

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Affiliate #94



Editor
Robert A. Domingue
59 Greenwood Road
Andover, Mass. 01810

VOLUME 8, NO. 2

JULY - AUGUST 1984

WHOLE NO. 42

--A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT--

Dear Unit Members:

As you were advised in our last newsletter, it is going to be my privilege to serve as your President for the coming term. Bro. Walkes has accepted the position of Vice President and Bro. Steding will fill the post of Secretary-Treasurer.

My personal thanks to our retiring officers for their outstanding work during the preceding term. I have already appointed Bros. Kemp and Needham to serve as our new Unit Directors and the balance of the appointed slate will be announced in our next newsletter.

Speaking of the newsletter, Bro. Domingue, our new Editor, has vast experience in the field but he can't do it alone ... YOUR HELP IS IMPERATIVE! We need your input, the Unit and the newsletter are only as good as you make them.

I believe COMMUNICATION is the key to our success. Have you ever written a fellow Unit member? Have you ever recruited a new member? Please spread the word with both Masons and collectors. I would appreciate hearing from each of you as to your collecting interests. If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to write to me.

I have plans for this Unit and I believe that Masonic Philately will greatly benefit as a result of our combined efforts. Thank you.

Thomas M. Gardner

DANNY THOMAS NOW A MASON

The TROWEL (Published by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts) reports that the famed star of stage, screen and television, Danny Thomas, was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Gothic Lodge No. 270, Hamilton Square, New Jersey, (just East of Trenton) on March 15, 1984. He received all three degrees of the Craft in a one-day period on this occasion. Now we need a stamp associated with him - perhaps those issued for the motion picture industry will be acceptable.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who provided kind comments and words of encouragement via letters and telecons regarding my volunteering for and being appointed Editor of "The Philatelic Freemason". I am sure it is a task I will enjoy but at times it will prove frustrating for want of new material. I have received some information from members but much more is needed; it takes quite a few meaningful items to fill 12 pages every other month. Please start researching and writing.

I have had a request for a "Letters to the Editor" column - I would be very willing to publish such letters as long as they were in good taste and pertinent to the hobby/newsletter. I would also be willing to reinstitute Trade/Wanted and Questions/Answers sections. Please submit items or information which you would like to see published, after all - it is OUR Newsletter, not MY Newsletter.

- CORRECTIONS AND ADDENDA -

It appears that in the last issue I made some errors which must be corrected - one for the record and one to correct some misinformation:

George A. Dondero - on Page 407 I stated that George A. Dondero died in 1983. Unfortunately, this "guess" was wrong and research showed that he died on January 27, 1968, in Royal Oak, Michigan.

John M. Cunningham - on Page 405 I stated some false information regarding Bro. John - he did not just retire from the USPS but rather from the D.C. Government Security Force. He does not handle the covers for the Italian MSC but rather gets the USA covers cancelled for them and helps design a cachet. The actual handling is done by Mrs. Dina Ricci mentioned in the article.

Frank C. Laubach - Information on Bro. Frank Laubach's Masonic biography has been received from R.W. Thomas W. Jackson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He petitioned Benton Lodge No. 667 on April 2, 1920, at the age of 35 listing his occupation as that of a Minister. He was approved May 7, Entered May 7, Crafted December 3, and Raised December 31, all in 1920. He died on June 11, 1970.

NEW MASONIC STAMP CLUB FORMED

Information published in the latest issue of "The Masonic Philatelic Club", the newsletter of the Masonic Stamp Club of Great Britain, indicates that a Masonic Stamp Club has been formed in South Australia. This new club which has issued a cover and started its Bulletin in April is led by President-Editor Sidney W. Martin, 4 Barrow Crescent, Lockleys 5032, South Australia. I will try to get more details on membership, publication frequency, etc., for the next issue of our newsletter.

COPY OF KIRBY'S NO. 1 COVER WANTED

Ed. M. Ward, Jr., 2437 East 32nd Street, Davenport, Iowa 52807 (not a member) wrote to me looking for a copy of W. Kirby's first cover - for the Jimmy Rogers stamp. If anyone has one they would like to sell him, please write to him directly.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues with Masonic significance have been identified in recent philatelic media:

March 30, 1984 - Bolivia - 50b (two different issues) - 200th Birth anniversary of Simon Bolivar - Bolivar on horseback, Bolivar entering La Paz.

March 30, 1984 - Central African Republic - Old Master Paintings set including:
100 fr "Madonna with the Pear" by Durer
300 fr "Madonna with the Carnation" by Durer.

June 4, 1984 - Norway - 2.50 Krone - Centenary of Norwegian Beekeeping Society, Bees pictured (Masonic symbolism).

June 19, 1984 - Sierre Leone - 4 leone Souvenir Sheet - UPU Congress - pictures Heinrich Von Stephan.

On October 24, 1983, the Dominican Republic issued a stamp for the 125th Anniversary of Dominican Masonry. A block of these stamps and a write-up on Dominican Masonry was provided by Manfred Winiecki K. of Guadalajara, Mexico - Member No.266 who is also a Past Master and Deputy District Grand Master.



In 1803 the French General and Captain General of the Island, Luis Fernand, offered Masonry his help and in this way Lodges survived until 1809 after the capitulation of the French - when they had to evacuate the territory.

In 1819 the illustrious brother José Pascual del Real formed the Lodge "Philanthropie" under the auspices of the Grande Oriente Nacional de Espana and in 1842 a new Lodge was formed under the name of "Constante Union" under the Grand Orient of Haiti.

After the independence of the Republic in 1844, Masonry developed very rapidly and under Juan Pablo Duarte, together with distinguished patriots a Grand Lodge was installed in 1858. The Supreme Council of the 33^o Degree was established on February 16, 1861.

The Gran Logia de la Republica Dominica was founded on October 24, 1858, and there are today 25 Lodges working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

On July 16, 1984, the British Crown Colony of the Turks & Caicos Islands will release a stamp series and souvenir sheet commemorating the 125th anniversary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, famed British author and creator of Sherlock Holmes.

The denominations and subject matter are as follows:

- 25¢ - Holmes, Watson, Lord Bellinger and T. Hope - The adventure of the second stain
- 45¢ - Holmes fighting Moriarty at Richenbach fall - Adventure of the final problem
- 70¢ - Holmes, Watson and Lestrade at the arrest of Colonel Moran - Adventure of the empty house
- 85¢ - Holmes introducing Watson to Mycroft - Adventure of the Greek interpreter

Souvenir Sheet containing the \$2 stamp shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his signature along with characters Holmes and Watson backgrounded by an open book showing all of Doyle's major works.

These stamps will be available at face value (Check, Money Order, etc.) from: Philatelic Bureau, Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Islands. The cost in U.S. funds is 2.25 for the set and 2.00 for the souvenir sheet. The bureau also requests an extra 1.00 to help defray the cost of handling. Official FDC's are available for .75 more on each item (set and sheet). Five to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.

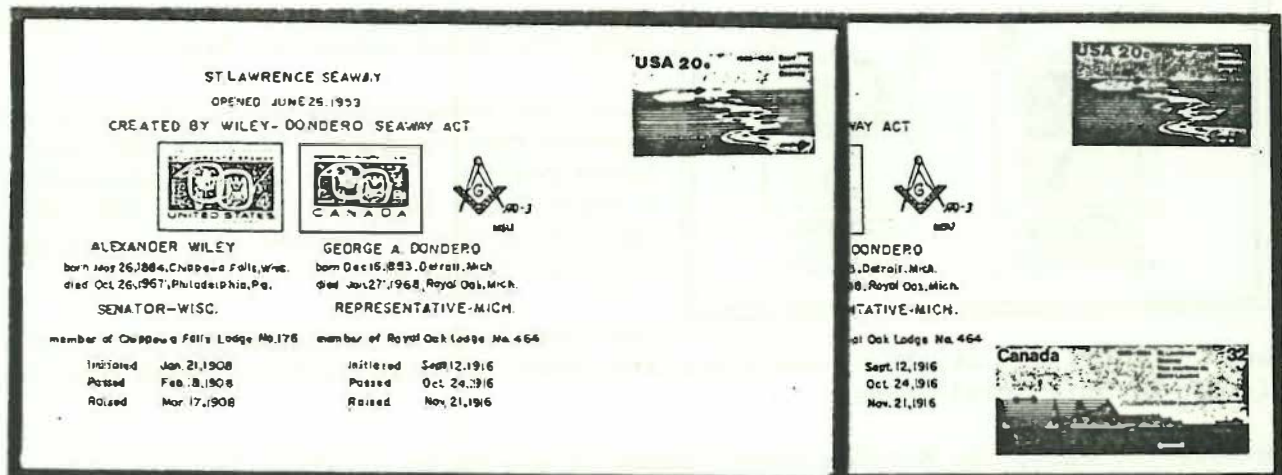
-Information provided by John M. Cunningham

Biographical and Masonic information on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was provided in Volume 6, No. 4 of "The Philatelic Freemason" (Nov-Dec 1982, pages 321/2).

MSU FIRST DAY COVER #3

Response to the issuance of MSU First Day Covers No. 1 and 2 for Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., and Richard B. Russell, Jr., as announced in the last newsletter has been quite good but there are still some copies remaining at \$1.00 each, plus a No. 10 SASE from the Editor.

Cover No. 3 has been prepared and will be available in July in two franking conditions: franked with just the U.S. issue for the St. Lawrence Seaway or franked with both the U.S. and Canadian issues. The cachet for both is the same, illustrations are provided below. The single franking cover is available for \$1.00 while the combo cover costs \$1.50. Orders for these covers should also be addressed to the editor and should be accompanied by a No. 10 SASE.



FEMALE TYLER OF A MASONIC LODGE

The first Lodge in Kansas was Wyandott Lodge which met in the home of the Senior Warden, Matthew R. Walker. Mrs. Walker, an Indian, acted as Tyler of the Lodge. Later Mrs. Walker became the first Grand Matron of the Order of Eastern Star in Kansas.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND INFORMATION

I have recently realized (and have been reminded) that there were some new members received between the issuance of Volume 7, No. 5 and Volume 8, No. 1, who have not yet been officially recognized. They are:

- 405 L.H. Esralson, #309-14881 104th Avenue, Surrey, B.C., Canada V3R 1M6
- 406 John Provan, Box #1529, A.P.O., New York, N.Y. 09057
- 407 John C. Sander, 619 S. Broadwell St, Grand Island, Nebr. 68801
- 408 Stanley F. Sheldon, 23 Ellsworth Ave. Springfield, Mass. 01118
- 409 Robert DeRoy, D.V.M., Rue Pasteur #51b, Sceaux, France
- 410 Wilfred E. Tabb, Jr., 2142 Miami Rd, Euclid, Ohio 44117
- 411 Laverne A. Kohrt, 484 Pine St., Marseilles, Ill. 61341
- 412 Mrs. Jane Tabb, 2142 Miami Rd., Euclid, Ohio 44117
- 413 Herbert A Rasmussen, 315 E. Nees Ave, #145, Fresno, Calif. 93710
- 414 Kenneth M. Smith, Sr., 758 Maple St., Fostoria, Ohio 44830
- 415 Henry A. Ford, 3951 Piper Ave., Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5A 3B2
- 416 David Gonzalez (Vasquez), 920 E. 40th Street, Hialeah, Fla. 33013
- 417 Monroe H. McCaslin, 6640 Curtis Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90805
- 418 Wayne A. Forester, Ph.D., P.O. Box 5, Hanover, Mass. 02339
- 419 Peter J. Westbere, 99 Sunnylea Crescent, Apt. #6, Guelph, Ont., Canada N1E 1W5
- 420 Peter G. Lindsey, 16 Miller Road, Oakville, Ont., Canada L6H 1J6
- 421 Glynna O. Jones

- 424 Kenneth G. Flook, 1530 S. Prudence Rd., Tucson, Ariz. 85710
- 425 Romy C. Go, 467 McArthur Hwy., Balibago, Angeles City #2017, Philippines

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 96 Giorgio Conti, Via F. Cilea #264, #80127 Napoli, Italy
- 413 Herbert A. Rasmussen to that stated above

RESIGNED

- 237 Raymond E. Durham, Jr.
- 401 Donald W. Powell

CLOSED ALBUMS

- 395 George W. Post
- 421 Glynna O. Jones

Many, many membership renewals have been received since our last publication.

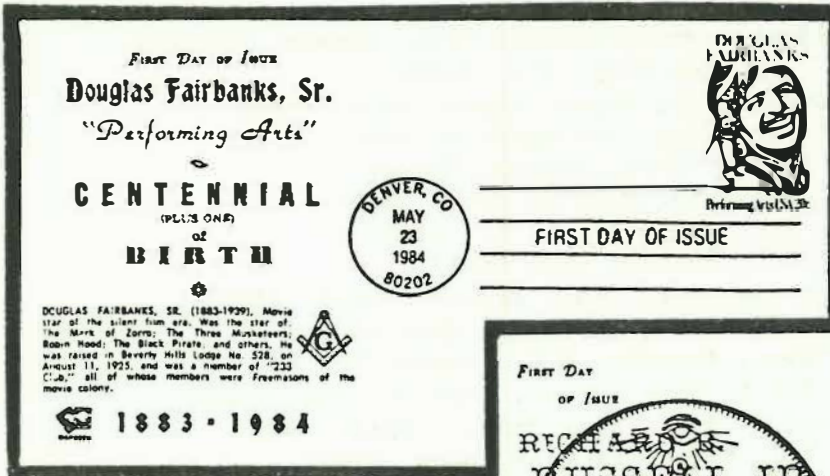
In response to several questions received over the past several weeks, let me reiterate the conditions related to the Unit dues. The annual dues of \$5.00 cover the fiscal year of May 1 to April 30. More than one year's dues may be paid at once. The Secretary-Treasurer sends dues notice reminders out in May to those from whom he has not yet received a renewal. The dues are payable to the Secretary-Treasurer:

Otto L. Steding
1033 Hollytree Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

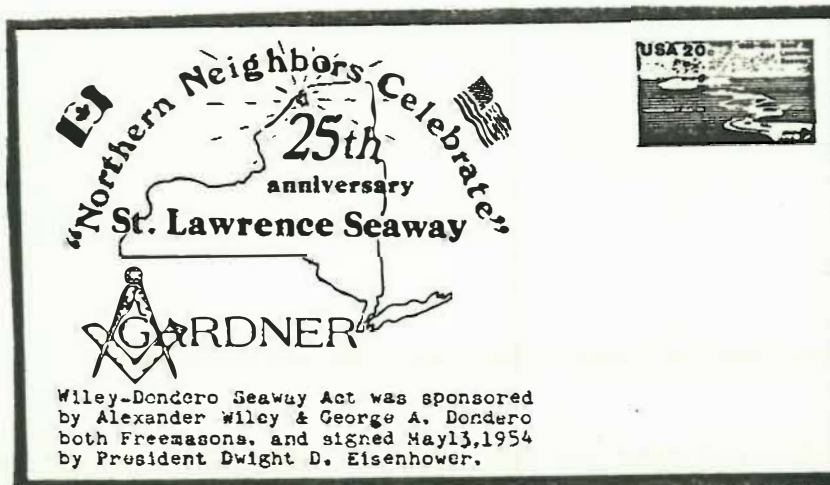
Because of any potential confusion resulting from a complete change of officers this year, including the editor, all members of record of the 1983-4 year as well as those who have already renewed their membership are receiving this July-August issue of the newsletter. If you have not yet renewed, please do so now.

COVER EFFORTS BY UNIT MEMBERS

The various covers shown below represent efforts by some of our Masonic Study Unit fellow members to commemorate first days of issue or special events through Masonic Cacheted Covers.

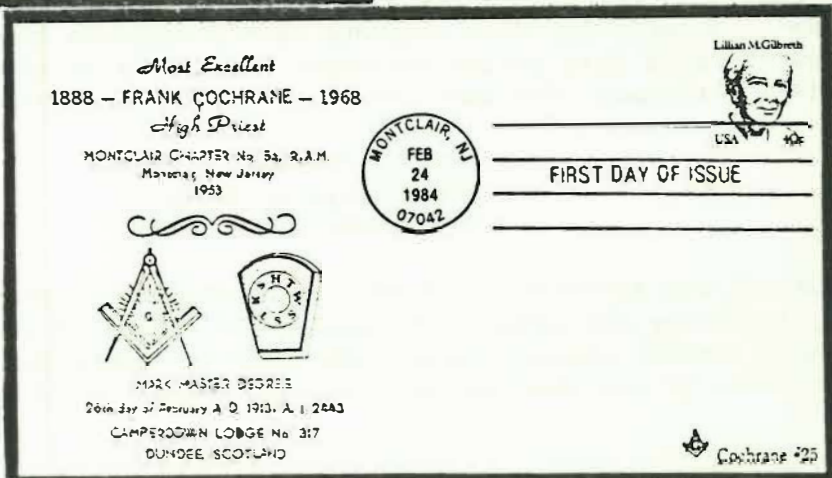


Mahdeen covers for the recent D. Fairbanks and R. Russell issues prepared by our recently retired Secretary-Treasurer, Richard M. Needham.



A cover prepared by our newly elected President, Thomas M. Gardner for the recent St. Lawrence Seaway release.

A cover prepared by Frank Cochrane in memory of his father which could be cancelled FDoI only two days away from his significant anniversary date.



NOTED MASONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

On March 2, 1936, the United States issued a stamp for the Centennial of the independence of Texas from Mexican rule; it pictures Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, both known to be Freemasons. (Scott No. 776)



STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN

Stephen F. Austin was born on November 3, 1793, in Wythe County, Virginia, but in 1798 moved with his family to St. Louis. After attending Bacon Academy in Connecticut and Transylvania University in Kentucky, he became a member of the territorial Legislature of Missouri and Director of the Bank of St. Louis. Following his father's death he set out for Texas where his father owned some land. He travelled by way of Arkansas where he declined a judgeship which was offered him and New Orleans where he remained for six months studying law and doing newspaper editorial work.

He arrived in Texas in July 1821 and founded a colony of 300 families near the Gulf of Mexico between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. He mapped and surveyed this area, fixed the land system and prevented the abolition of slavery in the area by the Mexican authorities. Imprisoned in 1833 by Mexico for treasonable statements, he was released in 1835 and actively secured aid from private U.S. parties to carry on the Texas revolution. Following establishment of the Republic of Texas, he was defeated for the presidency by Sam Houston but did serve briefly as Secretary of State. He died in Texas on December 27, 1836.

Stephen F. Austin was initiated on June 23, 1815, in Louisiana Lodge No. 109 located in St. Genevieve, Louisiana Territory (now Missouri). This was the first Lodge west of the Mississippi River and is now extinct. He later affiliated with St. Louis Lodge No. 3 and in 1828 organized the Lodge of Union in his colony in Texas. He made an attempt to establish his Lodge within the York Grand Lodge at Mexico City but loss of the petition in transit and uncertainty between various superior bodies in the city rendered this effort unsuccessful.

SAMUEL HOUSTON

The U.S. also issued a stamp for Sam Houston (Scott No. 1242) on January 10, 1964.

Samuel Houston was born near Lexington, Virginia, on March 2, 1793. He grew up with little schooling in Tennessee near the Cherokee lands; during his teens he spent 3 years with the people of this Tribe. During the War of 1812 he served under Jackson against the Creek Indians and suffered severe wounds at Horseshoe Bend. Resigning his commission in 1818 he studied law, was admitted to the bar and started practicing at Lebanon, Tennessee. He was elected to Congress in 1822 and 1824 and as Governor of Tennessee in 1827. He resigned in 1829 (after his bride of three months left him) and departed for Indian Territory to re-join the Cherokees.

In December 1832 he was sent by A. Jackson to negotiate with the Indians of Texas and decided to settle in that territory. He served as a delegate to the Texas constitutional convention in 1833 and was chosen commander of the Texas army at the outbreak of the war for independence of Texas from Mexico. His battle at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, which the Texan army won over very unfavorable odds and in which they captured Gen. Santa Anna proved to be the turning point for independence. Sam Houston was elected the first President of the Republic of Texas serving from 1836 to 1838



and again from 1841 to 1844. Following annexation to the United States in 1845, he was one of the first two Senators. He was elected Governor in 1859 but was deposed on March 18, 1861, because of his strong opposition to secession. He died in Huntsville, Texas, on July 26, 1863.

Samuel Houston received his degrees in Cumberland Lodge No. 8, Nashville, Tennessee, being initiated on April 17, passed on June 20 and raised on July 22, 1817. He demitted in November 1817 and is thought by some to have become a charter member of Nashville Lodge No. 37 before reaffiliating with Cumberland Lodge No. 8 in 1821. He served as Junior Warden in 1821 and was listed as attending the Grand Lodge of Tenn. in 1824 as a Past Master. He is listed in the proceedings of 1828 as suspended for unmasonic conduct. He affiliated with Holland Lodge No. 36 of Louisiana (later No. 1 of Texas) in 1837 and demitted on July 14, 1842. He is next reported on the rolls of Forrest Lodge No. 19, Huntsville, Texas, in 1851. On December 20, 1837, he presided over the first Masonic Convention at Houston, Texas, which established the Grand Lodge of Texas.

-Information from Editor's files

- U.S. AND LIBERIAN MASONS/PRESIDENTS -



In 1976, the Republic of Liberia issued a stamp in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial. The stamp is unique as it has the likeness of four Freemasons, all of the Presidents of their respective country. George Washington, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, Gerald Ford and William R. Tolbert, Jr.

George Washington, the "Father of his country" and first President of the U.S. was born on Feb. 22, at Bridge Creek, Westmoreland County, Va. He was initiated on Nov. 4, 1752, in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Va. He served as Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22.

Joseph J. Roberts, the "Father of his country" and first President of the Republic of Liberia was born in Norfolk, Va., on March 15, 1809. In 1829 his family sailed to Liberia, then a tiny outpost of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color. It is not known at this time where Bro. Roberts received his Masonic degrees. He was a member of Saint John's Lodge No. 3 in Monrovia and served as the second Grand Master of the Grand Lodge 1869-1872.

Gerald R. Ford, together with his brothers, was initiated in Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Mich., on September 30, 1949, with his father, Gerald R. Ford, Sr., presenting them their lambskin apron. Gerald was passed and raised in Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C., receiving his Fellowcraft degree on April 20, 1951, and Master's degree on May 18, 1951. This was courtesy work done for Malta Lodge.

William Richard Tolbert, born May 13, 1913, served as Worshipful Master of Saint John's Lodge No. 3, Monrovia. He later served as Junior and Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge. When he took the office of President, he was sworn in by Speaker of the House, Richard Abrom Henries who was elected Grand Master in 1957. At the time of his death during the military coup of April 12, 1980, Pres. Tolbert was serving as Grand Master of Masons - Emeritus. He was elevated to the 33^o by the United Supreme Council 33^o A.A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliation in 1970 at a special convocation in Washington, D.C.. He was serving as Deputy for Liberia at the time of his death.

-Submitted by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., Unit Vice President

"MASONIC" SAILING CARD



Printed by the Bostonian Society, 122 Washington Street, Boston.

Courtesy of Bostonian Society

- { 62 } -

Many Grand Lodges in the U. S. sponsor tours and/or cruises, but none can equal the public advertizing for the Craft that was exhibited by this sailing card of the 19th Century.

It was in the McGilvary yard at Stockton (now Stockton Springs), Waldo County, Maine, that this barque, launched on July 19, 1864, was constructed by Albion P. Goodhue, master builder, for Henry S. Staples of the firm of Staples & Triffin. Later owners of the "Masonic" were Birch & Lord, Noah Emery and H.P. Blanchard. Her registration was changed to New York in 1880 and last appears on the list of American Merchant ships for 1885.

Not much information is available about her career. It seems safe to assume that one or more of her original owners were members of the Fraternity, however, no records have been found to prove that fact. This barque remains a secret of the order.

-Card copy provided by
G. Gozamba (co-worker of
editor)

STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty, created by Bro. Frederick Auguste Bartholdi, will soon be 100 years old. Masonic involvement with this edifice also dates back to its origin. Not only was it designed and created by a member of the Craft who displayed his plans and progress to his assembled Lodge but its placement in the New York harbor was attended to with Masonic tributes. On August 5, 1884, Grand Master William A. Brodie and members of the Grand Lodge of New York laid the cornerstone of the statue's pedestal in a Masonic ceremony. On August 5, 1984, the current New York Grand Master, along with many other North American Grand Masters will hold a Masonic rededication ceremony on Liberty Island. Those Brethren who show an interest in Special Event covers might want to prepare for this event.

-Some of this information gleaned from "The Green Mountain Freemason" published by the Grand Lodge of Vermont

MASONS PICTURED ON STAMPS OF THE CANAL ZONE

JOSEPH CLAY STYLES BLACKBURN



Joseph C. S. Blackburn is pictured on a regular issue of the Canal Zone of July 1, 1929 (Scott No. 114).

Joseph Clay Styles Blackburn was born on October 1, 1838, near Spring Station in Woodford County, Kentucky. He was educated at Centre College and after graduating in 1857, he read law in a private office prior to being admitted to the bar the next year. He spent two years practicing in Chicago but returned to Kentucky

in 1860 to work for the election of Breckenridge.

He joined the Confederate army and fought throughout the war with valor but without distinction under Preston and Polk. After the war Joseph Blackburn lived for a few years in Arkansas but returned to Kentucky in 1868. He was elected to the state legislature in 1871 and 1873 and then spent ten years in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1875 to 1885, and twelve years in the Senate, 1885 to 1897 and again from 1901 to 1907. During the construction of the Panama Canal, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the Isthmian Canal Commission where he served as Civil Administrator of the Canal Zone from 1907 to 1910. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson appointed him resident commissioner of the Lincoln Memorial - a position he held until his death on September 12, 1918.

Joseph Clay Styles Blackburn received his degrees in Buford Lodge No. 494, Midway, Woodford County, Kentucky, being initiated on May 17, passed on August 16 and raised on September 20, all in 1870. He served as Junior Warden in 1871 and Senior Warden in 1872. He demitted to Landmark Lodge No. 41, Versailles, Woodford County, Kentucky, being admitted there on September 22, 1873. He demitted from this Lodge on July 7, 1879, and further affiliations are not known at this time. As a result of his long tenure in Washington, D.C., it would seem logical for him to have affiliated there but no records have yet been found which substantiate that assumption.

WILLIAM LUTHER SIBERT

William L. Sibert is pictured on a Canal Zone regular issue of September 27, 1937. (Scott No. 110).



William Luther Sibert was born on October 12, 1860, at Gasden, in what is now Etowah County, Alabama. He attended rural schools until he was 14 when financial difficulties confined him to work on his family's farm. Three years later conditions improved and after a year of tutoring, he entered the University of Alabama in 1878. From there he was appointed to the United States Military Academy graduating in 1884, number seven in his class. He joined the Corps of Engineers and attended the Engineer School of Application for three years. He was assigned to duty around Cincinnati, Kentucky, Great Lakes and Little Rock.

During the Spanish-American War, he was ordered to the Philippines and duty in the field commanding a company of engineer troops working on restoring the railway. He returned to the United States in 1900 and spent the next seven years improving navigation on the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. In March 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him a member of the newly reorganized Isthmian Canal Commission. His responsibilities in this organization grew and he continued to work in that role until the abolishment of the commission on April 1, 1914. He was

rewarded with the rank of brigadier general for his work in the Canal Zone and was placed in a line command. Upon entry of the United States into World War I, he was promoted to major general and given the 1st Division which he took to France in June 1917. His career as an engineer did not help him in these new duties and on December 14, 1917, he was relieved of his command. He returned to the United States to successfully organize a Chemical Warfare Service for the army, a feat which earned him the Distinguished Service Medal. He retired to his farm near Bowling Green, Kentucky, on April 4, 1920. He continued to serve in an engineering role but primarily as a consultant - including such assignments as chairman of the Boulder Dam Commission in 1928. He died on his Kentucky farm on October 16, 1935, after a long illness.

William Luther Sibert was initiated on January 27, passed on February 24 and raised on March 28, 1890, in Bowling Green Lodge No. 73, Bowling Green, Kentucky. He demitted on December 12, 1898, and on his return to Bowling Green he was asked to put his demit back there but he replied that he thought he was going to become a member of a new Lodge in the Canal Zone. Whether or not he did has not yet been ascertained.

- Information from Editor's files

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

The two cent value of the Famous American Composers set released by the United States on May 3, 1940 (Scott No. 880) pictures John P. Sousa.



John Philip Sousa was born on November 6, 1854, in Washington, D.C. In his youth he studied the violin, band instruments and music theory, later playing for five years in the United States Marine Band. At the age of 17 he began conducting theatre orchestras and practicing composition. He became bandmaster of the Marine Band in 1880 and restored that group to a competent concert and marching band. In 1892 he secured his release from the Marine Corps and formed his own organization which he took on tour. This group became one of the world's most celebrated musical organizations. They made many tours of America and Europe and completed one round-the-world tour.

John P. Sousa composed many marches and became known as "The March King". He also composed ten comic operas, suites, overtures and waltzes. He tried his hand at writing by being the author of three novels and books of reminiscences. He died on March 6, 1932, in Reading, Pennsylvania.

John Philip Sousa was a member of Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, D.C., having been initiated on July 15 and raised on November 18, 1881. During his career he wrote many musical selections for the Masonic Order. His Lodge conducted Masonic services for him at the Congressional cemetery in Washington, D.C.

-Information from Editor's files

GRAND LODGE OF LOUISIANA COVERS

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A. M., issued two First Day Covers saluting the World's Fair and the Grand Lodge Hospitality Room maintained from May 12 through November 11, during the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition, for all visiting Freemasons and their families from throughout the world. Also, a limited number of sets were postmarked with the opening day pictorial postmark of May 12.

One of the Grand Lodge First Day Covers is shown, the other pictures Grand Master James M. Walley with wording about the Grand Lodge World's Fair Hospitality Room. This Room, on the mezzanine of the International Hotel, 300 Canal St., in downtown New Orleans near the Exposition, is intended to show southern hospitality to all visiting Freemasons and their families.

Either the First Day of Issue or Opening Day postmark set may be ordered, while supplies last, by mailing \$2.75 (or \$2.50 plus a #10 SASE) to: J. R. Allen, Chairman, Grand Lodge of La./FDC Sets, P. O. Box 26135, Richmond, Va. 23260. Please specify which set is desired, otherwise, the First Day of Issue set will be sent.



Two further Masonic Cacheted covers recently produced by the Italian Masonic Stamp Club are shown below. They may be ordered from Mrs. Dina Ricci, Club Filatelico Int. di T.M., Casalla Postale N. 39, 48022 Lugo, (Ravenna), Italy.

