

The PHILATELIC FREEMASON.



Journal of the Masonic Unit,
American Topical Assn.

Walter J. Kirby, Editor
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

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WHOLE NO. 16

WE AFFILIATE WITH AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY--

Almost two years ago your secretary had the idea that this Unit should affiliate with the American Philatelic Society. This idea was brought on by an article in LINN'S mentioning that APS had such a program for study groups and/or other organizations that would bring mutual benefit to both groups by such affiliation.

Your secretary wrote to Col. Jim DeVoss, executive director of APS concerning this. Frank L. Sente, director of administration, replied that the Masonic Study Unit should have a minimum of ten members who were also members of APS. That meant that we must learn who of our members were also APS members.

Knowing that our member Richard C. Olson was an APS member, your secretary wrote him requesting that he indicate on the copy of our roster sent him which were APS members. He wrote back indicating that 29 of our members were also APS members, so the minimum rule was surpassed for our purpose. Early in 1979 your secretary wrote again to Mr. Sente including the names of those who were APS members and again asking for affiliation. We did not hear until Oct. 4 that APS had approved our affiliation at STAMPSHOW '79 in Boston. This affiliation has since been publicised in several national philatelic publications.

In going through the APS members in our Unit to select someone to be our representative to APS your secretary tried to select one who lived in a central part of the country and came up with the name of Madison B. Cole, Jr., MSU #74, Westmont, Ill.; he was contacted and accepted the role when we became affiliated with APS. He was recommended to President Loke, who appointed him to that post.

One of the stipulations of affiliation is that we send the central office at State College, Pa., a supply of our application blanks. Twenty-five were sent to them and our Unit has already gained several new members and more will probably come in the future.

There is no cost to our Unit in dues, etc.; our only cost is in postage in mailing the PHILATELIC FREEMASON to certain key people in the APS hierarchy. The benefits we receive are the mutual benefits that all APS member receive

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as individuals, and as long as a non-APS member is a member of our Unit, he or she has access to all the APS services that are available as promulgated in the APS HANDBOOK OF SERVICES. Your secretary has the official certificate of membership, as well as the official membership card in his files.

Affiliation has already benefitted us with a number of new members, with a possibility of more to come, and everyone should take advantage of this affiliation by using the various APS services available to all of us.

-- R. M. Needham, Secy-Treas.

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HEINRICH HEINE (1797-1856)--

Heinrich Heine, born of Jewish parents, was a writer of remarkable talent and somewhat of a poetical genius. At 18 he was sent to his uncle, Saloman Heine, a banker in Hamburg, to prepare for commercial pursuits, but as he utterly disliked business and failed in a business venture financed by his uncle, he was persuaded to study law. Because the profession of law was prohibited to Jews in Germany at that time, Heine became a Christian in order to obtain his law degree. Although he qualified, he never practiced law.



Instead he turned to writing. A prose account of a trip he had taken to the Harz Mountains was published and won success immediately and established Heine's literary reputation. His Book of Songs, a collection of lyric poems for which he is best known, was followed by three volumes of travel sketches. He had hoped to obtain a professorship of German literature in Munich or elsewhere, but his writings displayed sympathy with the democratic ideas of the French Revolution and bitterly criticised the despotic feudal regimes of the various kingdoms and duchies of Germany, he incurred the disfavor of the established German governments.

Seeking a more congenial atmosphere, he went to Paris where he spent the rest of his life. During the first part of his residency in Paris he displayed a great literary activity. In 1841 he married his mistress, Mathilde, a French shopgirl whom he loved deeply. On Jan. 4, 1844, Heinrich Heine was initiated in the Lodge "Les Trinosophes" in Paris. In 1847 he suffered from a disease of the spine which also affected his eyes and confined him to what he called his "mattress grave" from 1848 to the day of his death.

Heine stamps were issued by Germany on Feb. 17, 1956, Scott's No. 740; German Democratic Republic, Feb. 17, 1956, Nos. 284-5; Romania, 1956, No. 1129; Bulgaria, Dec. 29, 1957, No. 953.

-- Marshall S. Loke.

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HAVING TROUBLE removing peelable hinges from your covers? A drop or two of watermark fluid, lighter fluid or naphtha will usually do the trick. If lighter fluid is used, be sure it is colorless.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS—

Significant progress has been made and is being made in the Masonic Study Unit during the current year. For example, membership, already some 45% over what it was 12 months ago, is steadily increasing. A more liberal policy has been adopted for late renewals. Our Unit has been recognized by and enrolled with the American Philatelic Society as Affiliate No. 94.

The Unit's journal, the PHILATELIC FREEMASON, has been accepted by three of the largest Masonic libraries in the nation, where it is on file for reference and research purposes. They are: The Iowa Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Library of the Supreme Council, AASR 33, Washington, D.C., and Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of New York, New York City.

The mailing list has been computerized so that changes of address are brought up to date and correct labels are made for mailing each issue. The newsletter, of course, is what the Unit is all about. Bro. John M. Hudak, first president of the Unit, said "We need to make sure that the information has quality and integrity to it or it will mean nothing." Our aim is to live up to that idea. More member participation will help.

The next issue of the PHILATELIC FREEMASON with the annual election for president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer of the Unit for 1980-81. (See inside of cover sheet of this issue.) Members willing to serve if elected should send names for the ballot to the secretary, Bro. R. M. Needham, 708 North Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, Ohio 43130, at once. Incidentally, I will NOT be available for re-election, but will gladly help support a new slate of officers. Will you be one of them?

I wish each one of you a blessed and bounteous New Year.

(signed) Marshall S. Loke,
President, Masonic Study Unit

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK—

What have you turned up lately in the way of interesting items in Masonic philately? Your fellow collectors would be interested, too. Share your discoveries by forwarding the pertinent details to the editor. Articles are badly needed.

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A BIBLE and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district — all studied and appreciated as they merit — are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty.

— Benjamin Franklin

WHEN IT COMES to money, everybody is of the same religion.

— Voltaire

WE MUST HAVE AN ELECTION--

By-laws of the Masonic Study Unit require that an election of the three elective officers — president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer — be held annually. Officers may succeed themselves.

The inside wrapper of this issue is a form on which you may nominate persons for these offices. Please fill this out and mail to Secretary Needham AT ONCE in order that nominations may be included with our March-April issue of the PHILATELIC FREEMASON. Remember, this is NOT a ballot, but is an opportunity for you place persons in nomination for these offices. Mail to Sec. Needham at 708 North Mt. Pleasant Av., Lancaster, Ohio 43130. DO IT TODAY; it's important!

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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER—

Our efficient secretary, Bro. Richard M. Needham, has been elected Tiler of his blue lodge, Lancaster Lodge No. 57, F. & A. M. He also holds the office of Conductor of Council (Chaplain) in Lancaster Council No. 88, Royal and Select Masters. Congratulations, Bro. Needham!

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SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT!--

On October 23 your editor was given the rank and designation of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in Scottish Rite Masonry. I do not know why I deserve this, but I'm "proud as Punch" of the honor. Forty-nine other Arkansans were similarly honored, including Bro. Chester A. Lauck, "Lum" of the radio team of "Lum and Abner." Bro. Lauck now makes his home at Hot Springs.

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NEW MEMBERS--

- 136. Donald C. Craft, 1502 Maux Drive, Houston, Texas 77043
- 137. Thos. K. Gardner, 92 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, Vt. 05452
- 138. Clyde Hatter, 319 Riley Street, Dundee, Mich. 48131
- 139. Edward Plander, Dolsen Place, Stamford, Conn. 06901
- 140. Marcus F. Hernandez, 5601 Blvd. East, Apt. 6-H, West New York, N.J. 07093
- 141. Harold T. Jones, 100 Bay Meadows, Rancho Mirage, Cal. 92270
- 142. Richard A. Koch, Great Oak Farm, Jersey, Va. 22431.

Change of Address:

- 43. Willard G. Murbach, 415 Park St., Elgin, Ill. 60120
- 76. William Youd, 25 Belgravw Rd., South Marine Drive, Bridlington, No. Humberside, YO 15 3 JP, England

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DID YOU get a new member this month?

SIMON BOLIVAR (1783-1830)--

Simon Bolivar, son of Juan Vincente Bolivar y Ponte and Maria de la Concepcion Palacios y Blanco, was born in Caracas, Venezuela. His wealthy aristocratic family provided him with a tutor, Simon Rodriguez, who instilled liberal ideas into his student. At the age of 15 he was sent to Madrid to study law. He continued his studies by traveling throughout Europe and the United States.



He became an advocate of independence during the uprising of 1810, and supported Francisco Miranda, who was elected president under the Constitution of 1811. After the Royalists recaptured Caracas in 1812, Bolivar's property was confiscated and he was exiled.

Forming a new army, he retook the city the next year and earned the title of "The Liberator." However, the revolution collapsed and Bolivar was exiled a second time. In May, 1815, he was in Jamaica recruiting followers and returned as dictator a year later. Independence in Venezuela was finally assured a year later.

In 1819 he led an army across the Andes to victory at Boyaca and became president of Colombia. The republican forces continued to win at Carabobo (1821), Pinchincha (1822), and Ayacucho (1824). Bolivar met other patriots, such as Sucre, San Martin and Santander. Bolivia and Peru joined the confederation. Bolivar dreamed of a United States of South America, but lack of experience in self-government in the Spanish colonies made this impossible. After the Congress of Panama in 1828 each nation went its own way. Ill health had plagued Bolivar for a number of years and shortly before his death he resigned as president.

Bolivar was made a Mason in Lautaro Lodge, Cadiz, Spain. He became a Knight Templar and Member of the Scottish Rite in Paris in 1807. His Scottish Rite collar and apron are displayed in the Grand Lodge Museum in New York City.

Bolivar, often referred to as "The George Washington of South America," has been honored on stamps of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, Honduras, Peru, Venezuela, and on the United States "Champions of Liberty" series.

— Norman G. Lincoln.

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WIT AND WISDOM OF WILL ROGERS—

You don't have to be so funny when your joke is about the news.

I never expected to see the day when girls would get sunburned in the places they do now.

Let advertisers spend the same amount of money improving their product that they do on advertising and they wouldn't have to advertise it.

It's the guy you give something to that you can't please.

ANTONIO JOSE ALMEIDA (1866-1929)—

Almeida studied medicine at the University of Coimbra and graduated in 1895. From 1895 to 1904 he had a practice in San Tome.

In 1906 he became a representative for the Republican party. When the revolution failed in 1908 he was imprisoned. He prepared the October-Revolution of 1910 and became Minister of the Interior in the provisional government. He was Prime Minister in 1916-17. From 1919 to 1923 he was president of the Republic of Portugal. He founded the magazine "Republica" and was accounted a gifted orator.

On July 31, 1907, Dr. Antonio Jose Almeida, under the symbolic name of Don Alvaro Vaz de Almada, was made a Mason "at sight" by the Grand Master of Portugal under the constitution of the "Grande Oriente Lusitano Unido." On Dec. 20, 1908, he affiliated with the Lodge "Montanha", No. 214. On May 3, 1909, he became an honorary member of Lodge "Redencao" in Coimbra. In 1929 Almeida was elected Grand Master of Portugal, but was unable to exercise his function because of illness; he died in Lisbon on Oct. 10, 1929.

In 1923 the Republic of Portugal issued a set of 16 stamps, Scott's Nos. 299/314, in commemoration of the 1922 flight from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro by Gago Coutinho and Cabral. In addition to the two aviators the stamps show the faces of the president of Brazil (left) and of President Almeida.

— Wessel M. Lans.

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WERE THEY MASONS?—

Recently a number of portrait stamps have appeared, among them:

ALBANIA: Vasil Shanto and Quemal Stafe, anti-Facist fighters, and Alexander Moissi, actor.

AUSTRIA: Richard Zsigmondy, chemist.

FINLAND: Peter Kaim, chemist, and Peter Farsskal, naturalist.

GERMANY (BERLIN): Moses Mendelssohn, philosopher.

ITALY: Ottorino Respighi, composer.

JUGOSLAVIA: Milutin Milankovic, scientist, and Kosta Abrasevic, poet.

SEYCHELLES: Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, Dr. Eduardo Mondlane and Amilcar Cabral, liberation heroes.

SPAIN: Gen. Antonio Gutierrez.

Were any of these Masons? Who can give us a story on any who were?

MASONRY IN NEBRASKA--

(The following, written by Robert Houston and appearing in "World Herald Magazine," was sent us by Bro. Leonard Kemp. While, technically, it is not Masonic Philately, we believe you will enjoy it. -- Editor.)

The first lodge of Masons in Nebraska was Lodge No. 1 of Omaha, but its origin 124 years ago was not in Omaha but in nearby Bellevue. It was here that the first building on Nebraska soil, a trading post, built by the American Fur Company, was located. Bellevue had the first missions, both Baptist and Presbyterian, the first court on record and was the seat of the first territorial governor.

Nebraska became a territory in 1854 and was opened to colonization. In the early spring of that year several Masons were among those who settled in and about the site of the present city of Bellevue. They got to talking about the possibility of organizing a lodge and later that year did something about it. They met in the log store of Green, Kinney and Company in St. Mary's, Iowa, just across the river from Bellevue and drew up a petition to the Grand Lodge of Illinois asking for a dispensation to conduct a lodge. Those attending the first meeting were L. B. Kinney, Ansel Briggs, P. J. McMahan, A. W. Lockwood, George Pawnee, James M. Gatewood, George Hepner, A. W. Hollister and A. R. Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore visited Chicago that year, which was quite a trip in those days, and arranged payment of the usual fees. After some delay, the dispensation was granted, and was received early in the year of 1855 by Mr. Kinney, who had been named the first Master of the lodge.

The first lodge meeting was held on the evening of April 3, 1855, in the second story of the old trading post, then owned by Peter Sarpy, after whom Sarpy county was named. In an adjoining room resided a family of natives of the soil, and by that we mean Indians. Like others of their race, they showed great curiosity about what their paleface brothers were doing. So in order to prevent observation and preserve the secrets of the order, large mackinaw blankets were hung over the windows.

The first petitioner for membership, Isaiah M. Bennett, was accepted, but he died unexpectedly before the next meeting. The second petitioner was none other than Stephen Decatur, nephew of the Stephen Decatur who was the American naval hero in the campaign against the Tripoli pirates along the North Africa coast back in 1803-04. Mr. Decatur's petition was favorably received, but for want of a suitable room in which to work, he was not initiated, and soon left Bellevue.

The lodge in Bellevue received its charter from the Grand Lodge in Illinois in October of 1855. It had conferred no degrees while under dispensation, and the degree work was no better after the charter was received. The first petition that resulted in any lodge work was received from Mr. Sarpy. In voting on his petition a pickle jar was used as a ballot box. The brethren were informed that gravel stones would count for approval and bullets for rejection. He was accepted, but the lodge had virtually no paraphernalia for doing Masonic work. The altar, for instance, was said by one historian to be a pile of blankets. So lodge members took Mr. Sarpy to Council Bluffs on January 5, 1856, and after Bluff City Lodge No. 71 had completed its meeting, the quarters were turned over to the Bellevue group for conferring the Entered Apprentice degree. Masonic his-

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torians say that no record has been found showing whether Mr. Sarpy received his subsequent degrees in the Bluff City lodge, or whether they were conferred on the Nebraska side, or whether they were conferred at all. Henry F. Clarke was the first person to receive the Master Mason's Degree in Nebraska. It was conferred on him by the lodge at Bellevue in September, 1857.

The jewels used by the lodge in the early days were made of tin by John A. Nye, who became the lodge's second master, and they are still in the lodge's possession. Mr. Nye in 1899 wrote: "The tin jewels I made seemed to have carried as much glory in succession as though made of gold. My clumsy hands fashioned similar tools for Denver, Colo., Helena, Mont., and Deadwood, S. Dak." The lodge in Bellevue received its charter two years before the Grand Lodge of Nebraska was organized. During Territorial days it flourished, but the bright future that the first residents of Bellevue had visualized did not materialize. During the early years of Nebraska Statehood, a number of other river towns passed up Bellevue in growth.

The Masons' Nebraska Lodge No. 1 languished during the '80s and was about to die. Members of other Nebraska lodges wanted to have the initial group stay on the roster, and it was moved to Omaha on Jan. 24, 1888. Membership at the time of transfer was 39, with Daniel E. Wheeler as Worshipful Master. After being transplanted Nebraska No. 1 enjoyed a steady growth, and from its members have come two Grand Masters in Nebraska: Edward M. Wellman and Benjamin F. Eyre. Mr. Wellman was installed in 1922, and Mr. Eyre in 1946.

A monument, located in the City Park at Bellevue commemorates the formation of Nebraska Lodge No. 1. It was dedicated during the 75th meeting of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on June 7, 1932. The man who gave the main address was M. F. G. Haven Stephens, the Grand Master of Illinois. In the 1940's, during World War II, Bellevue underwent a rejuvenating which started with the building of the Martin Bomber Plant to the west of the present town and the population more than tripled within a decade reaching 3,852 by 1950. A new charter was applied for and was granted by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in June, 1954, and the Masonic roster now lists Bellevue Lodge No. 325.

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HEINRICH VON STEPHAN (1831-1897)—

Heinrich von Stephen was born at Stolp, Pomerania. He entered the Prussian postal service in which he rose rapidly. He was the first postmaster-general of the German Empire and was the chief promoter of the Universal Postal Union, presiding at the first conference in Berne in 1874.

von Stephen was a member of the Lodge "Teutonia zur Weisheit" in Potsdam, having been initiated there in 1858.

He appears on many stamps, some of which are: Germany (1923) Scott's Nos. 340-343; (1947) 578-579; (1949) 9N35-41; Chile (1950) 250-261; Nicaragua (1950) &31, C310, C046. For the UPU Centenary (1974) he appears on stamps of Switzerland, Equatorial Guinea, Malta, etc., etc.

— Marshall S. Loke.

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DID YOU get a new member this month?

MORAL CODE OF FREEMASONRY--

It embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man.

Its requirements are the things that are right, and its restraints are from the things that are wrong.

Inculcating doctrines of patriotism and brotherly love, enjoying sentiments of exalted benevolence, encouraging all that is good, kind and charitable, reproving all that is cruel and oppressive, its observance will uplift everyone under its influence.

To do good to others, to forgive enemies, to love neighbors, to restrain passion, to honor parents, to respect authority, to return good for evil, not to cause anger, not to bear false witness, not to lie, nor to steal — these are the essential elements of the moral law.

— Douglas MacArthur

(Editor's note— This wisdom of Gen. MacArthur is "lifted" from "The Camel's Eye," publication of South Bend (Ind.) Shrine Club.)

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DUQUE DE CAXIAS (1803-1880)—

Louis Alves de Lima e Silva, Duque de Caxias, was born in the village of Porto de Estrella, state of Rio de Janeiro. He took an active part in the struggle for independence of Bahia and was appointed to the command of the Municipal Guard.



With the rank of colonel, he successfully put down rebellions in such diverse places as Maranhao, Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul. He led the Brazilian forces in their war against Rosas, and served as Minister of War, 1855-1857, and again in 1861-1862. He occupied the important post of president of the State of Rio Grande do Sul as well as that of president of the Council of Ministers. During the Paraguayan War he led the Brazilian army and won a number of decisive victories.

Initiated in 1841 or 1842 under the Supreme Council of Montezuma (during the time of Conde de Lajes) he served as Grao Mestro of the Grande Oriente do Brazil and of the Supreme Council founded in 1847 until 1854.

The likeness of the Duque is found on many stamps of Brazil, beginning with Scott's No. 410, issued in 1935, and continuing until the present time.

— Denis I. Duveen.

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WHAT MOST PERSONS consider a virtue after the age of 40 is simply a loss of energy.

— Voltaire.

FRANZ LISZT (1811-1886)--

Ferenc (Franz) Liszt was born at Raiding, not far from Eisenstadt, now in Austria Oct. 22, 1811. He died July 31, 1886.



At the age of 12 he composed an opera, "Don Sancho." Shortly after he was 15 he started the first of his many European tours which made him world-famous as a virtuoso pianist. His music was what he called "the mysterious language of tone." To express the fullness of his soul he created the symphonic poem. He was extremely involved in the culture of Europe, scarcely writing abstract music. His "B Minor Sonata," which is proclaimed by many as his masterpiece, is a poem in terms of music.

His need to express nature introduced new musical forms, and made him the forerunner of modern music. He was possibly the greatest pianist of all time, literally moving the piano into a power of poetic expression.

In the later years of his life, Liszt entered the Church in search for inner peace. He took minor orders, and became known as Abbe Liszt. Here he composed his greatest religious music, his last composition being "The Requeim." A great teacher, his music helped create or influence composers from Wagner even down to such moderns as George Gershwin.

Liszt was initiated Sept. 18, 1841, in "Lodge Zur Einigkeit" (in concordance) at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and received the second and third degrees in "Lodge Zur Eintracht" (in harmony) in Berlin in February of 1842.

Likeness of Brother Liszt is found on too many stamps to mention here, these including those of Austria, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, Poland and Russia.

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CHARLES DE COSTER (1827-1879)—

The Federal Republic of Germany released a 50pf. Jan. 13, 1977, depicting anecdotes connected with Til Eulenspiegel, a German peasant and clown of the 14th century. The ancient prankster was popularized by "The Legend of Til Eulenspiegel" written by the Belgian author, Charles de Coster.



Charles de Coster was born of Belgian parents in Munich and brought to Belgium as a child. He taught history and French Literature at the Military Academy, held minor official positions and was employed in the National Archives in Brussels for a short time. He lived in relative poverty and obscurity all his life.

de Coster was initiated in 1858 in the lodge "Les Vrais amis de l'union et du progres reuni." in Brussels. In 1865 he lectured to the brethren of his lodge, describing for the first time the plot of his book on Til Eulenspiegel.

A portrait of de Coster is on a Belgian semi-postal issued Oct. 24, 1952 Scott's No. B517.