



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
Robert A. Domingue
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Andover, Mass. 01810

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WHOLE NO. 64

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON
JOHN ROSAMOND JOHNSON

The recent Black Heritage stamp issued to honor Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) also honors his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), a Prince Hall Freemason. Overlaying the bottom of the stamp in black are two full bars of music and part of another and the title line, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" from the song often referred to as the "Negro" (Black) National Anthem".



For a Lincoln's Birthday celebration (Feb. 12, 1900) James wrote the words of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" and his brother, Bro. John wrote the music. It bespoke "the gloomy past" and "the white gleam of our bright Star". It ended: "Shadowed beneath thy hand/ May we forever stand/ True to our God/ True to our native land". Since its first performance by the school children of Jacksonville, Florida, it has been sung by millions; for instance, most programs within Black America begins by the standing and singing of this "Anthem".

Rosamond studied music at the New England Conservatory in Boston and briefly in Europe where he later became director of the Oscar Hammerstein's Grand Opera House in London in 1912. His musical output was phenomenal. His arrangements of spirituals were published in five books from 1925 to 1940 with a total number of spirituals that he arranged exceeding 150. His output in music for show business was even more extensive. Counting individual numbers and songs he wrote for musicals between 1897 and 1940, the total exceeded 160 items.

He made his acting debut in John W. Isham's In Oriental America in 1897. This was the first Black show to play Broadway. He played leading roles in the original cast of Porgy and Bess (1935), Mamba's Daughter (1939) and Cabin in the Sky (1940) as well as others. He founded the New York Music School Settlement for Colored People in Harlem in 1918. He received an honorary Masters degree

JOHNSON BROTHERS (CONT'D)

from Atlanta University and was made a subchief of the Iroquois Nation because his The Red Moon dignified the American Indian.

John Rosamond Johnson was a member of Hiram Lodge #4, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, a rather famous Lodge of musicians.

-Article submitted by Bro. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.
our Unit Vice President.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

- 138. Douglas Meisenhelter, R.D.4 Box 46, Red Lion, PA 17356.
- 140. David Clem, Jr., 410 South Hobart, Los Angeles, CA 90020.
- 143. Martin Cunningham, 20 Josephine St., Sylva, NC 28779.
- 145. H.J.Spoerl, Sr., 19 Towa Rd., Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 150. Vrijmetselaren, Fl Burgwal 22, 2511 CJ's - Gravenhage, The Netherlands.
- 163. Elwood T. Foss, 102-12 Cheadle St. N, Swift Current, Sask., Canada
S9H 0A9

ADDRESS CHANGES:

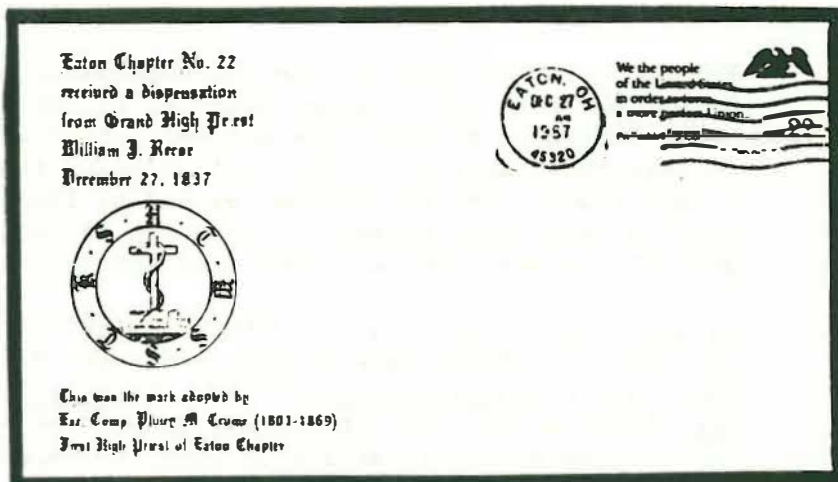
- 235. Henry Murray, P.O.Box 1102, Barnet, Herts EN5 5AF England.
- 309. James S. Rockwell, 2370 Orange Ave. Apt. 3, Costa Mesa, CA 92627.

THE UNIT FISCAL YEAR ENDS WITH THIS ISSUE AND DUES ARE NOW DUE
PLEASE MAKE YOUR SECRETARY-TREASURER'S LIFE JUST A LITTLE EASIER
BY SENDING YOUR DUES TO HIM RATHER THAN WAITING FOR HIM TO SEND
YOU A NOTICE!!! OTTO L. STEDING, 1033 HOLLYTREE DRIVE, CINCINNATI,
OH 45231. THANK YOU.

ROYAL ARCH COVER

Bro. Norman G. Lincoln has sent in a copy of a cover issued for the 150th Anniversary of Eaton Chapter No. 22 of Eaton, Ohio.

He has a limited number of these covers for sale at a cost of \$2.00 each. All profits from the sale will go to Royal Arch Research Assistance. His address is: Norman G. Lincoln, Secretary Eaton Chapter No. 22, R.A.M. 107½ N. Barron St. Eaton, OH 45320



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of a Masonic interest have been identified in the philatelic press recently.

- Sept. 9 Redondo U.S. Constitution Bicentennial - 2 values + S/S
30¢ shows Elbridge Gerry
- Sept. 9 Grenada Scientific Discoveries - 5 values
\$1.10 Jons Jakob Berzelius
- Nov. 2 Grenada U.S. Constitution Bicentennial - 4 values +1 S/S
15¢ Independence Hall 50¢ Benjamin Franklin
\$4 Robert Morris \$5 S/S James Madison
- Nov. 2 Grenada-Grenadines U.S. Constitution Bicentennial -5 values +S/S
10¢ George Washington
\$4 Thomas Jefferson
\$5 S/S Alexander Hamilton
- Nov. 9 Sierra Leone U.S. Constitution Bicentennial - 4 values + S/S
10 leones George Washington
30 " Patrick Henry
100 " John Jay
- Nov. 16 Dominica Christmas - 4 values + S/S
20¢ Albrecht Durer's "Virgin and Child with St. Anne"
- Nov. 19 So. Africa The Bible - 3 values 16¢ "Bible"
- Nov. 20 Tuvalu and subsidiaries - Funafuti, Nanumaga, Nanumea, Nui,
and Nukulaelae
40th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and
Prince Philip -5 values + S/S from each area
each set contains a stamp which pictures Pr. Philip.
- Dec. 4 Niue Christmas Paintings by Albrecht Durer - 3 values + 2 S/S
80¢ The Nativity \$1.05 Adoration of the Magi
\$2.80 Celebration of the Rosary
- Dec. 4 St. Vincent Centenary of the Automobile - 4 values + 2 S/S
\$5 Henry Ford
- Dec. 16 Bolivia Astronauts 1 S/S Yuri A. Gagarin, John Glenn
- Jan. 8 Taiwan National Health/Prevent Hypertension - 1 value
pictures heart

ELBRIDGE GERRY

Elbridge Gerry mentioned above is generally understood by his friends and surviving family to have been a member of Philanthropic Lodge of Marblehead, Mass. The records of this Lodge are missing for the period 1760-78 when he logically would have been initiated.

PHILIPPINES STAMP AND COVERS

On December 19, 1987, the Philippine Postal Services Office issued a stamp commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Only 125,000 of these stamps were issued. The Postal Services release states:

The first Masonic Lodge in the Philippines was established in Cavite in 1865 by two Spanish Navy Lieutenants, Jose Malcampo and Carlo Mendez Nunez, under the auspices of the Gran Oriente Lusitano de Portugal. They named their Lodge La Primera Luz Filipinos to join Masonic lodges abroad.

After sometime, the German residents in Manila organized their Scottish Rite Lodge under the Hongkong charter and admitted the first Filipino Mason, Jacobo Zobel y Zangraniz. Then the British residents also set up their own lodge in the Pandacan district of Manila, having the more illustrious Filipinos of the period. Seeing that Filipinos were being admitted to other foreign lodges, the Spanish lodge finally opened their doors to Filipino Masons.

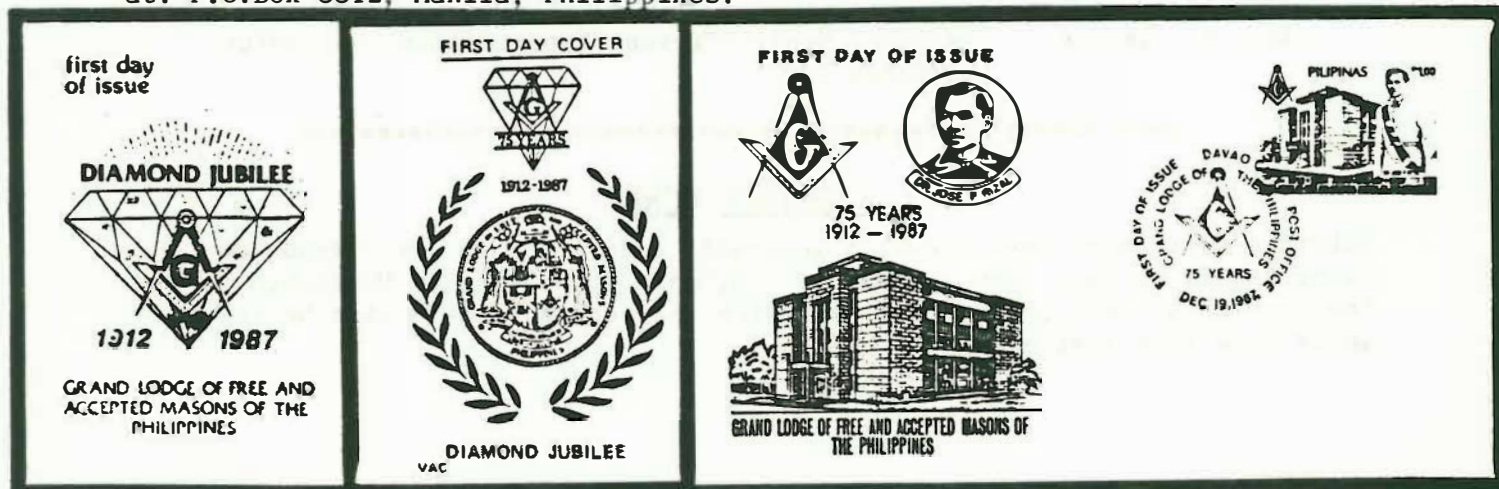


In 1891, the Filipino Masons in Spain decided to extend Masonry to the Philippines where lodges existed only for those of Spanish blood. Antonio Luna and Pedro Serrano drew up plans for this purpose. When Serrano arrived in the Philippines, bringing with him the authorization from Gran Oriente Espanol, he, Moises Salvador, Timoteo Paez and Jose Ramos organized the first Filipino Lodge, Nilad, on Jan. 2, 1892. This constituted the "Mother Lodge" from which other lodges were quickly set up around Manila and the provinces. One of their brethren was to be revered later as the greatest Filipino hero - Jose Rizal.

By 1897, due to the relentless persecution by the Spanish authorities, all the existing lodges ceased their work.

With the coming of the Americans at the turn of the century, the lodges were reorganized by the surviving members. the lodges that emerged came under the Grand Lodge of California as well as the Grand Lodge of Scotland. On Dec. 19, 1912, the three lodges under the Grand Lodge of California formed the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Later on Feb. 13, 1917, eleven lodges under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and 28 Lodges under the Gran Logia Regional de Filipinas were unified.

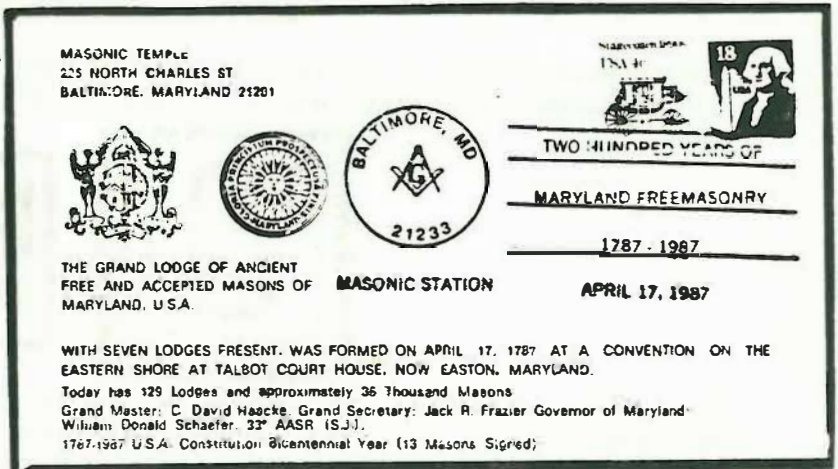
Bro. Carlos L. Inductivo, Member No. 493, has a group of FDC's prepared using this stamp which he is willing to sell for the cost of \$1.00 each. Since he is a collector of Masonic FDC's he would be pleased to exchange these Philippine Masonic covers on a one for one basis with brother Masons. He can be reached at: P.O.Box 3312, Manila, Philippines.



RICCI/CUNNINGHAM COVER

Mrs. Ricci of Italy has provided Bro. John Cunningham with another cover that she has prepared for sale. They sell for \$2.00 each plus return postage. Order them from John at:

Grant 211
3700 North Capitol St.N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20317



COVER ERROR IN LAST ISSUE

The last issue identified a Constitutional Convention postal card as being a product of the GWMSC. I goofed!! This cover was prepared by Mrs. Ricci not the GWMSC. Sorry about that.

GERMAN MASONIC CANCEL

Bro. K.H.Wolfgang Brachvogel has provided copies of the most recent Masonic cancel of Germany. The outer ring states: Hamburg 36. 250th Anniversary of Freemason's Lodge. In the inner oval it reads: ABSALOM of the Three Nettles.

The nettles must not be mistaken for twigs of acacia. They were part of the coat-of-arms of one of the first Worshipful Masters of this Lodge. The Lodge was founded as "Loge d'Hambourg" and then accepted the name "Absalom zu den drei Nesseln". Today it is the oldest still existing Lodge in Germany and proudly shows its No. 1. Frederick the Great was initiated into Freemasonry by a delegation of officers of Absalom Lodge at Rheinsberg and received there all three degrees in the night from 14th to 15th August 1738.

As this anniversary was celebrated as the 250th anniversary of German Freemasonry in general, they had a very big festival in Hamburg with delegations from 25 Grand Lodges from all over the world.



RASMUS CHRISTIAN RASK

Stamps were issued by Iceland on June 10, 1987, and by Denmark on Oct. 15, 1987, to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of Rasmus Christian Rask.



Rasmus Christian Rask, the famous Danish Scientist, was born on Nov. 22, 1787, in Braendekilde (near Odense) as a second son and was named Rasmus Christian Rasch. During his studies in the cathedral school at Odense in spelling reform, he changed his name from Rasch to Rask.

At his birth, Rask was so small and weak that his father is said to have lamented the death of his other three children with the words: "God has taken the useful from me and let me keep what is useless!". However, the small boy was not useless. At school he was very intelligent and soon he was far ahead of the other students. He became known as "the little professor".

He went to the University of Copenhagen in Denmark to study theology but never finished his studies. His interests in languages absorbed him more and more. In 1812 he accompanied Rasmus Nyerup on a journey to Sweden and Norway. He learned Finnish and started to study Lappish and became acquainted with the Norwegian country dialects. At the same time he was preparing a Latin and a Greek Philology in accordance with his own new system. In 1809 his attention had been directed towards the hindu languages. He studied English and Hebrew, obtained a Malay-an translation of the New Testament and learned to read Malayan.

With all these heavy studies and very little money his living circumstances were not very good. He lived on dry bread and water and it was very seldom that he got hot food. In 1813 he went to Iceland to study the life, customs and dialects of the people. He went back to Copenhagen in 1815 and the following year went to Sweden for 16 months. In the mean time, the King appointed him a professor with an annual salary of 40£. Rask's first action was to arrange a payment of 10£ to his half-brother (from his father's third marriage) who had had no support since his father's death in 1810. In 1818 Rask went to Finland and from there to Russia where he spent some time to learn Russian, Slavonic philology, arabic and Persian. In addition he found time to finish his Sanskrit grammar and to work on his Greek grammar.

His plan to go to India was financially supported by the King of Denmark. He left Moscow on June 13, 1819 to travel to Astrakhan. This journey was quite fatiguing and he had no hot food for 22 days. Undaunted, he arrived in Tiflis on Nov. 8, 1819. He was arrested as a spy here but was able to clear himself and was able to continue on to Tauris, Theheran and Isphahan where he studied modern Persian, Tartaric, Mongolic and Manchuric. Travelling to Persepolis and Schiraz he became dangerously ill but did recover. In Bombay he found a great and helpful host in Lord Elphinstone. The Lord introduced him to the Brahmins who wondered at his knowledge of their language. They helped him collect a very rare and priceless collection of Hindu manuscripts. He studied many languages and

RASMUS CHRISTIAN RASK (CONT'D)

dialects there, travelled to Tranklebar where he spent a month on Danish territory and then went on to Colombo where he studied more languages and dialects. Unfortunately his health was failing and he realized he had to return to Denmark. Leaving Ceylon by ship, his ship foundered on the rocks at Galle but very close to shore. He managed to save his invaluable transcripts but lost a lot of books and money. He returned to Colombo where his English friends helped him again and again. It is not unlikely that the brethren of Ceylon played their part in helping their distressed Brother to return to Denmark. He was supported by the Danish Government in Trankebar and on Dec. 1, 1822 re-embarked in the Danish ship "Juliane Marie". Arriving in Copenhagen on May 5, 1823, he handed his unique collection of manuscripts over to the King of Denmark.

In 1825 he was appointed a professor in History of literature at the University of Copenhagen and Librarian at the university library. In 1831 he was at last appointed as Professor in Asiatic languages. When his friends wanted to congratulate him he said, "I fear it is too late". Indeed it was too late - his chest was ailing. Doctors predicted an early death unless he rested from his work but this was impossible for this busy man. He died in Copenhagen on Nov. 14, 1832.

Rask described the structure of not less than 55 different languages, published many of those studies and was master of 25 languages and dialects. At his death Denmark lost one of the greatest, if not the greatest, students of foreign language that ever lived!

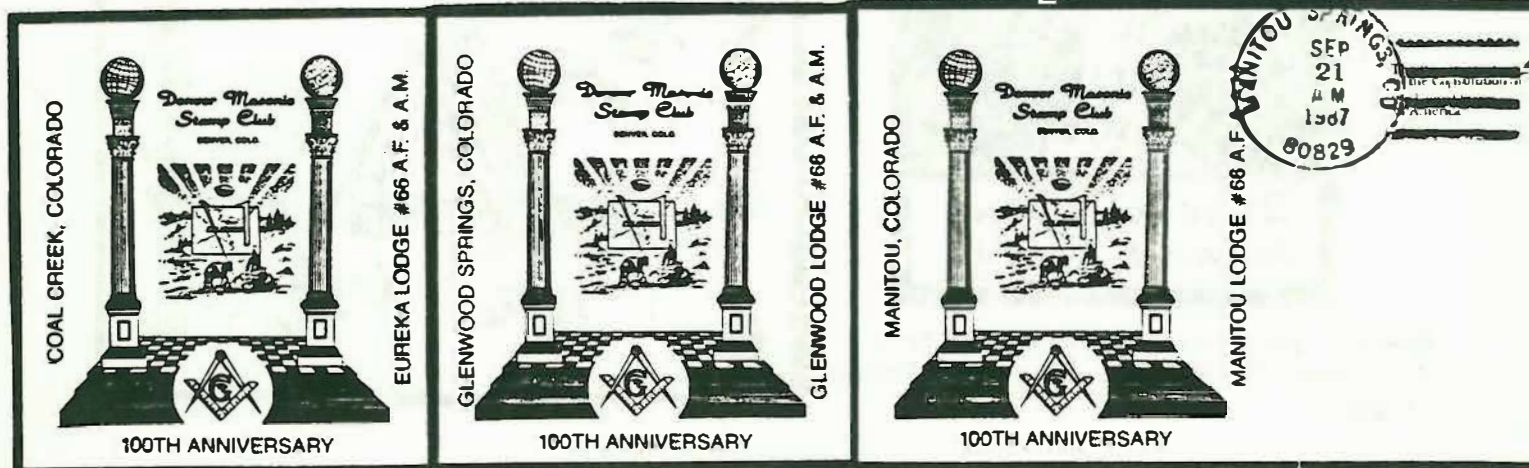
It must have been obvious to Rask during his travels through so many countries that a Mason is certain of a welcome in any part of the Globe. He shall always find his Brethren who will - with readiness and love - open their arms to the newly arrived and help him with advice and in deeds. No wonder, therefore, that when he was settled in Colombo for some time, he took steps to become a member of our Brotherhood. Rask was initiated in Colombo (Ceylon - Sri Lanka) probably in the earlier Dutch Lodge called "De Vereeniging" (later L'Union) on March 23, 1822.

Article and stamps submitted by:

Bro. Henk Godthelp, Member #165, Holland

DENVER MSC COVERS

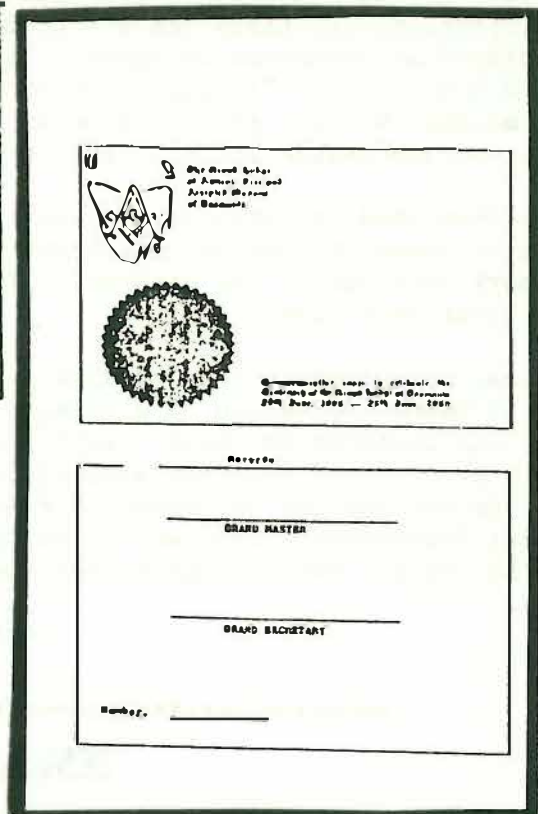
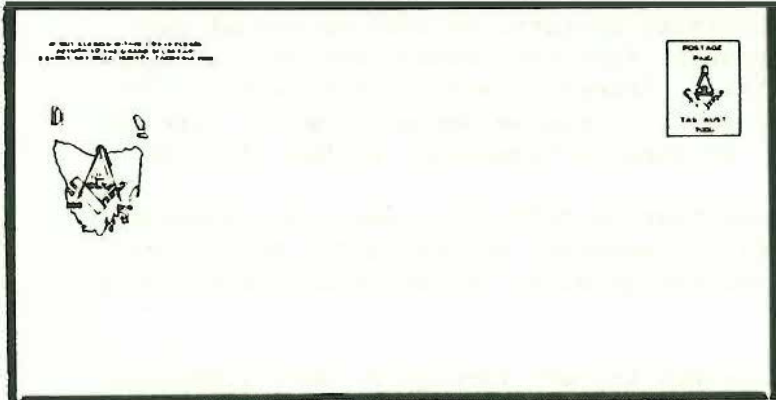
Bro. Jim Adams sends word of some more Masonic covers prepared by the Denver Masonic Stamp Club. Shown here they commemorate three of the Colorado Lodges and are available for \$1.50 each or \$4.00 for the set. They can be ordered from J.N.Adams, 2685 So. Sherman St., Denver, Colorado 80210.



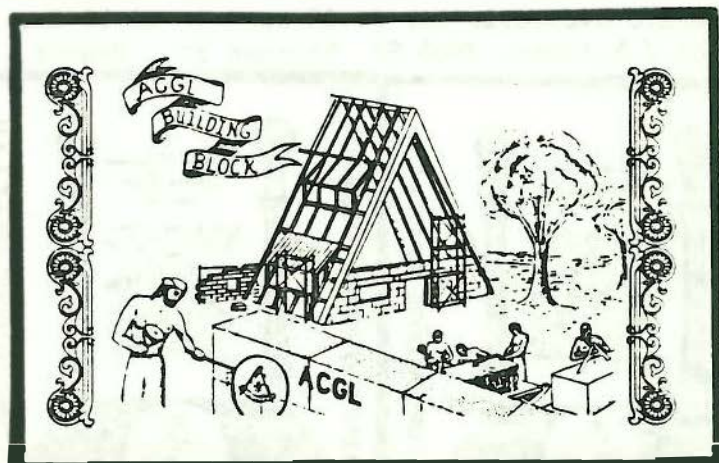
TASMANIA COVER AND OFFER

Following up of a lead provided by Bro. Don Wilder, I have acquired a copy of the "standard" blank envelope used by the Grand Lodge of Tasmania. Note the meter stamp used for their envelopes as well as the corner card.

In their response to me they indicated that 26 June 1990 is their Grand Lodge Centenary and a special cover is being issued in limited numbers for the occasion. Each one will have a serial number and be signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the time. Shown below, they will be available, limit 5, at \$7.50 each (Aust.) and will be dispatched immediately after 26 June 1990. The Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of Tasmania, The Masonic Temple, 3 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart, Tasmania 7000. Kyle W. H. Wood, Grand Secretary.



MASONIC POST CARDS



Masonic post cards provided by Bro. J.N.Adams (above) and Bro. John Provan (right).

ADDITIONAL GRAND LODGE HISTORIES

The response to the article in the most recent issue of the Newsletter on Grand Lodge histories as a source of research information was gratifying. Several brethren wrote in on it and some defined additional references.

Bro. Allan Boudreau and Bro. Wilfred O. Greenway both identified:
New York Freemasonry, A Bicentennial History by Herbert T. Singer
and Ossian Lang, 1981.

Bro. Don Wilder identified:
Supplement to History of the Grand Lodge of Maine, 1946-70 by Ralph J.
Pollard, 1970.

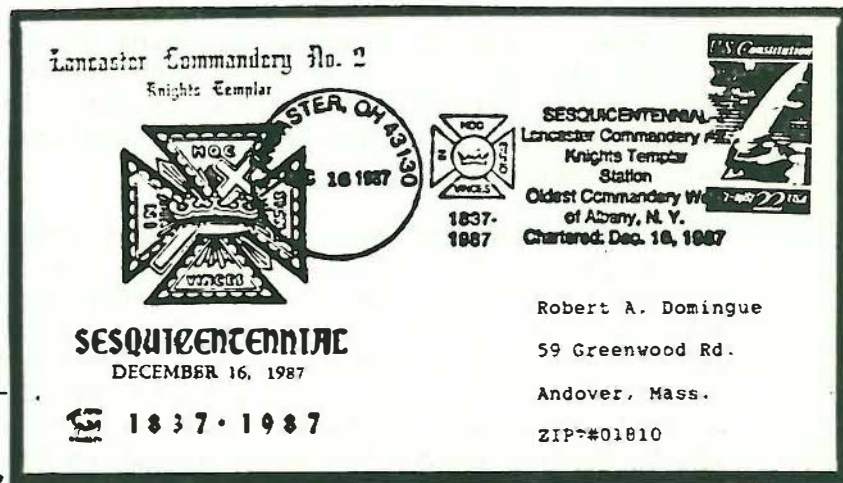
Bro. Charles W. Geelan identified:
Masonry in Texas, Background, History and Influence to 1846, 1955.
Education and Masonry in Texas to 1846, 1963.
Education and Masonry in Texas, 1846 to 1861, 1964.

All three were authored by James David Carter and published in Waco by
the Committee on Masonic Education and service for the Grand Lodge of
Texas A.F. and A.M.

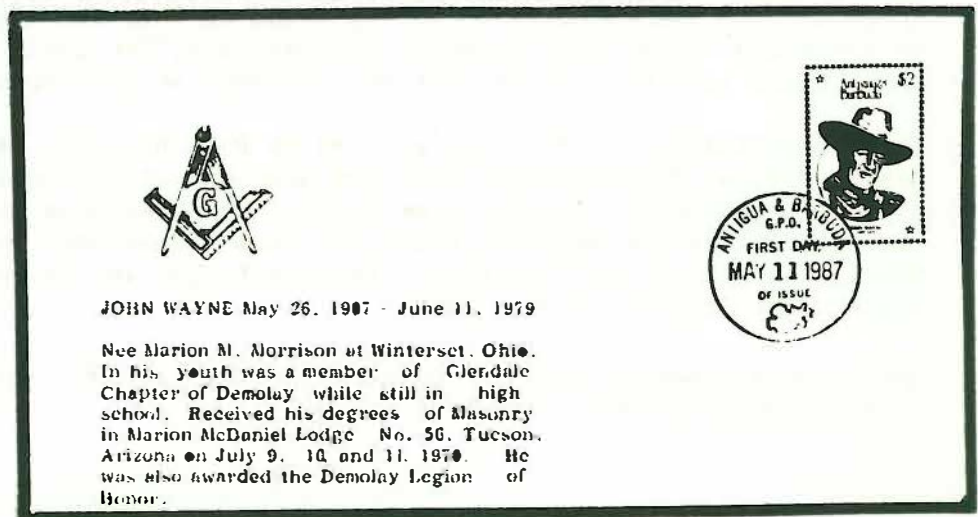
MAHDEEN COVER AND REPORT

Bro. Richard Needham was able to get
copies of his Lancaster Commandery
No. 2 Sesquicentennial cover serviced
but he has advised me that any orders
placed with him will not be placed
immediately. He got back home from
the hospital on Dec. 2 and the cast
was removed on Jan. 7. He is still
using a walker and will be for some
time yet. His den and all his stamp
collecting material is on the second
floor. He asks that all those who
have placed orders, please be patient-
the orders will be filled.

Good to hear you are back in the mend,
Bro. Dick.



Cover offered for sale by
Ross Wetreich of Long
Island, New York.



A CURACAO TRAGEDY DURING THE SOUTH AMERICAN WAR OF LIBERATION IN 1817

October 16, 1987, marked the 170th anniversary of the date that Manuel Carlos Piar was condemned to death in Angostura (Venezuela). Piar had risen to be commanding general of the army that liberated Guyana - then part of Venezuela - from the Spaniards.

Piar did not have any appreciable education, his father was a vagabond and his mother earned her money as a washer-woman. Even his birthday and year are not exactly known. In 1804-5, Piar became known when he eliminated an English invading army on Curacao (Dutch Antilles). He roamed the country, like his father, and the seas until he came to Haiti where there were some liberation actions. He became commander of an armed schooner and after several years he made contact with Francisco Antonio de Miranda (1750-1816) on Barbados. In 1810, De Miranda included Piar, then 33 years old, with his staff of the independence movement in Venezuela. Because of the counter revolution in Puerto Cabello, he had to take refuge in East Venezuela where he met Santiago Marino. After some unsuccessful actions, Piar and Marino fled to Trinidad and were in hiding on the small island of Chacachacare. There, along with many other liberation fighters, took a solemn oath to liberate Venezuela or die trying.

A day after they sailed to Venezuela, Piar defeated the Spaniards. His slogan was: "Vuelvan la cara!" (Turn and attack!). These victories glorified Piar. In August 1813, Bro. Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) conquered Caracas. He was supported by Piar and Bro. Pedro Luis Brion (1782-1821) for the blockade of the harbor town Puerto Cabello. Piar was promoted to the rank of General in the beginning of 1814. In Feb. 1814 Piar swore fidelity to Bolivar in a church of Villa del Norte on the island of Margarita. In April 1817 he recognized Bolivar as a commander-in-chief in Guyana because he realized that only Bolivar could win the war of liberation.

There were many conquests over the Spaniards from 1814 to 1817 and the success of the popular Piar was a thorn in the side of many of the generals in Piar's surroundings. They tried to convince Bolivar that Piar would be a dangerous rival and were responsible for a fast growing split between the two. Piar requested permission to leave the army to settle elsewhere. He started a smear campaign against his ex-colleague generals and Bolivar because he thought they had dropped him because of his birth and the color of his skin. This attack proved fatal. Bolivar placed him under arrest in the town of Angostura. The resulting court martial, under the chairmanship of Bro. Brion, didn't examine him once. They pronounced the death sentence upon him for insubordination, plotting and desertion. He was executed by firing squad on Oct. 16, 1817, in the town square of Angostura. After Piar's death, Bolivar said, "The death of Piar had to be seen as a dismal victim to be brought for the sake of justice and the public security.

The rehabilitation of Piar was started by Piar himself. Ten years after his death, Bolivar declared that Piar had been one of the most deserving defenders of the Independence. Another time Bolivar said, We have to be fair. Without the courage of Piar the Republic would not have had as many victories. Piar was undaunted and fought for the fight; Bolivar fought for an aim - he had a political vision, the foundation of a State.

There are statues of Piar in Caracas, unveiled in 1957 (together with Brion) and in Willemstad (Curacao) unveiled in 1963.

A CURACAO TRAGEDY (Cont'd)

There is a very strong impression that Piar was not a Freemason; explained by the fact that he was condemned to receive capital punishment and that his execution was conducted with the approval of Bolivar. During Bolivar's government, many capital punishments pronounced to officer-Freemasons were commuted to a life sentence by Bolivar.

MASONIC DATA:

Simon Bolivar - According to Faucher-Ricker, Bolivar was initiated in the Lodge "San Alejandro de Escocia" in Paris (1 Nov 1805) where he became "Compagnon". In Venezuela he founded the Lodge "Protectora de las Vertudes" No. 1. In Peru he founded the Lodge "Orde en Vrijheid", No. 2.

Pedro Luis Brion - Initiated in the Lodge "De Vergenoeging", Willemstad, Curacao.

Francisco Antonio de Miranda - Initiated by Bro. Lafayette, probably in Paris. In London he founded the revolutionary Lodge "Gran Reunion Americana" at 27 Grafton St.. In Cadiz he founded Lodge "Caballeros Racionales" and from this Lodge arose the Lodge "Lautaro".

STAMPS:

Simon Bolivar - many Central and South America issues

Pedro Luis Brion - Dutch Antilles 1971 and 1987.

Francisco de Miranda - many issues of Venezuela

Manuel Carlos Piar - Dutch Antilles 1967 and 1987.



-Article and stamps contributed by

Bro. Henk Godthelp, Member #165, Holland

FRIEDRICH G. KLOPSTOCK

The article by Bro. Wolfgang Brachvogel in the last Newsletter on Freidrich G. Klopstock not being a Mason has elicited a response from Bro. Godthelp in the Netherlands. In a jubilee book - 250 Jahr Freimaurer in Hamburg, (West Germany)- Die Hamburger Freimaurer Logen, issued Nov-Dec 1987, it states that Klopstock was a very important citizen of Hamburg and also a Mason.

Which esteemed Brother is right? This is the excitement of research!

EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

Some of Bro. Edsel's more recent covers are shown below. They are available from him at: Edsel A. Hatfield, Edsel Masonic Covers, 468 Chapel Ridge Dr., Hazelwood, Mo. 63042.



ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

I was going to editorialize on our election of officers this month but I will keep my thoughts to myself and merely present the enclosed ballot for your review, selection, marking and return to our Secretary-Treasurer. Bro. Otto L. Steding, 1033 Hollytree Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231. And while you are at it, enclose a check for your dues in the same envelope. It's still only \$5.00 for U.S., Canadian and Mexican members and \$10.00 a year for all others.