

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

VOL. 16, NO. 2

JULY-AUGUST 1992

WHOLE NO. 90

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

My volunteering for office has put me under the magnifying glass and your eyes. I intend to work for you as I have already shown but you must work too - for the enrichment of our club and the great newsletter that we enjoy reading. Many thanks go out to those club members who have already responded. Just keep those cards, letters, etc., coming to our editor and our combined efforts will propel us to greater Philatelic Masonic knowledge!

Stan Longenecker

THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Ero. Stan has identified the following appointments for 1992-1994.

- Assistant Vice President.....Dr. Allen Boudreau
- Director 1 East.....Dorothy S. Walker
- Director 2 West.....Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.

- Research Chairman.....Norman Lincoln
- Eastern Representative.....Peter G. Huntsman
- Western Representative.....Earl E. Dixon
- Central Representative.....Edsel A. Hatfield
- Southern Representative.....James W. Hogg

- Eastern Canada Representative....Andre Demets
- Central Canada Representative....Elwood T. Foss
- Western Canada Representative....Malcolm N. Collison

- South American Representative....Francisco R. Perino
- European Representative.....Maurice H. Beazley
- Australian Representative.....Sidney W. Martin
- Asian Representative.....Kit Carson Price

- Editor.....Robert A. Domingue
- Publicity.....John M. Cunningham
- Chaplain.....Rev. William W. Bowling
- APS Liaison.....Stan Longenecker

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBER:

898. Carl L. Baxter, 801 Ohio Avenue, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

ADDRESS CHANGE:

185. James E. Woodson, Sr., 703 46th St. E. Bradenton, FL 34208

CLOSED ALBUMS

831. Herbert Zander late of So. America

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

You should have all received the letter and cover from our new President - Bro. Stan Longenecker. He has a dynamic way of getting involved in a project and he should help the Unit grow. Let's all fall in behind him and make his efforts prove worthwhile - we will all appreciate the growth.

Bro. Anthony Salzman, Member #319 of Gainesville, FL, writes that he has made slides of his Masonic Post Card collection as well as some of his stamps and covers. He has exhibited these to his Lodge, a Master/Wardens Association, the National Sojourners and the local High 12 Club. On each occasion the slide show was warmly received - a return which made him re-double his efforts to add to his collection. He has finally located one of those old leather post cards: "Receiving the Pass Word".

Bro. Dulaney O'Roark, Member #186 of St. Petersburg, FL, writes that he has just finished reading "Born in Blood; The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry" by John J. Robinson and recommends this book for each and every Mason. Apparently he is joined in this recommendation by every reviewer of this book. Robinson, incidently, is not a member of the Fraternity but has done an excellent job regardless.

Bro. Ernest Fricks, Member #224 of Clementon, NJ, has provided a letter with many recommendations and comments. His year in the East of his Lodge is about half over and it has proven to be a busy one. He also sent along a wonderful 55-page booklet entitled "Some Writings of Interest to Freemasons" which he has compiled for the Brothers of his Lodge - Haddonfield Lodge No. 130. It covers the gamut from the days of Operative Masonry to the present day and encompasses several nations. It is an excellent way to diffuse light and impart knowledge.

Bro. Richard O. Wright, Member #139, 13675 N. Hartley Lane, Lodi, CA 95242, is searching for a mint set of Honduras C501-504. He has several items for trade or he will purchase them outright if a member has an extra set. He also has a few extra copies of the postcard shown in a previous issue depicting the Masonic Float in the Rose Bowl Parade which he will provide at no charge.

The Masonic Service Association, a Member of our Unit, has informed us that they are using some of the information from our "Philatelic Freemason" in their "EMESSAY NOTES". Welcome to the data - it is nice to know that we can be of help.

Your Editor wrote an article on Masonic Philately which appeared in the Spring 1992 issue of "The Maine Mason".

MANUEL A. ROXAS

BIRTH CENTENARY OF GREAT FILIPINOS

The Philippine Postal Service issued on June 1, 1992 seventeen mini stamps marking the Birth Centenary of five Great Filipinos to coincide with the celebration of the "Decade of Filipino" Nationalism, 1989-1998" pursuant to Proclamation No. 269, dated June 10, 1988.



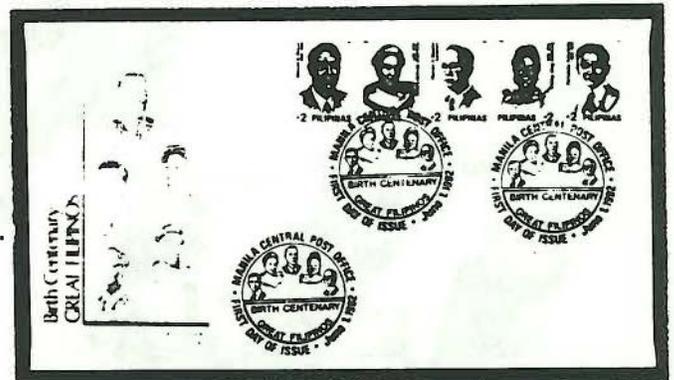
President MANUEL A. ROXAS - Born on January 1, 1892 in Capiz, he obtained his law degree in U.P. with high honors in 1913. And on that same year, he topped the bar examination. His political career started with his appointment as member of the municipal council of Capiz. From there, he gradually worked his way up to congressman where he sponsored the enactment by the US Congress of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law in 1932 which provided for the granting of Philippine Independence after 10-year transition period. After the war, he became the last President of the Philippine Commonwealth and the first President of the Philippine Republic. On April 15, 1948, Roxas succumbed to heart attack while on a speaking engagement in Clark Air Base.

Bro. MANUEL A. ROXAS - President of the Philippines (1946-1948)
Master of Makawili Lodge No.55 in 1927; he had the 32^o, AASR;
Grand Lodge of the Philippines records show he attended several Annual Communications.

Sources: The Cabletow - The Official Organ of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Vol.63, No.5, Page 52. (1988)

BROTHERHOOD AND SERVICE

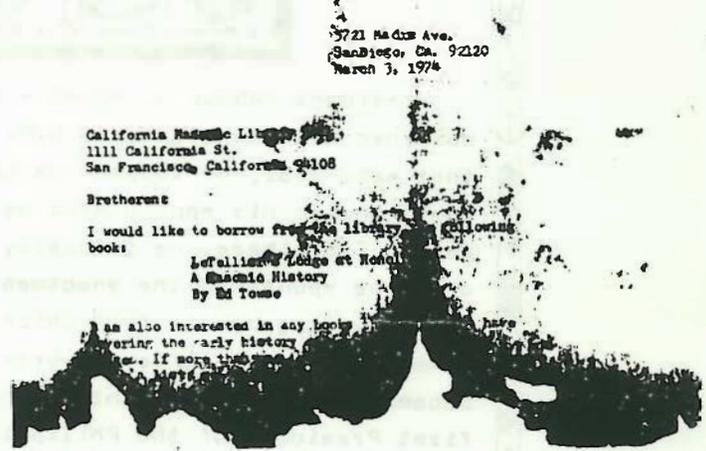
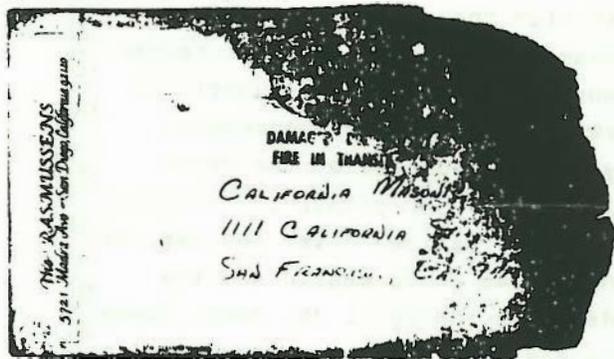
Bro. Vicente Antonio Cu, Member #494 of Manila, has provided this page from his album which illustrates the new 1992 Great Filipinos set including Bro. Manuel A. Roxas. He also offers the cover shown at a cost of \$2.00 (cash) each, airmailed. His address is: P. O. Box 1443
1099 Manila
Philippines



MY FAVORITE MASONIC COVER

Bro. Herbert A. Rasmussen, Member #413 of Sun City West, AZ, has submitted a copy of his favorite Masonic cover. It combines several aspects of Masonry as well as Philately. First, it is a true crash cover. Second, it was originated by him in a letter to a Grand Lodge Library. Third, it was a request for a book on books giving some of the early history of Masonry in the Kingdom of Hawaii, its Masonic Kings and related Royalty as they appear on the postage stamps of Hawaii. At the time he was trying to build up his collection in this area.

He has no details of the fire which caused the damage between San Diego and San Francisco. In any event, there was a considerable delay by the Grand Lodge Librarian in sending the book to him. In order to explain the delay, he sent the damaged cover and letter along with the book. The Librarian had no way of knowing that Bro. Rasmussen was an avid stamp collector and how much that cover would mean to him. It is truly one of a kind.



MASONIC POST CARDS

Bro. Don Wilder, Member #366 of Peaks Island, ME, acquired some interesting Masonic Post Cards from a friend who purchased them while in New Zealand. Does any member have any information on these cards he can relate to Don at 42 Epp St., Peaks Island, ME 04108?

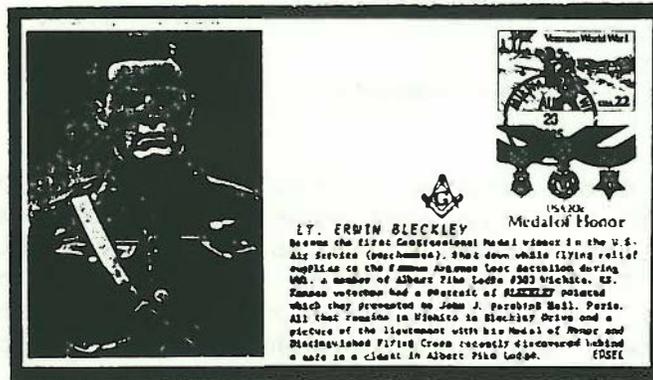


Sc 2045

EUGENE BLECKLEY - MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Member #21 of Hazelwood, MO, has identified one Medal of Honor Mason who was not included in the listing provided in the November-December 1991 Newsletter (page 946). Bro. Eugene Bleckley was the first Airman ever awarded the Medal - albeit posthumously. He is referred to as Erwin Bleckley in Above and Beyond (pages 147 & 48).

Bro. Bleckley was shot down while flying relief supplies to the famous Argonne Lost Battalion during World War I. He was a member of Albert Pike Lodge No. 303 of Wichita, KS. Kansas veterans had a portrait of Bro. Bleckley painted which they presented to John J. Pershing Hall in Paris. All that remains in Wichita is Bleckley Drive and a picture of the lieutenant with his Medal of Honor and Distinguished Flying Cross recently discovered behind a safe in a closet in Albert Pike Lodge.

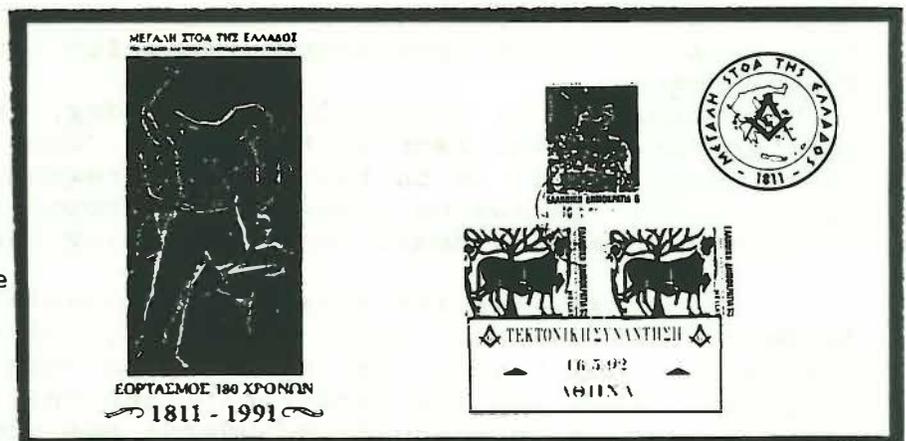


For those of you who are Masonic Cacheted Cover collectors, please don't forget that your Editor does have a bountiful supply of them for sale - both U.S. and foreign. These covers are from the collection of Bro. Silas J. Hirte and the accumulation of Bro. John M. Cunningham. Both brethren are active members of our unit and have asked me to sell their covers for them; price lists are available for a large #10 SASE. Your Editor's address is on the masthead of the Newsletter.

MASONIC COVER FROM GREECE

The cover shown here was produced by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Greece for the 180th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Greece. The design is a reproduction of the painting of Bro. G. Moughios named "Hewing the stone". This cover can be obtained for a cost of 6 U.S.\$ (cash) post-paid from:

Thanasi Nikolaidis
Grand Lodge of Greece
Aharnon 19
Athens 104 38
Greece



Revenue from this cover will go to charity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance June 1, 1991			\$3,341.57
Receipts:			
Dues		\$1,694.00	
Interest		<u>128.85</u>	
Total Receipts		\$1,822.85	<u>1,822.85</u>
Net Available			\$5,664.62
Disbursements:			
Newsletter Printing		\$1,124.10	
Postage-Newsletters		1,456.53	
Subscription to Linn's		33.00	
Newsletter Envelopes		200.00	
Labels		10.49	
Refund of Dues		5.00	
Treasurer's Expenditures		94.50	
Printing	\$13.70		
Postage	\$0.80		
Total Disbursements		<u>\$2,923.62</u>	<u>\$2,923.62</u>
Balance May 31, 1992			\$2,741.20

it does not take a math scholar to evaluate the report above to determine that we are not healthy. Our expenditures outweigh our income by 60%. If we maintain the present status, the Unit will be out of business in two years. There really is only one alternative - increased dues. Unfortunately, with the fixed expenses of postage and the printing of the Newsletter, there is no other way. It appears that an increase for 1993 is inevitable but we will try to hold it to the minimum. In the meantime we must all pitch in to make the Newsletter one worth receiving so all the members will subscribe to the higher dues.

KENNETH KLEINKNECT

Bro. Thomas C. Ehlers, Member #118 of Spokane, WA, has provided a copy of a stamp which pictures a new find in Masonic Philately. The stamp is one of the John F. Kennedy series from Fujeira. The individual is Bro. Kenneth Kleinknect 33 deg. - brother of Bro. Fred Kleinknect, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction.

In a letter to Bro. Ehlers, Bro. Kleinknect states:

"You are correct I am behind L.B.J. The occasion was an awards ceremony in the Rose Garden on May 20, 1963 at which Pres. Kennedy presented awards to various NASA and other Government people for the Manned Space Program.

"Astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, 33 deg, is in the left foreground and Astronaut Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom (Blue Lodge Mason) is in the center foreground. I don't recall the awards presented to Cooper and Grissom. I received the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership."



As Editor, I sincerely wish to thank all of the members who provided inputs for this Newsletter. Many of the "old faithfuls" have sent in articles - they are the backbone of the Unit. But over the past few weeks, I have also heard from several new contributors. There are enough articles to get me well into the next issue. Thanks.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

Great Britain will celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Arthur Sullivan on five stamps to be issued July 21. These stamps depict scenes from five of his most famous comic operas created during the stormy collaboration with satirist and playwright William S. Gilbert. Shown below they illustrate "The Yeomen of the Guard", "The Gondal-ers", "The Mikado", "The Pirates of Penzance" and "Iolanthe".



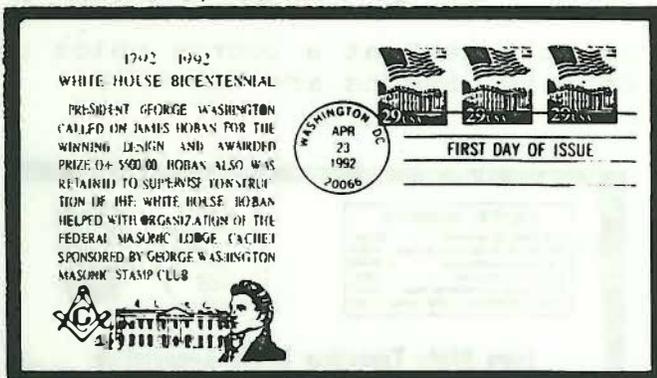
Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan was born on May 13, 1842, in Lambeth, London and served as organist and choirmaster of St. Michael's Chester Square of London from 1861 to 72. He wrote a lot of music besides the operettas but most of it is forgotten: The Tempest, Henry VIII, The Prodigal Son, etc.. He also wrote church hymns such as "Onward Christian Soldiers", "The Lost Chord", "Come Ye Faithful Raise The Strain". The oldest known Sullivan recording is an Edison cylinder from 1880. He died on Nov. 22, 1900. Bro. Sullivan was initiated in the Lodge of Harmony #255 in Richmond, Surrey, on April 11, 1865. He was Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of England in 1887.

Sir William Schwenck Gilbert, 1836-1911, was a member of the bar and a celebrated librettist. Bro. Gilbert was raised on June 23, 1871, in Lodge St. Michar, No. 54, of Aberdeen, Scotland.

-Article provided by Bro. Norman Lincoln,
Member No. 12 of Eaton, OH

GWMSC MASONIC COVERS

Recent GWMSC cover releases are shown here. The White House Bicentennial is available with a single stamp for \$1.30 or a strip of three for \$2.00. The Postal Card is available at a cost of \$1.00. They can be obtained from Bro. Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560.



Kessinger Publishing Company (founded by Roger A. Kessinger, 32 deg) has recently reprinted several rare and out-of-print titles on Freemasonry and related subjects. These books are affordable, perfect-bound, paperbacks, printed on acid-free paper. A free catalog is available from them at Box 160-B, Kila, MT 59920.

WILLIAM RAINY HARPER

On January 23, 1992, the USPS issued a 19 cent Historic Preservation series postal card (Scott UX161) picturing Cobb Hall, the first building of the University of Chicago. The founding and first president of the now world-famed institution was William Rainey Harper who was a Freemason. It was Harper who is credited with inducing John D. Rockefeller, creator of the Standard Oil empire, to contribute the huge sum necessary to ensure the continued existence of the University of Chicago.



William Rainey Harper, 1856-1906, American educator and Hebrew scholar was born in New Concord, Ohio. He was a professor of Hebrew and author of many texts on the Hebrew language and literature. In 1891 he became the first president of the University of Chicago. He recruited an outstanding faculty, fostered advanced instruction and research and maintained a policy of promotion for scholarly research.

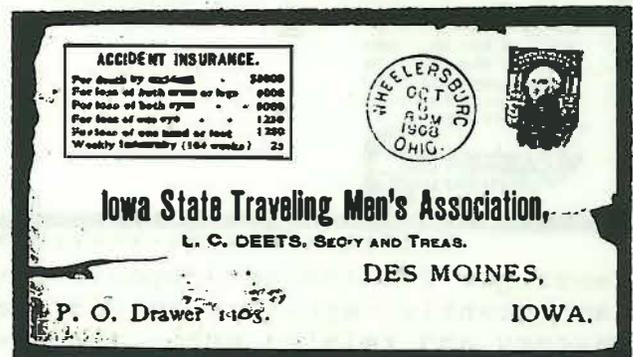
Bro. Harper was raised to the Sublime Degree in Ashlar Lodge in Chicago. This Lodge subsequently merged with Elm Clare Lodge and is now Elm Clare-Ashlar Lodge.

-submitted by Bro. James A. Reynolds,
Member #318, of Chicago.

SPECIAL ITEMS FROM BRO. STAN'S COLLECTION

Bro. Stan Longenecker has sent along two items from his collection to share with the members. The first is a FDC of the M.W. Bro. Harry Truman stamp which has been autographed by Lauren Bacall. A photo of Miss Bacall with Harry indicates the tie. Stan got a lot of help in acquiring this autograph from Bro. Harry Brahmstadt, Member #242, who was manager of a theatre where Miss Bacall was appearing in person.

The second is a find in one of the "cheap boxes" at a bourse which may be addressed to a Masonic Insurance Company. Masons are known as "Traveling Men" aren't they?



SERBIAN ANTI-MASONIC STAMPS

Bro. Gene Fricks, Member #224 of Clementon, NJ. has forwarded a rewrite of a release from the Balkans collectors group in Texas. It was originally written by Dr. Philip Cohen and Ekrem Spahich.

Serbia issued a set of four semipostal stamps in conjunction with the Anti-Masonic Exposition of Oct. 22, 1941. The surtax was earmarked for anti-Masonic, anti-Jewish and anti-Communist propaganda. These four stamps are listed as Scott 2NB15-18.



The Serbian postal administration issued the four semipostals on Jan. 1, 1942, to commemorate the exposition. In no other country of Nazi-occupied Europe were stamps with such content issued. Each stamp is labeled "Anti-Masonic Exhibition" and "Serbia" in Cyrillic. The series depicts a strong and victorious Serbia crushing the Jewish-Communist-Masonic plot for world domination.

The .50+.50 dinar value depicts a dark robed figure with the Star of David on its chest and wearing a Masonic apron cringing and shielding its face. The garment is torn at the right elbow. The high window suggests a prison cell. A light emanates from a circular Serbian symbol, showing four stylized Cyrillic S's which abbreviates the phrase "Only Unity Can Save Serbia".

The 1+1 dinar value shows a square and compasses surmounting the globe with a serpent, the classic symbol of evil. The serpent's back is covered with numerous Stars of David. A strong arm (of Serbia) crushes the serpent; in the upper right corner is the Serbian symbol.

A red five-pointed star with hammer and sickle surmounts the globe on the 2+2 dinar value. Above is a crucifix, adorned by four S's, piercing the communist star and tearing asunder the hammer and sickle.

The 4+4 dinar value shows the Star of David over the globe, with the heavy boot of a Serbian peasant bearing down. The Serb is destroying two pillars, which arise from the star, labeled with the J and B. The upper right corner of this value contains a square version of the Serbian symbol.

The connection of Freemasonry and the Jewish faith stems from the Masonic forgery The Protocols of the Elders of Zion that first appeared late in the 19th century. Taken by the Nazis as a justification for their anti-semitic campaign of genocide, the document was resurrected in the 1930s and given wide currency. The forgery's anti-Masonic origins were glossed over in the systematic effort to exterminate the Jews, although Masons were not spared from the concentration camps. Communism was lumped in the "Zionist plot" in the early 1920s because many of the leaders of the Bolsheviks both in Russia and elsewhere were of Jewish birth.

SERBIAN ANTI-MASONIC STAMPS (CONT'D)

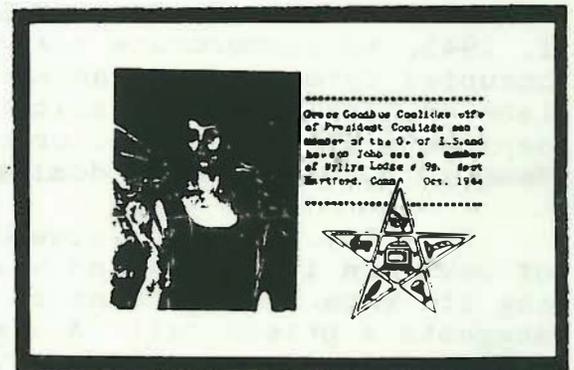
Nazi dismemberment of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia occurred after the conquest of October 1942. Immediately the collaborationist governments of Serbia and Croatia banned Freemasonry and undertook the persecution of Masons and Jews, which were regarded together as part of an international conspiracy. The Serbian police who served the occupier were so faithful in the performance of their duties that the German command in Berlin boasted that Belgrade had been the first major European city to rid itself of its Jewish population - Judenfrei.

With Tito's conquest of Yugoslavia in May 1943, his communist government continued the anti-Masonic activities of their predecessors. Freemasonry was outlawed there until the summer of 1990.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President, was not a Mason but his wife was a member of the Order of Eastern Star and their son, John, was a member of Wyllys Lodge #99 of West Hartford, CT.

While governor of Mass., Coolidge gave a speech to the Grand Lodge of Mass. in which he said: "It has not been my fortune to know very much of Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons, and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meetings in the presence of the open Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation."

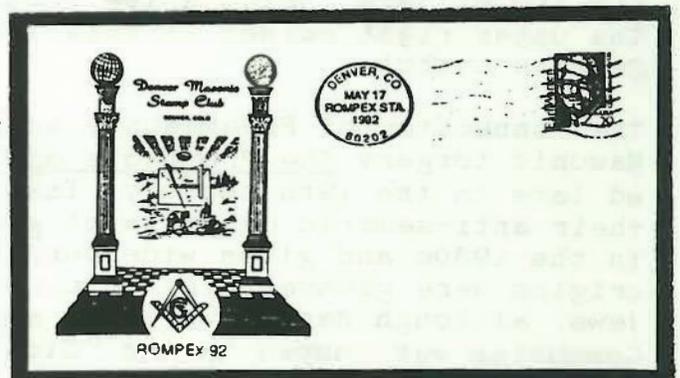


(Observation from Bro. Stan who submitted this item: It seems very unusual, with all his knowing of many Freemasons and having a wife and son of the Fraternity, that he never joined Masonry and that the Grand Lodge of Mass. never attempted to make him a "Mason-at-Sight".)

DENVER MSC COVERS

The latest Denver MSC ROMPEX covers are now available. The varieties of the show cancellation resulted in two different covers being available - from a cancellation standpoint.

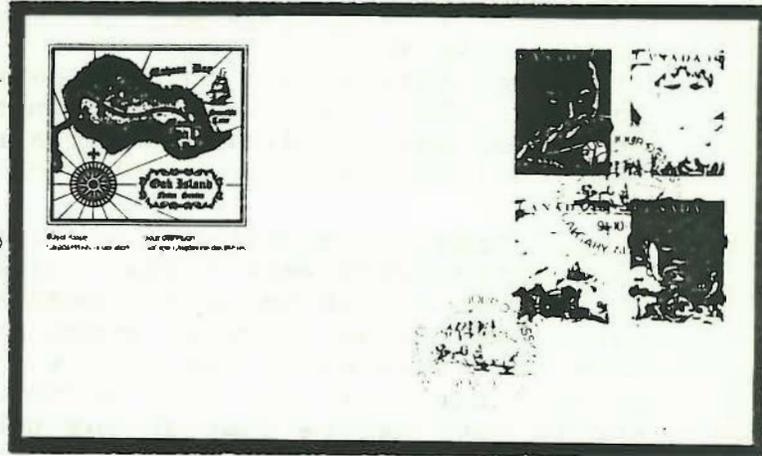
They are available from:
Bro. James N. Adams
2685 So. Sherman Ave.
Denver, CO 80210



PIRATES AND FREEMASONRY

On Oct. 1, 1991, the Canada Post Corp. issued a set of stamps titled: Folktales. The cover for this issue has a picture of Oak Island on the left hand side. Oak Island is on the Atlantic side of Nova Scotia.

In 1795 a young boy discovered a clearing that was littered with rotting tree stumps. In the middle of this clearing was a large oak tree with a severed branch - the limb was sawed off, fifteen feet above the ground. Directly below this limb was a circular depression about 13 feet in diameter. Believe it or not, the digging is still going on to this day and it is estimated that over \$10,000,000 has been sunk into the "Money Pit" as well as half a dozen lives - mostly by Brother Masons.



In 1909 a future President of the U. S., and arguably the greatest President of the Twentieth Century was spending the summer exploring for Oak Island's enigmatic treasure. Even while Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt sat in the Oval Office, his friends were keeping him up to date on the search for Oak Island's Pirate Treasure.

There are several books in print about 'The Big Dig' and they are listed below. The story about what was found and why the search continues is too complicated to handle in a short story such as this. The shaft was engineered by a brilliant designer. At certain depths, sea water causes insurmountable obstacles to those who try to proceed deeper into the man-made shaft. The discovery of new evidence of the elaborate design of the shaft always makes the searchers believe that they are near the end. Just before the hoped-for solution ... another obstacle followed by a new discovery ... the perfect "hell" for the obsessed treasure hunter who "can't quit when we are this close to millions".

"Pirate Treasure" you say, How does this tie in with Freemasonry? If you go to the Public Library and research this topic, you will find that various versions of the 'Jolly Roger' use Masonic Symbols. It matters not if it is the classic 'Jolly Roger' which is very 'Templar' in its symbology or the hour glass with wings or the pirate holding the sword and toasting the skeleton in the 'Happy to meet, sorry to part' manner. I hope I have got you thinking.

In 10,000 Famous Freemasons W. R. Denslow lists a Bro. Dominique You (1775-1830) [no direct relation to the Editor as far as he has been able to determine] whose occupation is listed as 'Pirate and associate of Jean and Pierre Lafitte ... also a good friend of Bro. Andrew Jackson ... pardoned by Pres. Bro. James Monroe, after which he enjoyed the life of a popular politician'. He was a member of Lodge La Concorde of New Orleans according to a certificate dated June 1811. When he received his summons to the Grand Lodge Above, the local Freemasons purchased his cemetery plot and his headstone was inscribed with a Masonic emblem. Many more pirates are listed by Denslow.

PIRATES AND FREEMASONRY (CONT'D)

The Pocket History of Freemasonry by Pick & Knight contains a section titled "At Sea" which is about a ship in 1795 from Maine that was captured by pirates from Tripoli - correct, the captain of both ships. In Volume 1 of The History of Freemasonry by J. S. W. Mitchell, M.D., there is an article from a Scottish newspaper reporting a story from a visiting captain told to his Brethren in Leith and Canongate Lodge on March 5, 1829. This tale also involves a pirate in the South American seas who, upon finding the captain of the captured ship was a Brother, made full apologies and returned his ship and goods to him.

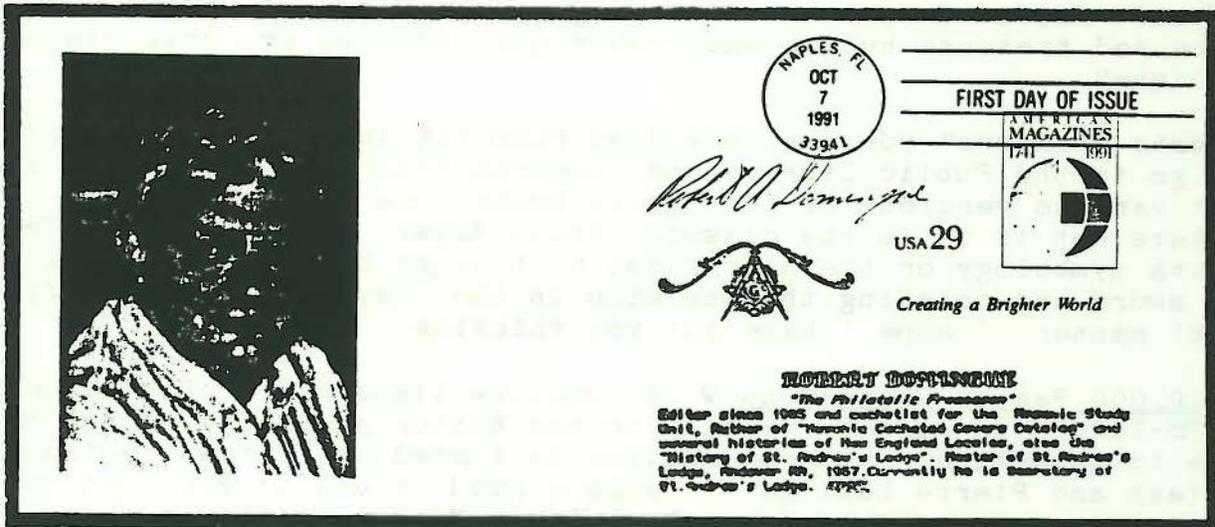
10,000 Famous Freemasons also lists 'Privateers' who were Freemasons. These privateers were 'legal' pirates who were licensed by countries to prey on the shipping of enemy nations. This was a major industry in early America and several prominent Masons were among the ranks. I hope that this essay has started your mind to hunger for the research of this topic; if so, then perhaps you too have that compulsive pattern in your nature that drives the 'Treasure Hunter'.

Oak Island references: The Big Dig by D'Arcy O'Connor
Holy Grail Across the Atlantic by Bradley
The Columbus Conspiracy by Bradley

-Article and cover contributed by Bro. Rafael M. Wulff,
Member #225, Brampton, Ontario, Canada

A TRIBUTE FROM BRO. EDESEL HATFIELD

Bro. Edsel Hatfield, Member #21 of Hazelwood, MO, has bestowed the honor upon your Editor of being the subject of a Masonic Cacheted Cover - for the FDC for the Magazine stamped envelope. The gesture is sincerely appreciated, Bro. Edsel, and the cover will occupy a place of honor in my collection.



For those of you who noticed the transposed Doric and Ionic pillars on Bro. Grahame West's album page of the previous newsletter - be assured that he does know the difference and has forwarded a corrected version of the page - more in the next newsletter.