de Castro can be found in the lower left hand corner of the 5 cent value of the Panamanian series issued in 963 to commemorate the 75th anniversary (in 1962) of the Panama Fire Brigade (Scott No. 454).

David Fidanque de Castro was born on June 18, 1889, in Panama at a time when the city was still within the borders of Colombia. His parents had immigrated from the Virgin Islands and were of Dutch Sephardic antecedence. His major avocation has been as a wholesale merchant and real estate broker. In November, 1965, he completed 61 years of close association with Panama's world-famed Cuerpo de Bomberos (Fire Department), a non-political organization which, in practice, also serves as a secondary police force. He had been Captain of Company No. 6 and for 32 years the Treasurer and Quartermaster of the entire Corps. Today, he holds the title of "Tercer Comandante Honorario" (Honorary Third Chief) and proudly wears the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, awarded to him by the Panamanian government.

Senor de Castro has been a dedicated and faithful Jew and has been prominent in the communal life of the oldest congregation on the Isthmus, Kol Shearith Israel; he was President of the Temple for three years. He was Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board in Balboa, Canal Zone, for 13 years and afterwards served as Vice Chairman. He is a former President of the Rotary Club of Panama, in which he has been prominent for 42 years. For a number of decades, he was an administrator of the famous Leper Colony of Palo Seco.

David Fidanque de Castro received his degrees in Pacific Lodge No. 5, Panama City, Panama, which was constituted in 1916. He was initiated on October 7, 1918, passed on December 16, 1918 and raised on April 21, 1919. He was quite active in this Lodge and filled all the Lodge chairs up to Senior Warden. In his words it is "strange that I never wanted to be Master, which I should have taken." He belongs to the Panama Canal Consistory, Orient of the Canal Zone, and the Abou Saad Shrine in the Canal Zone. He states that he is very interested in the Crippled Children Hospital of the Shrine and has visited many of them as well as many Shrine conventions. He is a Past Director of the Royal Order of Jesters, Court No. 13, in the Canal Zone. He is also a member of the Orchid Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Balboa, Canal Zone. End.

This interesting article was submitted by Bro. Robert A. Domingue, MSU #207, Methuen, Mass. Bro. Domingue stated that "this article represents the final result of research which I wish I could find time to do. An article on this brother which appeared in Linn's two years ago alluded to the fact that he was a Mason. I wrote to him and was able to obtain his autograph on a copy of the stamp as well as some of his Masonic biography. Two letters to his Lodge, two letters to the Grand Lodge of Panama, one letter to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and two years later I acquired the remaining pieces of data."

BIO-SKETCH ROBERT A. DOMINGUE

Born in Lawrence, Mass. in 1937 and have been a legal resident of that state ever since. I was graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., in 1955 and from Lehigh U. in Bethlehem, Pa., in 1959 with a B.S. degree in Engineering Mechanics. Following a 6-month tour of duty as a commissioned officer in the Air Defense Artillery branch of the U.S. Army, I joined the Avco Corp. At the present time, I am a Program Manager in the Minuteman reentry vehicle analysis field with the Avco Missile Systems Division. I am married and have three daughters and one son. At the present time, I am a member of the Masonic Stamp Clubs of New York and Philadelphia and have received the Master of Philately degree in New York.

I have been attempting to organize a Masonic stamp club in the Boston area but have just not found the time. I have published a booklet (now in its second printing) entitled, "Freemasonry in Philately" which provides the Masonic biography of more than 750 Masons who are pictured on or can be associated with the designs on postage stamps of the world as well as Masonic symbols pictured on stamps. Other than Masonic stamp collecting, my specialities are United States, France, and British North America.

Masonically, I was raised on March 23, 1959, in St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, Mass. I served as Master of this Lodge from Oct. 1966 to Oct. 1967. I have also served in various chairs of the 19th Lodge of Instruction, Lawrence, Mass. I am a member of Mount Sinai Royal Arch Chapter, Lawrence Council Royal and Select Masters, and Bethany Commandery No. 17, K.T., all of Lawrence, Mass. I did hold office in the Commandery; however, I have dropped out of line to devote my full attention to the Blue Lodge activities. Recently, I was elected a member of the Correspondence Circle of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2876, London, England.

FIVE STEPS - MASONRY ON STAMPS

Step IV

By W. Wesley Hibbard

EMBLEMS AND SYMBOLS IN MASONRY: Based on Masonic morals, dogma, Manuals and Rituals; the Craft's Emblems and Symbols are allegories and traditions, and signify nothing contrary to religion, and drawn from sacred history.

Authorative references are in accord that an emblem or symbol is relative or synonymous. We sing of the "Old rugged cross, an emblem of suffering and pain." This cross is also referred to as a sacred symbol (18° SR)

"A symbol is ever to him who has eyes for it--some dimmer or clearer revelation of the God-Like. Through all;-there glimmers something of a divine idea"-Carlyle

"Emblem - a representative of an idea by a visible object; a Symbolic figure or design" H.V.B. Voorhis in "Facts for Freemasons"

Limited space permits listing a selected few of many hundreds of Scott Types; that all or in part; express or imply, Operative and/or Speculative Masonry's over 500 emblems and/or Symbols.

Step IV is divided into three parts; with subject coded in ().

Part 1 - Emblems or Symbols (S);Token or Sign (T);Legendary (L):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (S) Apprentice - U.S. A639 | Double Eagle - Albania A4-15 |
| Great Light - Australia A122 | Key Stone - Italy A306 |
| Winged Globe - U.S. AP8 | Rose - Austria 198 |
| Prayer - Ecuador A193 | Knowledge (lamp) - U.S. A643 |
| Hoodwink - Mexico A169 | Peace (olive branch) - France A45 |
| Faith (candleless) - U.S. A642 | Winged Dragon - Siam A20 |
| Orion (7 stars) - Portugal A136 | King Solomon Seal - Netherlands A31 |
| Malta Cross - Malta D2 | Trinity (triangle) - Liberia E7 |
| Star of David - Yugoslavia D7 | Pelican - Yugoslavia 403 |
| Cross - Portugal A101 | Liberty (truth) - Mexico A164 |
| Unity - U.S. A233 | Flowers of Lilies -Ecuador A196 |
| Sword - Ireland A1 | Scales (justice) - U.S. A624 |
| Seven Crowns - Nyassa A3 | Moon & Stars (SR,YR) - Turkey A64 |
| Acacia - Australia A27 | Camel - Sudan A1 |
| Anchor (hope) France A203 | Rod (mace) - Canada A176 |
| Magi - (3 crowns) Sweden A13 | Labor (Beehive) - Bulgaria A178 |

(T) Grip (hands) - U.S. 1265

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (L) Hermes - Greece A11 | Lion of Judah (KS) - Persia A31 |
| Light (Masda) - Persia A34 | Cherub & Moon - Turkey PT2 |
| Ceres (Earth) - Angola A7 | Cardinal Virtues (Pyramid) - Egypt A8 |
| Zeus (Greek God) - Greece o2 | Immortality (Phoenix) - Japan A55 |

Part 2 - Lodge, Council or Chapter furniture, fixtures (F); Ornaments (O); Jewels (J); Regalia, Costumes, Raiment, etc. (R);

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| (F) Altar - Canada A89 | Flag - U.S. A595 | Holy Bible - U.S. A461 |
| (O) Blazing Star - Paraguay D2 | Tessel Board - Croatia O1 | |
| (J) Also (F), Square & Compasses - Great Britain A108 | | |
| (J) King Solomon Seal - Netherlands A31; Malta Cross - Malta D2; Prob.Euclid - Gr.A155 | | |
| (R) Aprons - Cuba A162; Plumed hat - Romania A143; Fez - Egypt A36-7. | | |

GIOSUE CARDUCCI

Carducci is considered the national poet of modern Italy. b. in Valdicastello, Tuscany, 1835, his early pseudonym was Enotrio Romano. From 1861-1904 he was professor of literary history at Bologna.

He was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1906. He wrote many volumes of verse and historical studies in literary criticism.

Giosue Carducci was initiated in 1862 in the Lodge "Concordia Umanitaria" of the Grand Orient of Bologna. He was one of the founders of the Lodge "Felsinea" in Bologna.

Italy issued a stamp on October 14, 1957, Scott #728, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death. Sweden issued a stamp on December 10, 1966, Scott #710, depicting winners of 1906 Nobel Prize; Carducci is one of them as he was the recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1906.

HEINRICH JOHANN PESTALOZZI

Swiss founder of modern education. Author of the pedagogic novel "Lienhard and Gertrud." He draws his educational theories from the mother-child, student-teacher and governing-governed relationships. He felt that the individuality of man must be developed by aid of the teacher.

Pestalozzi is said to have been a member of the "Illuminati" (The Enlightened), an 18th century secret society founded 1776 in Bavaria, Germany. The object of the society was supposedly mutual assistance of its members, to attain the highest possible degree of morality and virtue and to lay the foundation for the reformation of the world by the association of good men to oppose the progress of moral evil.

Pestalozzi is shown on Germany B323 of October 23, 1951.

Submitted by Bro. Paul S. Levie, MSU #217, of Riverside, R.I.

FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER

German poet. The question if Schiller was a Freemason is frequently put forth since much of his works reflect Masonic thought. For a long time his Masonic association was absolutely denied. However, in more recent times new evidence was found, which if not positive in nature, at least indicated to be in disagreement with the previous manifestations. Through letters information came to light that Schiller could have been a member of the Lodge "Guenther zum stehenden Loewen" (Guenther to the standing Lion) in Rudolstadt, Germany. However, these letters are veiled in allegory and mystery. Schiller personally never attested Masonic membership, but maintained a large correspondence with known Masons of that period. His famous poem "Freude schoener Goetterfunke" (Ode to Joy) written 1785 and later put to music by L. v. Beethoven in the Choral Finale of Symphony No. 9 in D Minor (Choral) seemed to have been inspired by a poem found in an 1784 song book belonging to the Lodge "Zu den Drei Degen" (To the three Daggers) in Halle, Germany. The original poem reads as follows:

Oben, ueber'm Sternenheer,
Herrschet unser Meister;
Um Ihn rollen Welten her
Um Ihn dienen Geister,
Zuernen seines Angesichts
Wandeln beide in ein Nichts.

Up, above the starry night,
Our Master rules;
Circling worlds about him
Spirits serve around him,
Angry is his countenance
Wander both into the nought.

Schiller is depicted on various stamps of Germany such 727, 353, 446 and other

- By Bro. Paul S. Levie, MSU #217

THE MASONIC STAMP COLLECTION

Part 4 - Five Human Senses (S); Orders of Architecture (A); Numbers (N);
Working tools (W); Four Elements (FEAW) (E):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (S) Hearing (Music) - Bolivia A117 | Feeling (fellowship) - Argentina A187 |
| Seeing (light) - U.S. A197 | Smelling (scent) - Newfoundland A104 |
| Tasting (food) - U.S. A527 | |
| (A) Corinth (pillars) - China A39 | Ionic - Newfoundland A72 |
| Tuscan - Greece A25 | Doric -Greece A114 |
| (N) 1000 years - Germany A35 | |
| (W) Scyth - Germany A29 | Key - U.S. A532 |
| Trowel - Hungary A124 | Square - Algeria A30 |
| Gavel - Bermuda A14 | Compasses - Ecuador AP38 |
| Pick & Chisle - Germany A34 | |
| (E) Fire (lion) - Kenya & U.A17 | Air (eagle) - U.S. AP15 |
| Earth (bull) - Argentina A130 | Water (Neptune) - Barbados A15 |

SYMBOLS ON STAMPS

On April 28, 1967, the United Nations Postal Administration issued a set of five stamps to commemorate EXPO '67, International Exhibition, Montreal, April 28-October 27, 1967. Under special agreement with the Canadian Government these stamps were valid for postage only on mail posted at the U.N. pavilion during the Fair. The denominations are expressed in Canadian currency. Four of these stamps may be illustrated Masonically as follows:

PEACE, 4 cent, Scott No. 170 - The spirit of Freemasonry is antagonistic to war. Its tendency is to unite all men in one brotherhood, whose ties must necessarily be weakened by all dissension. Hence, as Brother Albert Pike says, "Freemasonry is the great Peace Society of the world. Wherever it exists, it struggles to prevent international difficulties and disputes, and to bind republics, kingdoms, and empires together in one great band of peace and amity."

JUSTICE, 5 cent, Scott No. 171 - One of the four cardinal virtues, the practice of which is inculcated in the First Degree. The Freemason who remembers how emphatically he has been charged to preserve an upright position in all his dealings with mankind, should never fail to act justly to himself, to his Brethren, and to the world. This is the corner-stone on which alone he can expect "to erect a superstructure alike honorable to himself and to the Fraternity."

FRATERNITY, 10 cent, Scott No. 173 - The word Fraternity was originally used to designate those associations formed in the Roman Catholic Church for the pursuit of special religious and ecclesiastical purposes, such as the nursing of the sick, the support of the poor, the practice of particular devotions, etc. They do not date earlier than the thirteenth century. The name was subsequently applied to secular associations, such as the Freemasons. The word is only a Latin form of the Anglo-Saxon 'Brotherhood.'

TRUTH, 15 cent, Scott No. 174 - The real object of Freemasonry, in a philosophical and religious sense, is the search for truth. This truth is, therefore, symbolized by the Word. From the first entrance of the Apprentice into the Lodge, until his reception of the highest degree, this search is continued. It is not always found and a substitute must sometimes be provided. Yet whatever be the labors he performs, whatever the ceremonies through which he passes, whatever the symbols in which he may be instructed, whatever the final reward he may obtain, the true end of all is the attainment of Truth.

Ref. Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry.

THE ORDER OF FREEMASONS IN ISRAEL



This cover bears a Masonic cancellation by the Post Office of Israel to commemorate the day of Erection and Consecration of the Grand Lodge of Israel, October 20, 1953 in Jerusalem. The cancellation also reads "FONDATION DE LA GRANDE LOGE DES FRANCS-MACONS DE L'ETAT D'ISRAEL." The cachet depicts in the center the seal of the Grand Lodge of Israel.

It is difficult to determine when Freemasonry commenced to function in the Land of Israel. According to tradition, there were Masonic Lodges at the time of the erection of King Solomon's Temple, and in the Masonic world, Jerusalem is still regarded as the birthplace of Freemasonry.

But, passing over the long period that has elapsed since ancient time, and basing our findings on the descriptions of travelers who visited Palestine in the preceding century, it is clear that there were Masonic Lodges in this country at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is definitely known that there was a Masonic Lodge in Jaffa, founded by Freemasons among the French engineers who built the railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem, about seventy years ago, its first Master being one Gustav Milau. Local residents, both Arabs and Jews, were accepted to this Lodge which was founded in 1891 and called "Le Port du Temple de Solomon." In 1906, its name was changed to "L'Aurore", and it is still in existence.

Since then many more Lodges were established in Palestine working in diverse languages: Hebre, French, English and Arabic. They owed allegiance to different Grand Lodges including those of Egypt, Scotland, England, France and Germany.

The process of uniting these many different Lodges began on January 9, 1932, when seven of them formed themselves into the Independent Grand Lodge of Palestine. The Jewish, Moslem and Christian brethren belonging to these seven Lodges, which had until then worked under different jurisdictions, foresaw that whatever form the government of the country might assume during its development, it was destined to become a sovereign state. Moreover, this country, where the idea of Freemasonry was born, and the first Masonic Temple was built, this land which was the cradle of those religions that gave Freemasonry its sublime precepts of morality and justice - it was incredible that it should not have its own Grand Lodge.

The second stage of the process of consolidation, that of affiliating the individual Lodge or groups of Lodges to the new Grand Lodge, then followed. Then came the third stage, the uniting of all the Lodges in the country, without exception, under the banner of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel. The solemn ceremony of the erection of the united Grand Lodge took place on October 20, 1953, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and this date constitutes a turning-point in the activities of the Masonic Order in his country.

The Grand Lodge now maintains fraternal relations with 104 regular Grand Lodges throughout the world, namely, 49 in the U.S.A., 10 in Europe, 8 in Canada, 7 in Australia and New Zealand, 13 in Central America, 15 are in South America and 2 in Asia.

There are few Grand Lodges in the world that enjoy so large a number of recognitions, and the fact proves the respect and faith accorded to our Order in Israel by the great Masonic world. The number of Lodges in Israel today is 53 with a total of some 3,000 brethren in good standing. There are 34 Lodges working in Hebrew, 6 in English, 3 in Arabic, 2 in French, 7 in German and 1 in Rumanian. True to the basic principles of Freemasonry, the Order in Israel does its best to translate precepts into practice.

In a country inhabited by people of various religions, Grand Lodge considers it among its primary duties to foster friendship and mutual understanding between all of them. Jews, Moslems, Christians and Druzes sit together in the Lodges and also meet outside the Lodge in a atmosphere of understanding, friendship and brotherhood. Expression to the sublime idea of brotherhood and friendship among nations was given by Grand Lodge in its Seal, which consists of the Shield of David, the Cross and the Crescent.

An additional expression of the respect paid to each religion is the fact that the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Koran lie in the Lodge altars and on which candidates take their obligations on the respective good book which individually hold dearest to themselves. In the field of charity, Grand Lodge maintains an Old Aged Home in Nahariya where aged brethren find a home in comfort and pleasant quarters. Grand Lodge also supports various philanthropic institutions and cares for the rehabilitation of needy immigrant brethren.

A mutual Insurance Fund was founded by Grand Lodge in 1958 and it numbers now over 2,000 members. This fund provides, against a small annual premium, the family of a deceased brother an amount of IL. 2000.

"The Freemason" is a bi-monthly Masonic journal published by Grand Lodge in Hebrew and English.

Ed. note: This article was submitted by Bro. Fred Jelsema, MSU #179, Rapid City, S.D.

WE NEED MORE MATERIAL

The Masonic Stamp Collector is in need of Masonic philatelic articles for publication. In order to continue an interesting newsletter we must have material contributed by our members. I am sure many of our members are in possession of Masonic philatelic articles never before appeared in stamp journals. If you are doubtful about your material please send it on to me anyway.

Do you have anything to trade or to sell (Masonic philatelic items). Please let me know and will be happy to mention it in the Masonic Stamp Collector. Many members are very much interested in getting old Masonic covers. But please be brief about it.

Your editor was just elected Recorder of his Commandery - Ivanhoe Commandery #19.