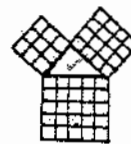




THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON



Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Affiliate #94



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

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1991

WHOLE NO. 85

BARBADOS MASONIC ISSUE

Barbados will issue a set of four stamps September 17 to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the 200th Anniversary of Albion Lodge, No. 196.



The Provincial Grand Lodge of Barbados was founded in 1740, the same year that Alexander Irvine introduced Freemasonry to Barbados under the name of St. Michael's Lodge No. 186. The first Provincial Grand Master was Thomas Baxter, the present incumbent is Dr. William Edward Cooper. The District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean - as it is now called - covers English Constitution Lodges in the islands of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucie, Antigua, Montserrat, Anguilla, Tortola and St. Thomas.

Albion Lodge No. 196, E.R. has met and worked continuously since 1790. It was warranted under the Grand Lodge of Athol (the Antients) and is the seventh oldest Lodge still working under the Grand Lodge of England outside of the United Kingdom. It has been the focal point of the spreading of Freemasonry throughout the Caribbean. The Lodge still meets in the building on Spry Street, Bridgetown, which was purchased for Masonic purposes in 1870. A Bicentenary Warrant was awarded to the Lodge in December 1990 by the District Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England visited there in January 1991. Further information on the stamps and their Masonic background can be obtained from N. G. Atwell, 2 Prior Park, St. James, Barbados, West Indies.

-Thanks to Bro. John M. Cunningham for providing this info.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

112. Phillip H. Reddock, 93 Hazelwood Ave., Karori, Wellington, New Zealand
119. Thomas G. Hargraves, 2804 Conrad Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2L 1B4
121. George S. Robinson, Jr., 2604 Horseshoe Trail, Chester Springs, PA 19425
123. Robert Scott, 2567 N 57th St., Milwaukee, WI 53210

ADDRESS CHANGES:

310. MMC Robert J. Wojcikowski, P.O.Box 73, Poulsbo, WA 98370
389. Christopher F. Grippo, 1202 E. Pike St. #681, Seattle, WA 98122
437. Irving Berg, 2201 Tremont St. A310, Philadelphia, PA 19115

CLOSED ALBUMS:

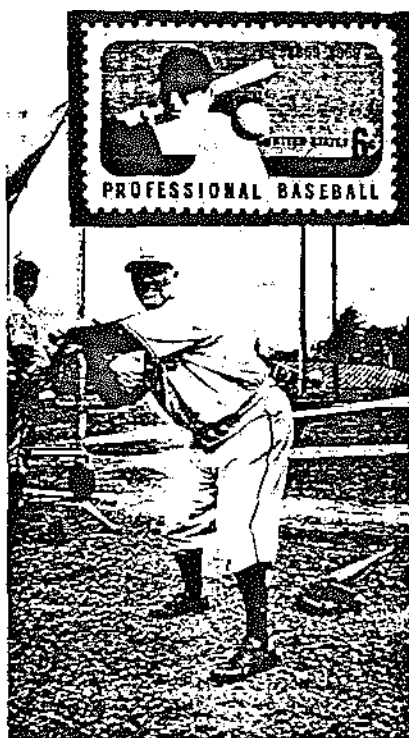
27. Charles L. Bragaw late of Boulder, CO.

Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, Member 243 of Barcelona, Spain, has informed us that he has been honored by being elected the first Worshipful Master of a new Lodge that will be established in Barcelona in September 1991 - Miguel de Cervantes No. 25. Congratulations, Bro. Juan, and best wishes for a successful term.

You Editor wishes to sincerely thank those who expressed kind words and good wishes during his recent term of unemployment. I am very pleased to report that after eight and one-half months of "inactivity" I was successful in obtaining a position as a Program Manager in a small company - still dealing in the defense industry. My commute is only 1/2 hour each way and I am totally happy with the position. I owe a lot to a friend and former co-worker for "paving the way" for me - a situation which is extremely prevalent in today's world of the unemployed. I wish to extend my best wishes to those members who are still in that position of "between jobs" and hopes that they will follow me in retirement from unemployment.

Linda Warman-Holt, Awards Chairperson for TOPEX '91, has formally informed us that the award we offered for the best Masonic exhibit at that show was not awarded. There were 35 senior exhibits comprising 196 frames and not one was on Freemasonry (five frames were on Albrecht Durer, a very dubious case - see later in this issue). "Love Affair With Oil" and "Venereal Disease" made it but not "Masonic Philately". How about next year??

The comments in the last newsletter regarding the decreasing membership and associated financial picture elicited comments from only one reader/member. Don't the rest of you care enough to submit your thoughts or ideas? I don't want to be the Lone Ranger.



ALBERT B. "HAPPY" CHANDLER

Albert Benjamin "Happy" Chandler was born July 14, 1898, near the town of Corydon, in Western Kentucky. He was educated in the local public school system and later graduated from Transylvania University in 1922 and the University of Kentucky Law School in 1924. He opened a law practice in Versailles, KY and in 1931 was elected Lt. Governor of Kentucky. In 1935 at the age of 37, Chandler was elected Governor of the Commonwealth. As Governor he implemented programs that brought reform, reorganization and frugality to state government. It was also under his direction that Kentucky's roads, schools, health and welfare system and penal institutions saw great improvement. His administration from 1935 to 1939 is considered by many to have been one of the best Kentucky government has ever known. He was again elected Governor in 1955 but was defeated for the office in 1963, 1967 and 1971.

Bro. Chandler served in the U. S. Senate from 1939 to 1945 when he resigned to accept the position of Commissioner of Baseball. During his tenure as Commissioner, 1945-51, he was instrumental in establishing the player pension fund and admittance of blacks into the major leagues. But he may perhaps best be remembered for his one year suspension of Brooklyn's Leo Durocher.

At the 1956 Democratic National Convention, Chandler was nominated for President on the first ballot, but was defeated by Adlai Stevenson. He was again called upon for national service in 1968 when Gov. George Wallace sought him as his Vice Presidential running mate on the American Independent Party ticket. Unable to come to an agreement with Gov. Wallace on certain issues important to him, he gracefully stepped aside declining the nomination. He died June 17, 1991.

When asked what his greatest achievement in public life had been, Bro. Chandler replied that it was overcoming the barriers that faced him in creating the University of Kentucky Medical School and Hospital, which was appropriately named the Albert B. Chandler Medical Center.

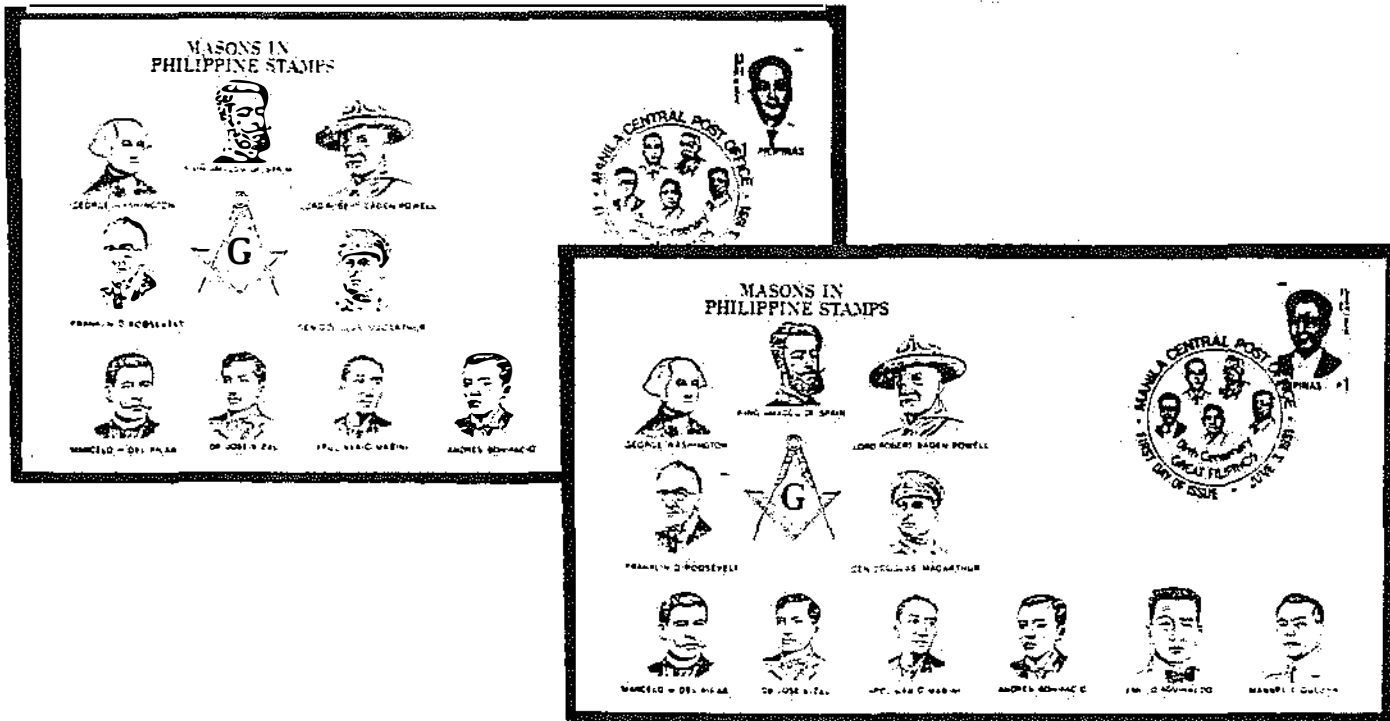
Bro. Chandler was initiated Dec. 6, 1920, and passed Jan. 17, 1921, in Corydon Lodge No. 799, Corydon, KY. He was raised Feb. 4, 1924, in Landmark Lodge No. 41, Lexington, KY, which he affiliated with on Feb. 2, 1925. He was Exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Webb Chapter No. 6, Sept. 14, 1931, and created a Knight Templar in Versailles Commandery No. 3, Nov. 19, 1931 - both in Versailles, KY. He received his 32nd degree AASR(NJ) in the Valley of Louisville and was a member of Oleka Shrine Temple, Lexington, KY. Bro. Chandler was also an honorary member of Monitor Lodge No. 528, New York City.

Although Bro. Chandler has not personally appeared on a postage stamp, he has a place in Masonic Philately through the 1969 6 cent Professional Baseball stamp (Scott #1381).

-Article and picture contributed by Bro. Rev. Wm. Phelps, Member No. 233 of Beaver Dam, KY

PHILIPPINE NEW ISSUES

On June 3, 1991, the Bureau of Posts of the Philippines issued a set of five definitives honoring five illustrious Filipinos. Of these, two were prominent Freemasons: Jose P. Laurel and Jorge Vargas.



Bro. Jose P. Laurel, former President of the Philippines (1943-45) was a member of Batangas Lodge No. 383 under the Gran Oriente Espanol, now Batangas Lodge No. 35 of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Bro. Jorge Vargas, the co-founder of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, was a member of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16.

Bro. Carlos Inductivo has prepared the First Day Covers shown above. The price is \$1.00 each (\$2.00 for the set) and they can be ordered from him at P. O. Box 3312, Manila, Philippines.

FRENCH MASONIC COVERS AVAILABLE

Bro. Jean Prouteau, Member No. 109 of La Rochelle, France, has informed us that a set of three different covers bearing a Masonic cancellation "G.L.N.F." (Grande Loge Nationale Francaise) are available for a cost of \$10.00 from:

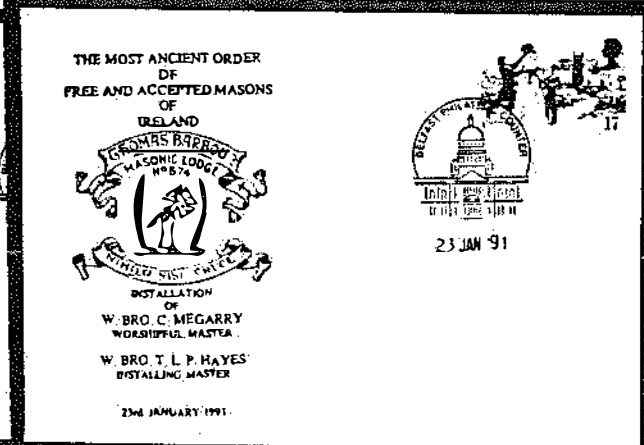
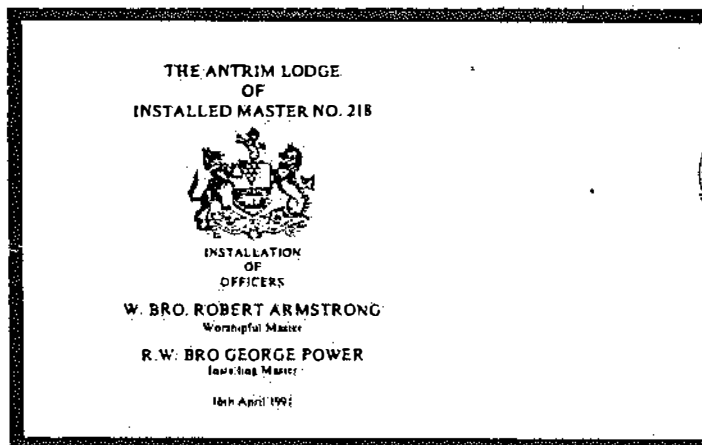
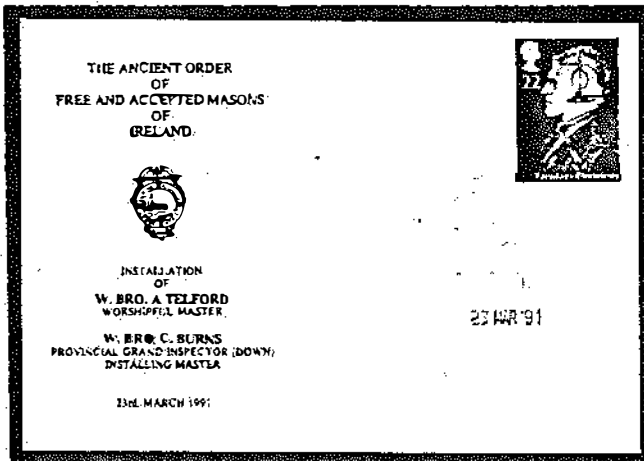
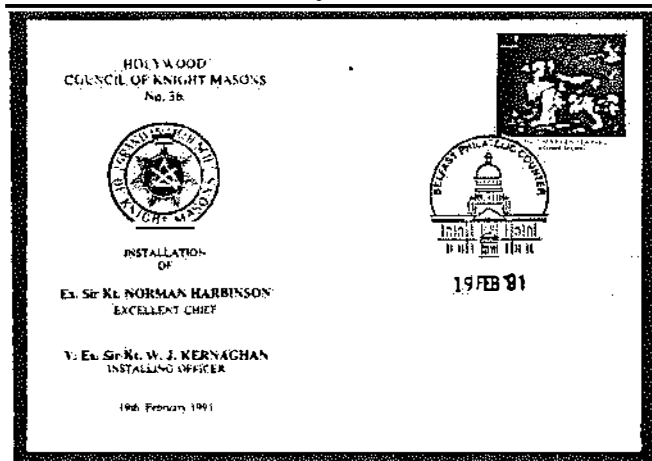
G.L.N.F. Philatelie
65 Boulevard Bineau
92200 Neuilly - FRANCE

He also informs us that a Masonic Philatelic Exhibition was held in Puteaux to celebrate the Bicentenary of Mozart on the 22nd and 23rd of June.

HELP THE UNIT GROW - GET A NEW MEMBER TODAY!!!

MASONIC COVERS FROM IRELAND

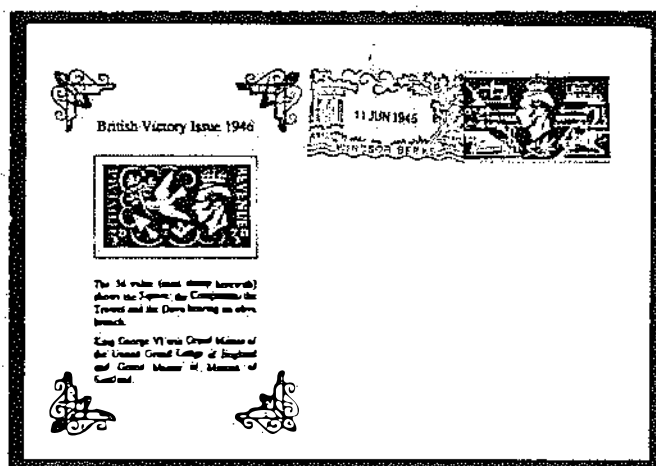
Bro. Frank Elliott has sent in some more of his extremely interesting covers. As with previous offers, he really would like to receive comparable material in trade or a reasonable donation to cover his costs. Thanks for sharing them, Bro. Frank. He can be reached at:
11 Wood End, Holywood, Belfast BT18 9PN No. Ireland.



BRITISH REPRODUCTION COVER

Bro. Leslie Lockey has sent in a copy of a Masonic cover which he has prepared for the 1946 British Victory Issue. Shown to the right, the stamps are both originals, the cancel is a reproduction. We are all aware of the Masonic symbolism and significance of this issue.

Your Editor checked with Bro. Lockey regarding the legality or propriety of this type of reproduction and was provided with a letter from the Royal Mail Stamps which validated its regularity. The cover is available at a cost of 5 pounds (English currency preferred) which will be used for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institute. His address is: "The Bushes", Lowdale Lane, Hart Station, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 9RL England.



BRO. LONGENECKER PAGE ON GWMSC ALBUM PAGES

This album page is from the collection of Bro. Stan Longenecker - intended to add a little color and spice to his collection. The page used is one available from the GWMSC at a very nominal cost. (Either 10 cents or 15 cents each - I am very embarrassed because Bro. Stan called to let me know, I wrote it down, now can't find the note.) To order contact him at P.O. Box 7244, Lancaster, PA 17604.



FAMOUS MASONS and their OUTHOUSES



Marquis de Lafayette - On his own ship, "VICTOIRE" he designed his private "HEAD" to be self-cleaning from the wash of the waves, but sometimes a monster ocean wave would slide him suddenly and quickly off the seat.



President William McKinley - In his early years, he taught in public schools. One day at the end of classes when he thought his pupils had gone home, a youngster locked the outside door of the school 4-seater while William was inside. It took a lot of cussing and kicking and pounding until the janitor heard the noise and freed William from the outhouse.



President Warren G. Harding - His father erected a 2-seater in the back yard built of native limestone rocks. They found that by scraping the softer rocks produced a lime dust which would then be swept down the holes to make the building smell sweeter. Over a number of years this rock scraping apparently weakened the limestone outhouse and young Warren in haste to get there one night, slammed the door shut and the back wall fell out.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt - At the family's northern summer home, the his and her's individual 2-seaters were built of Maine red cedar which left a pleasant smell inside at all times.

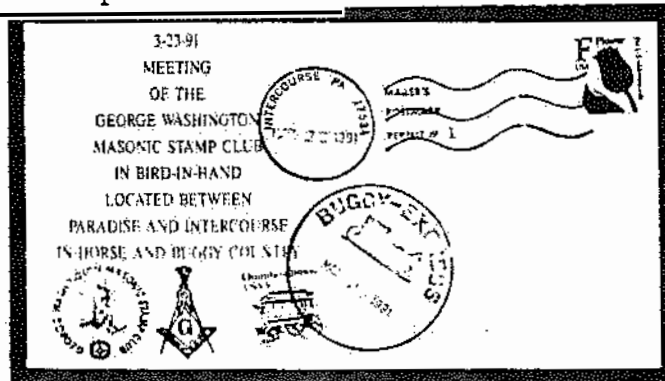
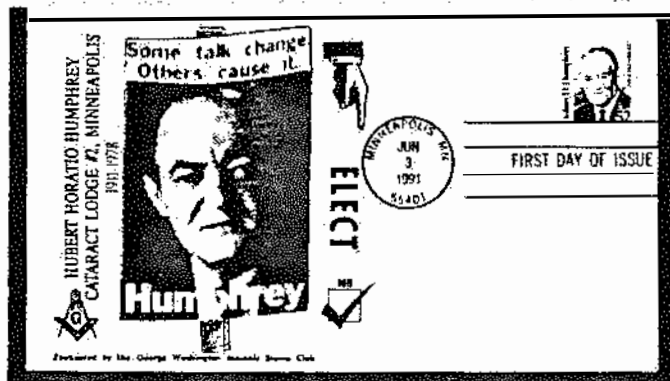


William Penn Adair Rogers - His favorite trick inside the family ranch 2-seater, was to hide a mouse trap, snapping at the slight movement of a door, seat-lid or stack of store catalogs, which always scared the B___ out of someone in the middle of night.

Masonic Philately

GWMSC COVERS

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club recently issued the two covers shown here. They are available from Bro. Stanley Longenecker, Box 7244, Lancaster, PA 17604, at a cost of \$2.00 for the H.H. Humphrey cover and \$1.50 for the Meeting cover (plus a SASE).



Other upcoming releases are: Comedians - booklet pane of 10 on Aug. 29 for \$4.00, WWII Sheetlet on Sept. 3 for \$7.00 and D.C. Bicentennial on Sept. 7 for \$1.50. When copies of these new covers become available, they will be illustrated.

ROSS WETREICH COVERS

The covers shown below were published by Ross Wetreich, P.O. Box 1300, Valley Stream, L.I., NY 11582. The prices for these covers range between \$5 and \$10 each.



MASONIC PHILATELIC EFFORTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Bro. Jack L. Dryden, Member No. 289, 30 Marine Parade South, Foxton Beach, New Zealand, is actively engaged in a Philatelic Fundraiser for the Masonic Home there - called the Te Awahou Masonic Court. He leads a solicitation effort for stamps and covers which can then be sold to raise money for additional housing units. The village will eventually contain 22 units and 11 own-your-own units with plans for a health centre. Our stalwart member, Bro. John M. Cunningham has already provided some postal cards for their use which are selling well. If anyone else is interested in more details or in helping in the project, please contact W. Bro. Dryden.

The autographed card shown here comes from the collection of Bro. Stanley Longenecker. Thanks for sharing it, Stan.



SIR & BROTHER JOHN A. MACDONALD

Bro. George Robinson, Member No. 121 of Chester Springs, PA, has provided a copy of the Canadian House of Commons Debates discussion on Bro. Macdonald's birthday during Canada's Confederation Celebration on January 11, 1967. Bro. Macdonald grew up in Lennox & Addington County in what was then known as Lower Canada - west of Kingston, Ontario, and east of Picton, Prince Edward Island. Excerpts from this discussion which can be used to embellish a Masonic write-up follow:

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the birthday of one of our greatest statesman, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada.

That Canada exists today is probably the result of the effort and determination of Sir John A. Macdonald more than any other man. It is therefore fitting that in this year, the one hundredth anniversary of confederation, we should pay a very special tribute to this man and what he accomplished.

Like so many great Canadians, Macdonald was not born in this country. He came to Canada as a boy when his father and mother emigrated from Scotland. It was in a rough, new country that he grew up and gained an education, and it was in the building of a new country that he won the fame that goes with great and lasting achievement.

We remember Macdonald chiefly as the principal architect of our confederation. Credit for bringing about confederation is shared by many men and is not Macdonald's alone, but it was he who went on after the political framework was accomplished to endow Canada with the economic sinews of nationhood through building the transcontinental railway, the opening of the west and the encouragement of industry. Under Macdonald the federation established in 1867 was extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific to embrace the most of what is Canada today.

Right Hon. [Bro.] J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): ... Macdonald lived in the era of great uniters of nations; the era of Lincoln, Cavour, Bismark. These three in their respective countries brought about unity by bloodshed or force. He was, with the assistance of Cartier, Brown, Tupper, with the eloquence of D'Arcy McGee and all the galaxy of other greats of that era, to bring about Canadian confederation, not through the means of the three leaders I have mentioned but by consultation, co-operation, compassion and common sense.

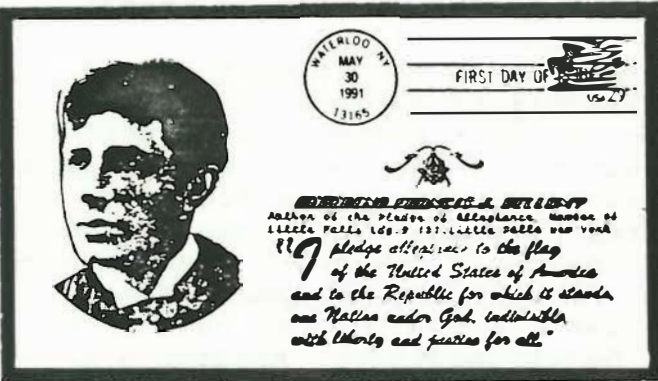
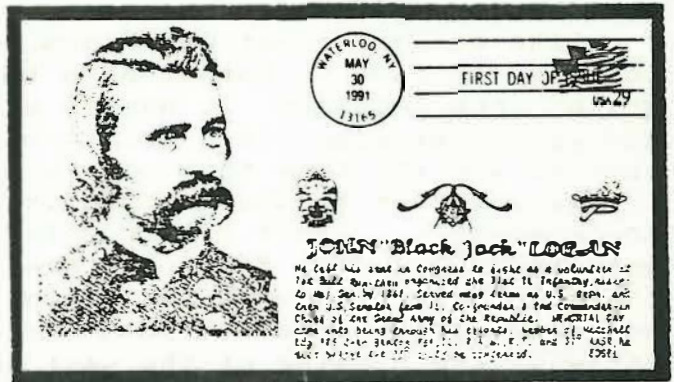
In 1812, at the time of the Scottish clearances, the Duchess of Sutherland cleared out the county of Sutherlandshire. Macdonald's mother and father lived 15 miles from where my maternal great grandmother and father lived, and both families were driven out at the time of the clearances. Macdonald's father and mother migrated to Glasgow. Mine took the longer route to the Red river, by way of Churchill.

I think of him as the founder of the Northwest Mounted Police. I think of him as the man who dreamed of the commonwealth and expressed the idea that the time would come when Australia, Canada, and other nations beyond the seas would join with the mother country on behalf of freedom. ... His was an amazing life.

Mr. T. C. Douglas: Sir John A. Macdonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland 152 years ago today. It is sometimes forgotten that he was a Scottish immigrant who made good, and who made Canada in the process. For while it is undoubtedly true that men like Cartier, Brown, Tupper, Tilly and McGee made outstanding contributions to the realisation of the confederation, it was Macdonald's genius which produced the framework.

EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

The Masonic Cacheted covers shown here were produced by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Member No. 21, P.O.Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042.



PHILATELIC RESEARCH CORRESPONDENCE

A series of letters between your Editor and the Research Chairman, Bro. Norman Lincoln, provide an insight to the various aspects and considerations of Masonic Philatelic Research. The first installment was in response to a letter from Bro. Norman Lincoln who questioned the Masonic identification of three individuals in the New Issues section of the latest Newsletter. I believe they are worthy of sharing with all the members.

"Your comments regarding three "Masons" in the new issues section of the most recent newsletter directed me back to my research files - those I have gathered and those I "inherited" from the late Bro. Loke. First off, let me apologize for the miscall in the case of Gen George S. Patton, Jr.. I don't know where my mind was when I called that one out - I should have caught myself as there is no indication whatever that he was a Mason.

"I agree that Albrecht Durer lived well before the first Grand Lodge was founded in England. Ritual, however, informs us that our ancient friend and brother the great Pythagoras was initiated into several orders of priesthood and is said to have been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. He preceeded Durer by a few years. All my references to Durer - ATA Handbook #43, Freemasons of Many Nations by Lucy, Beltmann's Newsletters (page 43), the Great Britain MPC Newsletter (Vol 22 page 17) and Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons" all cite the same allegation: "One of his copper plate engravings entitled 'Melancholy' has been suggested as Masonic in origin and indicates that Durer was familiar with the fraternity at the time, and possibly a member of the Nuremberg lodge. It was at this time that Emperor Maximilian was patron and honorary member of the lodge and Durer being court painter would likely to have been associated with that lodge." This appears to be a very weak argument as to Durer's Masonic membership but at least it leads to serious debate.

The third individual cited as being a questionable Mason is Ludwig von Beethoven. I have quite a few references on this person. the ATA Handbook #29, G.R. Lucy's Album and the Great Britain MPC Newsletter are very close in their statement that he is listed in "A L'Assaut de la Franc-Maçonnerie" published in Brussels as having been a Freemason. It is on record that he visited Mozart's Lodge, Zur Gekroenten Hoffnung Lodge, in 1787. Walter Kirby on page 175 of The Philatelic Freemason states that he is thought to be a member of a Lodge at Bonn. Three of his biographers state that he was a Mason. Bro. Loke's files provide several more references: The Quatour Coronati Lodge Transactions for 1967, Vol. 80, page 150, cites comments by E. Herriot, Prime Minister of France, who wrote in his book 'The Life and Times of Ludwig von Beethoven' (1935) that he seems to have been a Mason, like his friend Wegeler, although there is no definite proof thereof. Paul Nettle, in "Mozart and Masonry" has quite a bit to say on the subject - most of which leans towards the positive. He cites the positive statements of Thayer, Deiters, Reimann and Herriot. In various letters Beethoven commented on the acacia (used for Masonic funerals) at his brother's death, a Masonic song and exchanging a Masonic handshake. He concludes that in his youth he may have belonged to a lodge in the Rhineland and later forgot his Masonic past or stopped attending when he lost his hearing. Nettle also contributed an article to the RAM Magazine, Vol. VI, #10, pg 307 (June 1960) which reiterates much of the information found in his book.

RESEARCH (Cont'd)

"These references provide serious reflections for the rational and thinking mind and symbolize what our hobby is all about. If every case were cut and dried, there would be no challenge, no intrigue in the pursuit of knowledge. How often do we search months and years for a particular item - a book, a stamp, a piece of data - only to feel disappointed or let down when we do find it; most of the fun is in the pursuit. As you state: "But, that's what makes our hobby so fascinating, doesn't it?" Members before us and undoubtedly those after us have and will continue to debate the Masonic membership of Beethoven - that of Durer is by now mostly symbolic, as is Pythagoras, but subject to some discussion and controversy. There is no final answer."

Bro. Lincoln responded: "There are two kinds of people: (1) Those who divide people into two classes and (2) those who don't. As far as Masonic membership is concerned, there are Masons and non-Masons. In between there are Possible Masons and unlikely Masons. Anthony Wayne is a probable Mason. Beethoven is a possible Mason. [He enclosed a three page article on "Ludwig von Beethoven: Freemason?" which he read to the Ohio Lodge of Research. We may include it in a future copy of the newsletter.] Durer is an unlikely Mason.

"Masons seem to indulge in wishful thinking. They seem to want all famous and heroic persons of the past to be Masons. Masonry's enemies would be happy if they could prove Hitler and Stalin were Masons. They don't realize that Masons are their own worst enemies; their lack of tolerance and education are more harmful to the Fraternity than all the Ankenbergs.

"Ordinary Masons display total ignorance of who were Masons. My friend Charlie, who was a big band trumpet player, insists that Kay Kyser and Jan Garber were Brothers. He was in the Aleutians in World War II and thinks that Admiral Nimitz and Kincaid were Masons. Masonic researchers add to the problem. [Several erroneous examples are cited along with the source.] Non-Masons continue to pile up false data. Robinson (Born in Blood) claims the Mediterranean pirates were Masons. There is little if any evidence to support this allegation. Stephen Knight's sensational "The Brotherhood" indicated Ronald Reagan was a Mason and that Lord Mountbatten of Burma was not; both these assertions are incorrect.

"I suppose it will do no harm to continue listing Durer among the brethren. It is wonderfully amusing to recite the Master Mason ritual concerning Pythagoras and give him a degree which did not exist until 2300 years after he lived. Perhaps we can resurrect the rumor that Shakespeare (or Bacon) wrote the first and third degrees. After all, Hamlet muses about that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns and Cardinal Wolsey said ... today he puts forth the tender leaves of hope, tomorrow blossoms and bears his blushing honors thick upon him ... (Henry VIII). Most of the arguments for Beethoven's membership can be refuted without difficulty. This does not mean he was not a Mason. It is certainly possible."

I hope that the recounting of these comments serves to demonstrate the many sides to Masonic research - that it is an art and not a science. There is very often no clear cut answer or proof positive. All these factors make the subject extremely interesting. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, Bro. Norm.