

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

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WHOLE NO. 88

MAXIM GORKY

Maxim Gorky is pictured on a Russian stamp, Scott No. 3450, issued on Feb. 29, 1968, to commemorate the centenary of his birth. His pen name Gorky means "the bitter one".



Alexei Maximovitch Pyeshkov was born in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, on March 28, 1868. He was orphaned at the age of nine and went to work as a dishwasher, in a bakery shop, as a fisherman, a railroadman and a clerk. His first story "Makar Chudra" was published in Tiflis in 1892. After the publication of "Chelkash" in 1895 his reputation as storyteller of the proletarians was assured. In 1899 he published the novel "Foma Gordeyev" and joined the Social Democratic Party. His play, "The Petit Bourgeois" was published and the following year he was elected to the Academy of Science - an honor that was vetoed by the Czarist government because of his Marxist sympathies. He was arrested in 1905 and after being released he went into exile in Finland and Capri. He met Lenin and returned to Russia before the 1917 Revolution. He was opposed to the Communist use of force and violence and assisted many writers whose works were not published by the Party. His reputation was so great that he was able to continue writing and is said to have been the chief developer of Socialist Realism. "Reminiscences" (1919) was a memoir of his experiences and "Destigayev and other Stories" (1932) contained his theories about the humble conditions of common people. His three part biography is still widely read: "My Childhood" (1915), "In the World" (1916) and "My Universities" (1923). He died in Moscow on June 18, 1936.

A recent article by C. N. Batham for the Lodge of Research No. 2429, Leicester, England, states Maxim Gorky was a "Well-known Freemason" without giving further details.

-Article and stamp provided by Bro. Norman Lincoln, Eaton, OH

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

221. Donald L. Omdahl, P.O. Box 940, Thompson Falls, MT 59873
225. Rafael Manuel Wulff, 65 Cheviot Cres., Brampton, Ontario L6Z 4G9
Canada
291. Rita A. Schwarzkopf, RFD #1 P.O.Box 156, Lake View, IA 51450

ADDRESS CHANGES:

72. Kit Carson Price, 309 Moo 17, T. None Soong, Khai Rammausn P.O.,
Udorn 41330, Thailand
145. H. J. Spoeri, 4370 Newbury Dr., New Port Richie, FL 34652
258. Ernie Stermole, 12 Radford Court, Hoppers Crossing, Victoria 3029
Australia

There has been quite a bit of correspondence received over the past two months - for that, many thanks. I try to answer specific requests individually. If a letter contains information which I think would be of interest to the Unit members, I will cite it in the Newsletter. I do try to acknowledge each communication one way or another.

Bro. Gene Fricks (who was the contributor, by the way, of the article on Lester Farnsworth Wire in the most recent Newsletter) points out that I made a slight error in the article on Bro. Wire. He Demitted from Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 2 of Salt Lake City, Utah, on May 13, 1946. He did not die on that date; the date of his death is not known by Bro. Fricks or your Editor.

Bro. Grahame West, 12 Dean Way, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4QN England, sends along a request. He has a Congressional Medal of Honor cover which he would like to have signed by a holder of that medal to include in a display collection. The article on page 940 made him wonder if any of the holders of this medal are still alive. If any of our readers know of any living Medal of Honor holder (Mason or non-Mason) who might be willing to sign such a cover, please contact Bro. West. He will, of course, pay for all postage costs involved.

Bro. Juan Sabater Pie of Barcelona, Spain, wrote a lengthy letter informing of his decision to transfer from an eight year membership in the Grand Spaniard Symbolical Lodge of Masonry to the Grand Lodge of Spain. The latter is a "regular" Grand Lodge recognized by over 150 Grand Lodges throughout the world - including the United Grand Lodge of England, Ireland and Scotland and the USA. He will affiliate with one of the more than 55 Lodges in Spain within this Constitution. He will continue his work in the Order and to struggle for the development of true, genuine Masonry in his country. Within the next year, many people will visit Barcelona and the Olympic Games being held there. Bro. Juan Sabater Pie invites all Masons who are in that group of visitors to make themselves known and visit the Masonic Temple on Gran Via Street.

MASONIC CANCELS ALBUM PAGE

Bro. Stanley Longenecker of Lancaster, PA, has provided us with a copy of another page in his Masonic stamp collection. Shown below, it displays many copies of the 3 cent banknotes bearing cancels that are "Masonic". The top three are quite self-explanatory; the next supports Stan's specialty of Bro. George Washington's birthday. The five at the bottom represent a clever selection/arrangement to "spell it all out". He states it was fairly easy to assemble this selection - he found a dealer at a stamp show who had a stock book of thousands of these banknote issues with all kinds of fancy cancels. In no time he was able to gather this material.



FANCY CANCELS on 3 CENT BANK NOTES



Square & Compass



Trowel



Station Number
(fitting for George's Birthday)



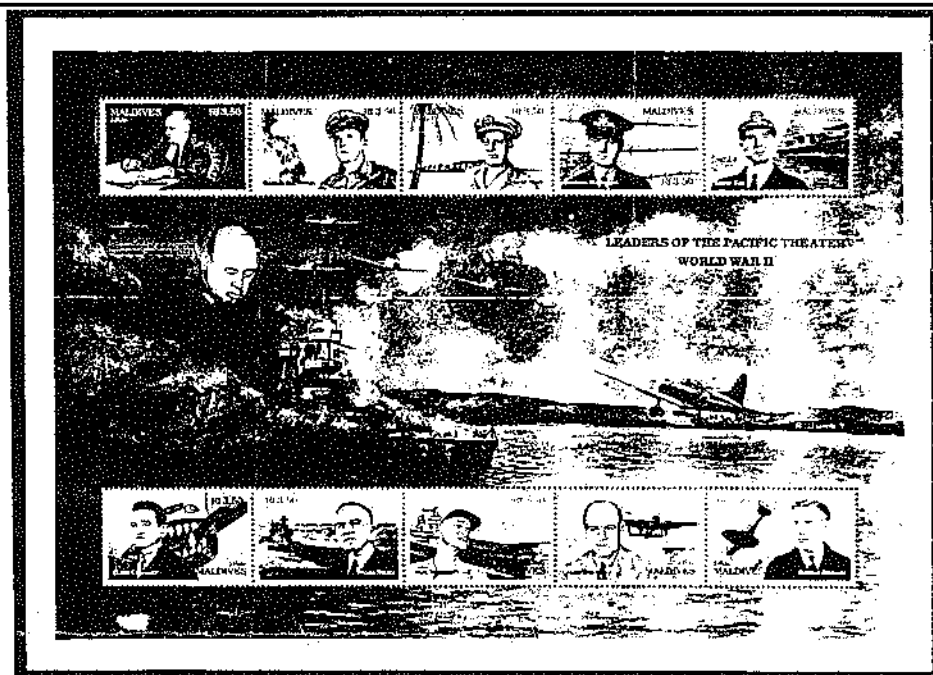
Station Letters

Masonic Philately

FOR MANY OF THE MEMBERS APRIL SIGNIFIES THE BEGINNING OF THEIR YEAR
PLEASE GET YOUR DUES (\$5.00 or \$10.00) TO OUR SECRETARY/TREASURER -
Otto Steding, 4033 Hollytree Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231

WORLD WAR II ADDITIONS

A souvenir sheet issued by the Maldive Islands for the 50th Anniversary of World War II includes Admirals Chester Nimitz, William Halsey and Raymond Spruance who were not Masons; the other seven were. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur, Jonathan Wainwright and Claire Chennault have been written about extensively; the three other Masons, James H. Doolittle, Ernest J. King and Marc A. Mitscher are cited now.



James Harold Doolittle was born Dec. 14, 1896, in Alameda, CA. He graduated from the Univ. of California and M.I.T.. He served in the US Army Air Corps from 1917 to 1930 and as a pilot was the winner of such trophies as Schneider, Mackay, Harmon, Bendix and Thompson. From 1930 to 1940 he was employed by the Shell Petroleum Co.. He returned to the Air Corps in 1940 as a Major. On April 18, 1942, he led a flight of 16 B-25 bombers from the aircraft carrier "Hornet" on a bombing mission over Japan - for this service he was promoted to Brig. Gen. and received the Medal of Honor. He later served in the 12th, 15th and 8th Air Forces and retired in 1946.

Two Grand Lodges cooperated in conferring the degrees of Masonry on Bro. Doolittle. Acting under a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge of California, Hollenbeck Lodge No. 319 voted on Aug. 8, 1918, that he receive his degrees. Because he was then stationed in Louisiana, the Grand Lodge of that state gave Lake Charles Lodge No. 165 a dispensation to confer all three degrees on Aug. 16, 1918. He joined the Scottish Rite Valley of San Diego on Dec. 14, 1918, and received the 33rd degree on Oct. 19, 1945.

Ernest J. King was born Nov. 23, 1878, in Lorain, OH, and died June 25, 1956. He graduated fourth in his class from the US Naval Academy Class of '01. He was a destroyer division commander from 1914 to 1916, Assistant Chief of Staff to Adm. Mayo during World War I. Between the wars he served as a sub base commander at New London, qualified as a naval aviator at Pensacola and became Chief Bureau of Air as an Admiral. He became the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, on Feb. 1, 1941, then the Commander of the US Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations

WORLD WAR II ADDITIONS (CONT'D)

As the principal naval advisor to Pres. F. D. Roosevelt, he was largely responsible for the successful operations of the U.S. Navy during the War. With George Marshall and Hap Arnold he brought his country from its disaster at Pearl Harbor to unconditional victory.

Bro. King was raised in George C. Whiting Lodge No. 22, Washington, DC, Sep. 12, 1935. He became a member of Darius Chapter No. 143 R.A.M., San Diego, CA, on Aug. 26, 1938, Holyrood Commandery No. 32, Cleveland, OH, on July 19, 1939, and Al Koran Shrine Temple, Cleveland in 1956.

Marc A. Mitscher was born Jan. 26, 1887, in Hillsboro, WI, and died Feb. 3, 1947. He graduated from Annapolis in the Class of '10 and learned to fly in 1915 aboard the "North Carolina". He served various duties aboard the "Saratoga" and the "Langley" and assumed command of the "Hornet" in 1941, serving at Midway. He was Commander of the Fast Carrier Forces Task Force 58 in attacks on the Marshall Islands, Truk, Saipan, Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet in 1946.

Bro. Mitscher was raised in Biscayne Bay Lodge No. 124, Miami, FL, on Jan. 29, 1919. He joined the Scottish Rite on Feb. 14, 1919.

-Information and sheet provided by Bro. Norm Lincoln, Eaton, OH

Bro. Lincoln has also provided the names of several other Masons involved in World War II who might show up on stamps commemorating that event.

Gen. Bruce Clarke - the hero of St. Vith

Gen. Robert Eichelberger - First Corps, New Guinea, 8th Army, Philippines

Joe Foss - USMC fighter pilot

James Gavin - 82nd Airborne

Gen. Lewis Hershey - head of Selective Service

George Kenney - USAF, SW Pacific

Walter Krueger - 6th Army, SW Pacific

Curtis LeMay - Regensburg & Japan

Audie Murphy - most decorated soldier

Matthew Ridgeway - 82nd Airborne

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. - 4th Infantry

Joe Stillwell - CBI Theatre

Richard K. Turner - Guadalcanal

Maxwell Taylor - 82nd Airborne

Arleigh Burke - destroyer commander

A souvenir sheet issued by St. Vincent pictures fifteen Congressional Medal of Honor winners for their efforts during the attack on Pearl Harbor. One of these persons is listed by the Masonic Service Association as being a Mason but no information is provided.

Jackson Charles Pharris, born June 26, 1912, in Columbus, GA, was on the "California" when it was struck by a torpedo. His Medal of Honor citation says he took charge of supplying ammunition for the anti-aircraft guns as well as ordering counter-flooding which corrected the list which threatened to capsize the ship. Though severely injured himself, he repeatedly led efforts to save many drowning shipmates.

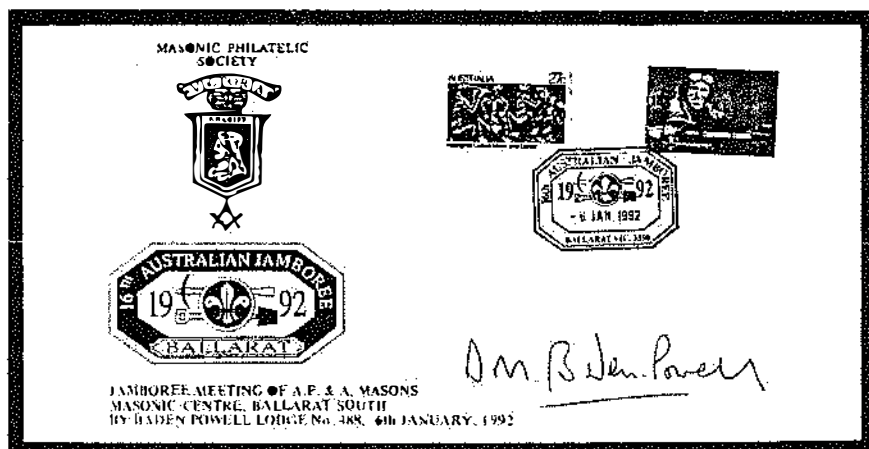
Bro. Lincoln also informs us that Louis Armstrong (cited in the New Issues of the last Newsletter) was not a Freemason.

AUSTRALIAN/BADEN-POWELL LODGE COVER

On Jan. 6, 1992, the 16th Australian Jamboree Masonic Meeting was held at the Masonic Centre, Dawson Street Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. It was sponsored by Baden-Powell Lodge No. 488 and some covers were prepared to commemorate this event. Many of them were signed by Michael Baden-Powell, grandson of the noted Lord Baden-Powell, the driving factor in the founding of the Boy Scouts.

Baden-Powell Lodge No. 488, Victorian Constitution, is the oldest Scouting Lodge in the world being consecrated in 1930. A number of Victorian Scouters attending the 1929 Arrow Park Jamboree approached Baden-Powell seeking his approval of a Scouting Lodge in Victoria bearing his name. Baden-Powell, not being a member of the Craft, was mildly amused at the thought and gladly gave his permission; he signed the Volume of Sacred Law used by the Lodge during a visit to Victoria in 1931. His grandson joined the Lodge about five years ago.

Copies of this cover are available from Bro. Sid Martin, 4 Barrow Crescent, Lockleys, South Australia 5032 at a cost of \$2.00 (US) postpaid.



ITALIAN MASONIC COVER

The cover shown to the right is available from

Mrs. Dina Ricci
Casella Postale, 39
I-48022 Lugo (Ra)
Italy.



AN ELECTION BALLOT IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER
PLEASE VOTE - AND SEND YOUR DUES ALONG WITH YOUR BALLOT

INFORMATION FROM FRANCE

A recent letter from Bro. Jean Claude Vilesy of Chatou, France, contains several items worthy of notice here.

First, he wishes to set the record straight regarding the Masons pictured on the "Oath of the Tennis Court" stamp. The latest historical study - and the most reliable - on the "Loge des neufs soeurs" (Paris) is the book titled "La Loge des neufs Soeurs" edited by EDINAF (GODF) (Louis Ariable), Paris, 1984. It is based upon an 1897 work reviewed and corrected by Charles Ponset. In this study it appears that Jean Sylvain Bally, Sieyes, Rabaut St. Etienne, Dom Gerle and Petion de Villeneuve were never members of that Lodge or any other Lodge and cannot be considered Masons.

In the upper right corner of the "Tennis Court" stamp people are noted on a balcony. Behind the soldier brandishing a sword there is a man with a list on his head, writing on a paper on the wall. The paper is the newspaper named "L'Ami du peuple" and the writer is Jean-Paul Marat who was a Freemason. He was initiated in 1774 in King Head Jeward Lodge, London, and was one of the most noted personages of the French Revolution. He was very ill when he was assassinated by a girl (Charlotte Corday). His skin disease necessitated his taking a bath virtually all the time to relieve the pain - he was killed while in the bath.

It therefore appears that the seven Freemasons pictured in the "Oath of the Tennis Court" are:

- Merlin de Thiouville - Lodge "Les 9 Soeurs" (Paris)
- Riquelli Mirabeau - Lodge "St. Jean d'Ecosse du Contrat Social" (Paris)
- Ignace Guillotin - Lodge "Les 9 Soeurs"
- Bierere de Viezac - Lodge "L'Encyclopedique" (Toulouse)
- le Chepelier - Lodge "La Parfaite Union" (Rennes)
- Regnault de St Jean l'Augely - Lodge "L'Egelite" (St. Jean d'Augely)
- J. Paul Marat - Lodge "King Head Jeward" (London)

Second, he has found the name of Gero Andor (1882-1962), a school master, who was initiated in 1912 in the Knyves Kalman Lodge in Budapest, Hungary. He maintained Hungarian Masonry after 1920 and reconstructed it after 1945. He left Hungary in 1948 and went to Toronto where he died in 1962. Does any member have any information on this Brother's membership in Toronto or elsewhere? (Bro. Vilesy's address is 3 rue du Docteur Rochefort, 78600 Chatou, France.)

Third, he is working on two books: One is the second edition of the "Freemasonry Stamp Catalog" but it will contain production dates and Yvert & Tellier, Scott and Stanley Gibbons numberings. It will be written in French, English and Spanish. The second book is more complex - it will consist of four parts:

- A list of Masons with name, membership date, Lodge and location.
- The same list sorted by Lodge.
- the list of names with birthday, death day and membership date sorted chronologically to understand relationships between the various people.
- names of the Masons involved in the major events of the world.

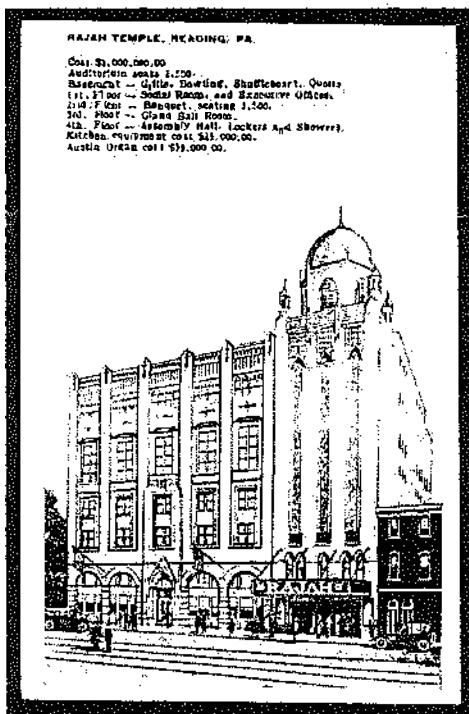
If any of the members are interested in this effort, Bro. Vilesy encourages contact with him.

MASONIC ENTRY - TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

The post card shown here depicts the Tournament of Roses float sponsored by the Family of Freemasonry in California. This very impressive flower-bedecked display rolled through Pasadena on Jan. 1, 1992 just behind the Parade Marshal. The card was proudly provided by Bro. Rick Wright of Lodi, CA.

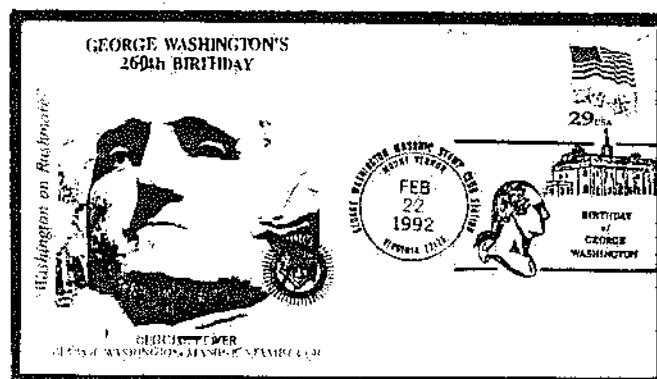


INPUTS FROM BRO. LONGENECKER & GWMSC



The post card shown to the left was provided by Bro. Stan Longenecker of Lancaster, PA. He states that Rajah Shrine Temple (pictured) is celebrating their Centennial in 1992 with a big parade in Reading, PA, on April 25th. He is in the string band of the Temple and I am sure that a suitable cover will be forthcoming for this event.

The cover shown below was also provided by Bro. Stan. The annual Washington's Birthday cover from the GWMSC, it is available for a cost of \$1.25 (plus SASE) from him at: P.O.Box 7244, Lancaster, PA 17604.



ANY AND ALL ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED
IT IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - I JUST EDIT IT

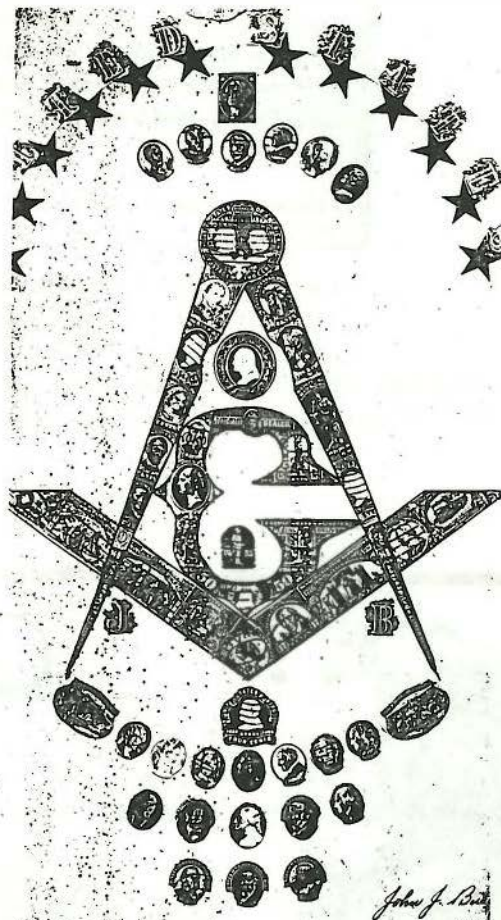
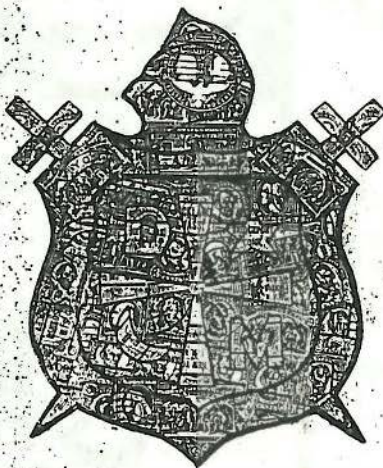
COVER AND POSTER OFFER

An interesting offer has been received from Kurt Ottenheimer, 462 W. Walnut St., Long Beach, NY 11561. He has a variety of covers for sale as well as some "posters" of Masonic designs constructed using postage stamps. The covers available are:

10 ea	1932 Alexandria covers w/cachet on stamped envelope	1.00 ea
8 ea	1932 Alexandria covers w/cachet and various stamps	1.00 ea
15 ea	1932 Alexandria covers w/cachet & G.W. Bicent stamps	1.00 ea
2 ea	1932 Alexandria covers w/cachet & Special Delivery	1.00 ea
13 ea	1932 Alexandria covers w/cachet on air mail stamped envelope with additional stamps	1.50 ea
1 ea	1932 Alexandria cover w/cachet with C12 plus others	1.50

The lot of 49 covers can be had for \$50.00 (plus postage as is the case with individual covers). The "Composed" Masonic Symbols number seven different designs, some are shown here. The cost of each is \$7.50; they might make interesting framing subjects for a Masonic Philatelist.

1. Square and Compasses
2. R.A.M. Emblem
3. DeMolay Emblem
4. Triangle and Trowel
5. Kismet, sword, half-moon, star
6. Cross with INRI
7. Scottish Rite Eagle



INTERESTING MASONIC INSURANCE CARD

One of our North Jersey members has provided this copy of a very interesting Masonic Insurance card. It explains the hard cold facts of not paying one's insurance assessment - even if unable to do so - but does leave the option open to the current members as to whether or not they would contribute to this departed brother's family's welfare. It makes one wonder what the response was.

Bro. Fred. J. Littlefield, a Master Mason in good standing, died May 13th. 1878, of Rheumatism at the Heart. The sixteenth assessment of the Portland Masonic Relief Association expired May 5th, and thus Bro. Littlefield was deprived of the benefit therefrom. Bro. Littlefield has paid all previous assessments within the thirty days, and would have paid this, had the state of his mind permitted. He was taken sick suddenly and with such pain that he was rendered nearly crazy, and was filled with morphine to relieve him, thus rendering him incapable to attend to business. His illness was so sudden that his intimate friends were unaware of it until his death.

There is no claim upon any brother to pay in this case the usual assessment, but this notice is sent to each member of the association, with the thought that members would gladly send the sum of **One Dollar** to the family of Bro. Littlefield, and the Secretary of the association has consented to take charge of it.

The ten cents is omitted because the expense is paid by the brethren intimately acquainted with him.

MANY BRETHREN.

PORTLAND, May 20, 1878..

WETREICH MASONIC COVERS

A couple of Bro. Ross Wetreich's Masonic cacheted covers are shown here. His address is P.O. Box 1300, Valley Stream, NY 11582.



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of interest to a Masonic stamp collection have recently been reported in the philatelic press.

- May 28, 1991 Chile - 75th Anniversary of the rescue of the Shackleton Expedition - se-tenant block of four 50-peso stamps.
- Sept. 18, 1991 Philippines - 100th Anniversary of the Novel El Filibusterismo by Jose Rizal - se-tenant block of four 1-peso stamps.
- Oct. 14, 1991 Sierre Leone - World War II Motion Pictures - 12 values plus 3 S/S - includes Audie Murphy and John Wayne.
- Nov. 14, 1991 Brazil - 150th Birth Anniversaries of Pres. Prudente Jose de Moras and Manuel Ferraz de Campos Salles - se-tenant pair of 70cz and 90cz stamps, portraits.
- Nov. 25, 1991 St. Vincent - Famous Statesmen - sheetlet of eight \$1 stamps - include W. Churchill, G. Washington, Lafayette and F. D. Roosevelt.
- Nov. 29 Brazil - 150 years of Acclamation and 100th Death Anniversary of Dom Pedro II - S/S containing two stamps.
- Dec. 7, 1991 St. Vincent - 50th Anniversary of Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor - sheetlet of 15 \$1 stamps showing American servicemen who received the Congressional Medal of Honor (see article in this issue).
- Dec. 7, 1991 St. Vincent-Grenadines - 50th Anniversary of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor - sheetlet of 10 \$1 stamps - including Pres. Roosevelt.
- December 1991 200th Death Anniversary of Mozart issues from:
- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Antigua & Barbuda - 2 values | Sierra Leone - 3 values + S/S |
| Guyana - 3 values + S/S | Turks & Caicos Is - 1 value |
| St. Vincent - 2 values + S/S | Uganda - 1 value |
| St. Vincent-Grenadines - 2 values + 2 S/S | |
- December 1991 100th Birth Anniversary of Gen. Charles de Gaulle:
- St. Vincent - 3 values + S/S - include W. Churchill
Turks & Caicos - 3 values + S/S - incl. F. Roosevelt, W. Churchill
- Jan. 1, 1992 Marshall Islands - World War II - 1 value shows F. D. Roosevelt and W. Churchill.
- March 23, 1992 Tuvalu - 100th Anniv. of British Occupation in Tuvalu - 4 values - incl. King George VI, Edward VII