

Virgil I. Grissom was born on April 4, 1926, in Mitchell, Ind. In his early years he tried the Air Force briefly as an aviation cadet just before World War II ended. He attended Purdue University where he received a Mechanical Engineering degree and then re-enlisted in the Air Force. He flew 100 combat missions in the Korean Conflict and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals for his efforts. Upon his return to the U.S. he became a test pilot and a pilot instructor at Bryan, Texas. While he was only 5' 7" he was one of the original seven astronauts picked in 1959 to begin space training. He was the second man sent into space when he manned the Mercury Capsule "Liberty Bell" in July 1961. On March 23, 1965, he became the first man to enter space a second time piloting Gemini 3 with John Young three times around the earth. He was one of the three astronauts burned to death in their space capsule on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral on January 27, 1967.

Bro. Grissom received his degrees in Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Mitchell, Ind., when he was a student at Purdue. He was initiated on Feb. 10, passed on April 14, and raised on May 19 - all in 1949. He received the York Rite degrees on Sept.14, 1963, in the Bahia Shrine Temple at Orlando, Fla. as the principal candidate of a class of 402 brethren.

Gus Grissom is pictured on many stamps of the world: Czechoslovakia-1965 (Scott #1303,1305), Guinea-1965 (Scott #382,387), Maldive Is.-1968 (Scott #250), Mauritania-1970 (Scott #Cl01), Czechoslovakia-1973 (Scott #1877) and non-Scott issues from several of the Arab Shiekdoms.

### MEMBERSHIP\_NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

135. Henry Wilkinson, 195 Lakewood Parkway, Snyder, N.Y. 14226

#### ADDRESS CHANGES:

171. M. De Schamphelire; Jan van Rÿswÿcklaan, 140 b.10; 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium.

389. Christopher F. Grippo, 600 East Pine St. #681, Seattle, Wash. 98122

420. Peter G. Lindsey, 2854 Mara Drive, Coquitlam, B.C., V3C 5L2, Canada

#### CLOSED ALBUMS:

30. Willard G. Murbach, West Chicago, Ill. (July 1987).

MISSING MEMBERS: (Last two Newsletters returned with no forwarding address).

170. J. De Rooy; Box 168; 3360 AD Sliedrecht, Belgium.

175. J. Vroegindewey; Dunantstraat 887; 2713 TH Zoetermeer, Netherlands.

Can anyone provide an address correction ??

#### MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES:

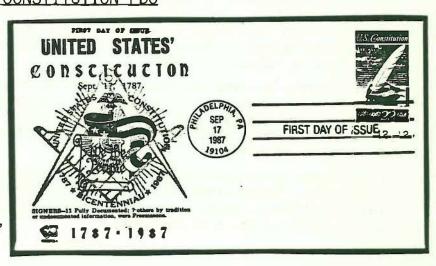
Bro. Richard M. Needham went back into the hospital on Nov. 19 to undergo restructuring surgery of his leg the following morning. He has been confined to bed in a cast since that time and will not shed that constraint until the New Year. He has written but no details yet. We all hope that all went well during this operation and recovery - it is a much better alternative to losing the leg as was previously feared.

Bro. John M. Cunningham also went into the hospital for "leg work". His visit started Nov. 17 and lasted 10 days during which he received treatment for vericose vein hardening.

Let's all try to stay well during this new year. I need all of you members so you can contribute articles to your Newsletter.

# MAHDEEN CONSTITUTION FDC

Some time ago, Bro. Dick Needham prepared the cachet shown to the right for use with the U.S.Constitution bicentennial stamp of Sept. 17, 1987. Those who service their own covers as supplied by him undoubtedly were able to process them; I believe Bro. Needham was also able to process some for his business use "in between hospital visits". Anyone interested in acquiring a copy should inquire of him at 708 N. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Lancaster, Ohio 43130.



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### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

That time of our fiscal year is rolling around again very soon and this time the members must now come up with a slate of officers for the forthcoming election at the end of April 1988. In accordance with our By-Laws, we must elect a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer for a two year term of office. The duties of these officers are defined in the By-Laws and were documented in a previous issue of the Newsletter (January-February 1986); these duties are not any different from those of similar positions in any other organization.

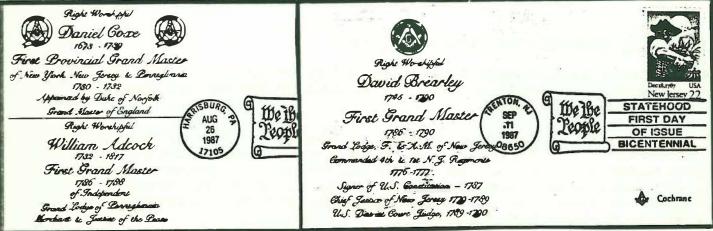
As a matter of history, the Brethren who have held these positions since the MSU was reorganized in 1977 have been:

TERM	PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	SECRETARY-TREASURER
1977-78	John M. Hudak	Marshall S. Loke	Richard M. Needham
1978-79	John M. Hudak	Marshall S. Loke	Richard M. Needham
1979-80	Marshall S. Loke	Leonard W. Kemp	Richard M. Needham
1980-81	Leonard W. Kemp	Robert C. Krueger	Richard M. Needham
1981-82	Leonard W. Kemp	Robert C. Krueger	Richard M. Needham
1982-84	Leonard W. Kemp	Robert C. Krueger	Richard M. Needham
1984-86	Thomas M. Gardner	Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.	Otto L. Steding
1986-88	Thomas M. Gardner	Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.	Otto L. Steding
1988-90	???	???	???

Please submit your nominations now while you are thinking about it to your Editor so that a slate of candidates can be developed for mailing with the next issue of the Newsletter. Don't be afraid or timid to write - don't count on someone else to do it. It is your unit, define who you want for the leadership thereof.

#### COCHRANE'S FINAL 1987 FDC'S

Bro. Frank Cochrane has provided a copy of each of his last two FDC's for the 1987 calendar year. These were prepared to honor the first Grand Master of each of the two states which celebrated their bicentennial - Pennsylvania and New Jersey. These impressive covers are very well done and can be obtained from him at a cost of 80 cents each (plus a #10 SASE) at P.O.Box 360025, Melbourne, Fla. 32936. Some covers were also prepared with these cachets and cancelled FDOI of the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial stamp on Sept. 17, 1987.



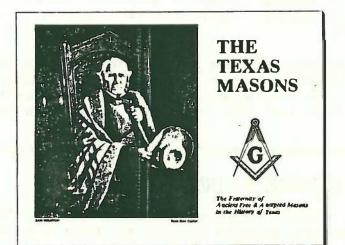
### THE TEXAS MASONS

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Bro. John Cunningham has provided your Editor with a copy of an excellent book entitled "The Texas Masons" as well as the flyer providing information pertinent to its acquisition.

The book, soft-bound consisting of 36 pages, provides information on twentyeight famous Texas Masons who shaped the history of Texas. From San Antonio to San Jacinto, from the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence to the formation of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, it defines the history of Texas as it was lived by these famous Masons. Written by Pete Normand, it is available from Brazos Valley Masonic Library, P.O.Box 1300, College Station, Texas 77841-1300. The cost of the book is \$5.00 each for a quantity of 1 to 24 and #4.00 each if 25 or more are desired; a Postage and Handling fee of \$1.00 per order is also required.

This book is particularly applicable to Masonic Philately since it discusses Bros. Stephen F. Austin, William B. Travis, David Crockett, Sam Houston and other Masons who fought at the Alamo. All of these are pictured on or can be associated with U.S. postage stamp designs.



TWENTY-EIGHT FAMOUS TEXAS MASONS WHO SHAPED THE HISTORY OF TEXAS...

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# EXAMPLES TAKEN FROM "THE TEXAS MASONS"

#### STEPHEN E. AUSTIN (THE FATHER OF TEXAS)

Stephen Fuller Austin came to Texas to seek a life and fortune. Instead, he exhausted both in the service of Texas. To him alone belongs the well deserved title, "The Father of Texas".

Austin was born in Wythe County, Virginia, on November 3, 1793, the elder son of Moses Austin. In 1708 the family moved to Missouri. Young Stephen attended Bacon Academy in Connecticutt and Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. In 1815 Austin became a member of Louisiana Lodge No. 109 at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, the first lodge west of the Mississippi. He later transferred his membership to St. Louis Lodge No. 111.

### STEPHEN F. AUSTIN (CONT'D)

By the age of 27, when he decided to take up his father's venture of moving three-hundred families to settle in Texas, Austin had served three terms in the Missouri Legislature, served as director of the Bank of St. Louis, as a federal circuit court judge in Arkansas, and as the editor of a newspaper in New Orleans.

In 1822, while meeting with officials in Mexico City, Austin became friends with Lorenzo de Zavala and other Masons in the government. In 1828 Austin and six other Masons met to form a lodge in Texas but it was never chartered. While visiting Mexico City in 1833, Austin was arrested and thrown into prison by order of the dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. He was not released until December 1834. In September of 1835, with the advance of General Cos across the Rio Grande, Austin put out a general call to arms. The revolution had begun.

Austin went to New Orleans to urge the United States to support the Texas cause. Returning to Texas in 1836 he was persuaded to run for President of the new Republic but was defeated by Sam Houston. He accepted the post of Secretary of State but, following a brief illness, died on December 16, 1836, at the age of fortythree.

### SAM HOUSTON



The single dominant military and political figure in early Texas was none other than Sam Houston. Born on March 2, 1793, in Rockbridge County, Virginia, he moved with his mother and family to Tennessee after the death of his father. At the age of sixteen, Sam left home to live among the Cherokee Indians, who adopted him into the tribe and gave him the name "Colonneh", which means "The Raven".

In 1813 Houston joined the Army and was seriously wounded while fighting the Creek Indian allies of the British. He gained the respect of his commander, General Andrew Jackson, and the two men became close friends. In 1817 Houston joined Jackson's Lodge, Cumberland No. 8 at Nashville. In 1823 and 1825 he was elected to the U.S.Congress. In 1827 he was elected Governor of Tennessee, but, following an unhappy marriage, he resigned and went to Indian Territory to operate a trading post.

In 1832 President Jackson sent Houston to Texas to deal with the Indians. He soon took a leading role in the move for independence, and signed the Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Elected Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army, he began a classic withdrawal movement into east Texas, forcing the Mexicans to abandon their supply lines behind rising rivers. On the afternoon of April 21, 1836, just as Santa Anna felt he had the Texans trapped, Houston attacked. The Texas Army defeated a force nearly twice its size in only eighteen minutes.

Houston was twice elected President of the Republic. On December 20, 1837, he presided over the Masons that met in the Texas Senate Chamber and resolved to form the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. After annexation he was elected to the U.S.Senate, and served until 1859, when he was elected Governor. Refusing to support the Confederacy, he was removed from office. He retired to his farm near Huntsville, where he died July 26, 1863.

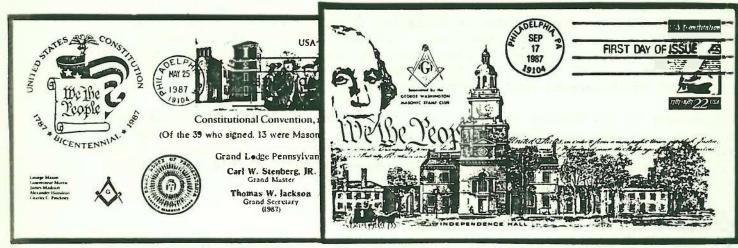
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### GWMSC COVERS

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club has prepared cacheted covers for the Constitutional Convention postal card and the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial stamp as shown below. These releases are \$1.00 each (plus a #10 SASE or return postage) and can be ordered from Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, Pa. 17560-9622.

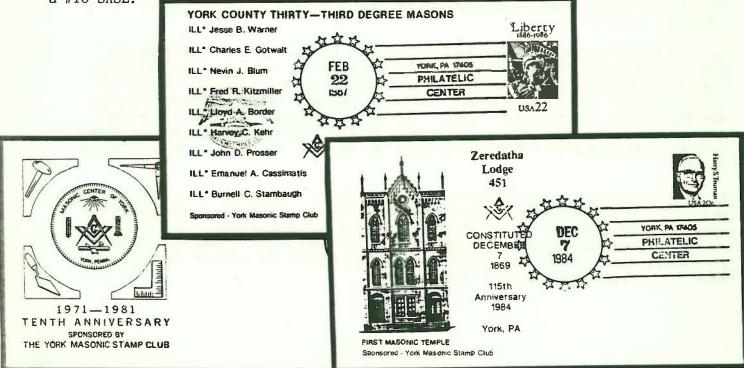


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YORK MASONIC STAMP CLUB COVER

The Special Event cover noting York County's Thirty-Third Degree Masons shown below was issued by the York Masonic Stamp Club. This Pennsylvania group had also issued two previous covers in 1981 and 1984 for their Tenth Anniversary and for Zeredatha Lodge's 115th Anniversary, respectively. (The existence of this group and its cover producing activities are just now coming to the attention of your Editor - he must have been sleeping at the switch for the past six years.) These covers may be obtained from Bro. Clinton B. Everett, 1429 3rd Ave., York, Pa. 17403; the cost of each cover is \$1.00 plus postage or

a #10 SASE.



### MAURICE H. THATCHER

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The \$20 Million Thatcher Ferry Bridge which spans the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal and provides a vital link in the Pan American Highway is shown on a stamp issued by the Canal Zone on Oct. 12, 1962. This 5425 foot long span was named for Maurice H. Thatcher, U.S.Congressman and distinguished lawyer.



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Maurice Thatcher was born in Chicago, Ill., Aug. 15, 1870, but was raised in Butler County, Kentucky. He served as a clerk of the circuit court there. He studied law, was licensed to practice in 1898 and became an Assistant U.S. District Attorney. Appointed by Pres. Taft as a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission in 1910, he was its youngest member; he headed the Department of Civil Administration of the Commission. While in Panama, he was instrumental in establishing the Thatcher Free Ferry at the western entrance to the Canal at La Boca; this ferry was replaced by the Thatcher Ferry Bridge in 1962.

Brother Thatcher received his degrees in Falls City Lodge No. 376, Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 19, 1922, March 20, 1923 and April 17, 1923. He wrote "Masonic If", a parody on Kipling's poem. The four degrees of the Chapter were conferred upon him on Dec. 22, 1970, at the age of 100 years and 4 months, by Companions of Keystone Royal Arch Chapter No. 32 of Hyattsville, Md.

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#### NEW ISSUES

The following new issues pertinent to Masonic Philately have been identified recently in the philatelic media.

Aug.	20	Morocco - Blood	Transfusion Service - one value, man giving blood.	
Oct.	7	Belize - 40th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip 4 values + S/S - \$2.50 value shows Duke of Edinburgh in 1948.		
Nov.	1	Rep. of Guinea - Famous People, 6 values - three values are those reported and shown in the most recent Newsletter.		
Nov.	5	Nauru - Centennial of the Nauru Congregational Church - one value, shows open Bible.		
Nov.	19	South Africa - Set of four values for the Bible.		
Nov.	20	St. Vincent Union Islands	40th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh/150th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's Accession to the Throne - at least one value of each set of 5 values + S/S shows Philip.	
Dec.	7		Christmas/The Evangelists - 4 values, one shows St. John	

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#### J ITALIAN MASONIC COMPOSERS

There are several Italian Composers who were Masons and have been honored philatelically:

#### FRANCO ALFANO (1876-1954)



Franco Alfaro was born at Naples on March 8, 1876, and studied at the Conservatorio di San Pietro a Maiella there and then at the Leipzig Conservatory. He lived for a time in Berlin and then Paris where he composed the first of his works to be published. He was the director of the Bologna Liceo Musicale 1919-1926, the Turin Liceo Musicale 1927-1937 and the Rossini Conservatory, Pesaro, after 1937. He composed eight operas but is best remembered for completing <u>Turandot</u> in 1924 after the death of Puccini. He died on Oct. 27, 1954, in San <u>Remo</u>.

Bro. Alfano was a member of a Lodge in Naples being raised on July 8, 1919. He later became a member of Lodge Mazzini Ballori in San Remo and was a 33° Mason.

Franco Alfano is pictured on a stamp issued as part of a set on Nov. 14, 1975, for famous musicians (Scott No. 1209).

#### LUIGI CHERUBINI (1760-1840)



Maria Luigi Carlo Zenorio Salvatore Cherubini was born in Florence on Sept. 14, 1760. He was taught by his father who was an orchestra member in the Pergola Theater in Florence. Through the liberality of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, he was able to study at Bologna under Guiseppi Sarti (who was a Mason) for four years. Most of his life thereafter was spent in Paris and he is considered a dominant figure in the development of French opera. His first success was <u>Armida</u> in 1782. He travelled to London in 1784 and settled in Paris the next year where he taught at the Conservatory becoming professor of music and later director.

His greatest church work was the three-part Mass in F major in 1808 and other sacred music of importance. Beethoven esteemed Cherubini very highly and Napoleon I, although he disliked him personally, made him Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Of his 300 works, few are ever heard today. Medea of 1797 is sometimes revived. The overture to <u>Anacreon ou l'amour fugitif</u> of 1803 may find its way into a concert program. <u>The Water Carrier</u> of 1800, once considered his best opera, is forgotten. After 1800 he wrote mostly church music. He died in Paris on March 15, 1842.

### ITALIAN MASONIC COMPOSERS (CONT'D)

#### LUIGI CHERUBINI (CONT'D)

Luigi Cherubini was made a Mason in the Lodge "Saint Jean de Jerusalem" under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient de France. He is also believed to have been a member of the Lodge Olympique for which he wrote a cantata "L'Alliance de la Musique a la Maconnerie" in 1786. His friend Giovanni Viotti and other composers were members of this Lodge.

Bro. Cherubini is shown on a stamp issued by Italy on June 27, 1977 (Scott No. 1269).

#### GIACOMO PUCCINI (1858-1924)

Giacomo Puccini was born in Lucca on Dec. 22, 1858, of a musical family. He studied under Poncielli at Milan in 1880. His first opera, Le Villi was a success in 1884. <u>Manon Lescaut</u> in 1893 brought him fame and he continued to produce operas which are in the standard repertoire: <u>La Boheme</u> in 1896, <u>Tosca</u> in 1900 and <u>Madame Butterfly</u> in 1904. In 1907 he came to the United States and the Metropolitan Opera commissioned <u>La Fanciulla del West</u> (The Girl of the Golden West) which premiered in 1910. His final works were <u>La Rondine</u> in 1917, <u>Il Trittico</u> in 1918 and <u>Turandot</u> in 1924 (Completed by Franco Alfano). He died of cancer in Brussels on Nov. 29, 1924.

In <u>Mozart and Masonry</u> Bro. Paul Nettl wrote that Giacomo Puccini was a Mason but no details on his membership were given.

Bro. Puccini is pictured on a stamp issued by Italy on Aug. 16, 1974, for the fiftieth anniversary of his death (Scott No. 1158).

#### GASPARO LUIGI PACIFICO SPONTINI (1774-1851)

Gasparo Spontini was born at Majolati, Italy, educated at the Conservatio de Turchini at Naples. He produced successful operas at Rome, Florence, Naples and Palermo and then settled in Paris. Opera was very popular in the early 19th



hen settled in Paris. Opera was very popular in the early century and in France he established the style called "grand Opera" where all the arts were joined together to produce grand spectacles, highly charged emotional situations, and opportunities for spectacular singing. Several of his successful works were produced beginning in 1804 at the Academie. He was appointed director of the Italian Opera in 1810 but was ill-fitted to serve and voluntarily resigned in 1814.



By invitation of Frederick William III, Spontini settled in Berlin in 1820 to supervise all music performed at the Prussian court and to compose new grand operas. After Frederick William III died in 1840, Spontini's conduct became imperious so in 1842 Frederick William IV dismissed him with full salary and titles and he settled in Paris. In 1848 he became deaf and in 1850 retired to his birthplace where he died bequeathing all his belongings to the poor.

Gasparo Spontini was a member of Lodge "L'Age d'Or" in Paragia, Italy.

Bro. Spontini has been twice honored on stamps of Italy: Oct. 25, 1937 (Scott No. 387) and Nov. 14, 1975 (Scott No. 1206)

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### MASONIC RESEARCH

One of the more valuable sources of Masonic information - and therefore potential Masonic Philatelic information - is the written word as defined by or about the various Grand Lodges of the country (or of the world). In some instances these tomes make for very dull reading - some historians write in a very bland, factual and dull manner so perusing the records for potential new data is a very tedious task. On the other hand, a few authors add some zest to the tale-telling and attempt to create a non-fictional novel rather than just a history book. In either case, serious Masonic research can be based upon the reading of these various state's Grand Lodge histories. Such research can be used to supplement (or correct) information found in the various "encyclopedias" which we use in our hobby such as W.R.Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons".

Bro. Frank Cochrane informs me that the Grand Lodge of Florida is in the process of producing a five volume history of their Grand Lodge. He also knows that New Jersey, Michigan, Georgia, Indiana and Texas have histories available. My own library contains the following Grand Lodge histories:

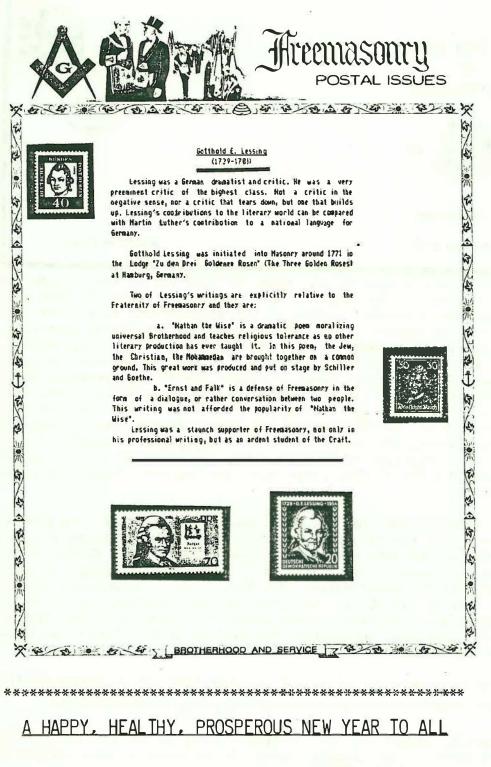
- California History of the Grand Lodge, 1850-1975, by E.N.Stansel. Publ. 1975.
- California One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California, four volumes by L.D.Whitsell. Publ. in 1950.
- Connecticutt The Centennial Grand Lodge of Connecticutt, by J.K.Wheeler. Publ. 1889.
- Louisiana History of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana, by J.A. Walkes, Jr.. Publ. in 1986.
- Massachusetts 250 Years of Massachusetts Masonry, by R.P.Beach. Publ. in 1983.
- Massachusetts Masonic Treasures of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, by M.D.Taylor.
- Maine Grand Lodge of Maine Centennial Anniversary, by C.B.Davis. Publ. in 1920.
- New Hampshire Three Centuries of Freemasonry in New Hampshire, by G.D. Foss. Publ. in 1972.
- Oklahoma Story of Oklahoma Freemasonry, by J.F.Latham. Publ. in 1978.
- Pennsylvania Early Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, by H.S.Borneman. Publ. in 1981.

Texas - Masonry Along the Brazos Valley, by G.H.T.French. Publ. in 1986. Tennessee - Freemasonry in Tennessee, by C.A.Snodgrass. Publ. in 1944. Utah - Origin and Growth of Utah Freemasonry, by M.B.Hogan. Publ. in 1978.

Can you provide leads and information on other Grand Lodge histories that you know to exist? I will provide an update of this list in a future newsletter if there is any interest in this subject expressed by the members and if you provide the inputs for such an update.

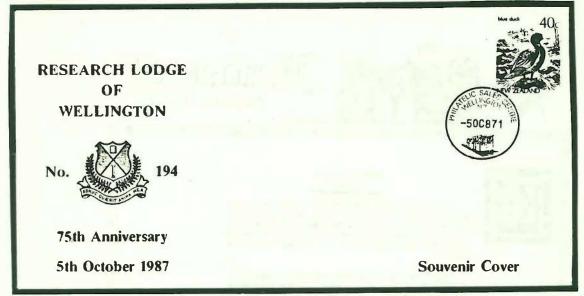
# PAGE FROM A MEMBER'S COLLECTION

The page shown below is taken from the collection of Rt. Wor. Bro. John Provan, Past Grand Master of the American Canadian Grand Lodge within the United Grand Lodges of Germany.



### RESEARCH LODGE OF WELLINGTON #194

The Research Lodge of Wellington #194, New Zealand, recently celebrated its 75th anniversary on October 5, 1987, and issued a "set" of five souvenir covers to commemorate this event.



The Lodge was created to provide the venue for both formal and informal talk about Masonry and has a wide range of papers read to it which it then discusses freely. It publishes a printed bookTet of its Transactions five times yearly and provides a large Masonic library for its members, including borrowing. Any Master Mason can become a member - all Past Masters become voting members, Master Masons are considered Associates. Both classes of members can speak in the discussions and can prepare short or longer papers for presentation to the Lodge. The Lodge meets five times a year at the Masonic Centre in Wellington and the dues are \$10.00(NZ) per year which includes not only the five meetings and printed records of the Transactions but also a banquet and extensive use of the Masonic library. (No indication of Correspondence membership.) Anyone interested in this organization should contact the Secretary of the Lodge W. Bro. A.B.R.Weir, P.O.Box 30-728, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. (W.Bro. is member #133 of our Unit.)

A copy of one cover of the "set" is shown above - each of the five covers of the "set" uses one of the five philatelically current valid internal stamps of New Zealand. Of the 100 sets prepared, 15 were signed by the Master of the Lodge, W.Bro. W. Kemp and have all been taken up by members of the Lodge. A further 20 sets were signed by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. J. de V. McManemin, and some are available for sale at \$15.00(NZ). Unsigned sets are available at \$7.50(NZ). All prices include ordinary airmail. Orders should be placed with Bro. Alan Hart, 9 Camrose Grove, Kingston, Wellington, New Zealand 6002, or with the Lodge Secretary identified above.

(Note: The exchange rate as of mid December 1987 was \$1.00(NZ)=0.64(US).)

Bro. Jack Rockwell, Member No. 309, is specializing in the subdivision of Masons in the Air and Space of our thematic hobby. He believes it is a subject which can be easily researched but would like to share in that task with any other members sharing the same interests. Any member so inclined should write to him at 5201 W. Camelback Rd. #B51, Phoenix, Ariz. 85031.