

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

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Robert A. Domingue
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WHOLE NO. 92

FRANCIS M. BELLAMY



Francis M. Bellamy was born on May 18, 1855. A graduate of the University of Rochester in 1876, he attended the Rochester Theological Seminary and was ordained a Baptist minister. In 1879 he was called to be pastor of the First Baptist Church in Little Falls, N.Y. By 1882 he held two pastorates in Boston. Like many ministers whose congregations were not large enough to support a full time pastor, he supplemented his income by joining the staff of The Youth's Companion magazine in 1891. He also became a leader in the effort to have Columbus Day declared a national holiday - a task which involved lobbying up to and including the President of the United States.

With the announcement of a forthcoming presidential proclamation in early 1892, Bro. Bellamy cast about for some focus to the celebrations that would take place all over the country. As he told it in October 1928, the Pledge came as an inspiration one hot August night in Boston. He intended to foster patriotism among youngsters as part of a movement to make Columbus Day a national holiday; he succeeded beyond his wildest imagination.

Shortly after its publication, Bro. Bellamy accepted the position of manager of advertising with Stone & Webster in Boston where he remained a number of years. He then went with Tampa Electric Co. in 1926 and retired from that firm in August 1931. He died on August 29, 1931, 39 years to the day after writing the pledge, and was buried with Masonic honors in Rome, N.Y. As stated in the previous Newsletter, he was raised in Little Falls Lodge No. 181, Little Falls, N.Y.

-cover from Bro. Edsel Hatfield, member No. 21 of Hazelwood, MO;
article contributed by Bro. E. E. Fricks, member No. 224
of Clementon, NJ

MASONRY IN THE CANAL ZONE

I do not intend to state that the Freemasons take credit for building the Panama Canal nor do I intend to write that without the Masons the Panama Canal wouldn't have been built. I simply feel a pardonable pride in the fact that they had been individually and collectively, as a fraternity, prominent among the builders of the Panama Canal. I cannot list all of the members of the Masonic Fraternity who took part during the construction period of the Panama Canal (1903-1914) but will give some examples of our Brothers' part in this great endeavor. Any Canal Zone stamp can represent our Panama Canal Zone Brethren.

Suffice it to say, the man who made the Panama Canal a reality, President and Brother Theodore Roosevelt, (CZ Stamp 150 & 138; US Stamp 856) and the man he placed originally in charge to organize and assemble the vast organization required for the construction work, Brother John Findlay Wallace (CZ Stamp 140) were members of our Fraternity. From these Brethren down through the positions of greater or lesser importance, there were Masons who were associated in the great work of building the Panama Canal.

The construction of the Canal was divided into three Divisions - the Pacific Division, the Atlantic Division and the Central Division. The engineer in charge of the Atlantic Division and member of the Isthmian Canal Commission was Col. and Brother (later General) William Luther Sibert (CZ Stamp 110). In his honor the Masonic Lodge chartered in Gatun, Canal Zone, was named Sibert Lodge, A.F. & A.M..

Other Masons in the top positions and members of the Isthmian Canal Commission during the construction period were Brother Joseph Clay Styles Blackburn (CZ Stamp 114), head of the Civil Administration of the Panama Canal Zone (1907-09) and Brother Maurice Thatcher, head of the Civil Administration (1910-12). The Thatcher Ferry and Thatcher Ferry Bridge (CZ Stamp 157) were named in his honor.

The first American employee to remove a steam shovel dipperful of excavated material from the Canal was a Mason, Bro. William H. Bates. When the steam shovel work was completed in the Calebra Cut prior to the opening of the Canal, Bro. Bates was then in charge of all steam shovels and had the honor of removing the last steam shovel from the Canal cut before water was admitted.

The newspaper "The Panama American" of September 11, 1913, gave credit of loading the last steam shovel dipperful of materials from the Canal channel to Bro. Albert H. Geddis. He was assisted by Bro. William I. Hudson, craneman on the steam shovel.

M.W. Brother Hezekiah A. Grudger, a Past Grand Master of No. Carolina, was appointed Judge of the District Court of the Canal Zone during the construction period. The office engineer in charge of design work for the Pacific Division was Bro. Harry O. Cole.

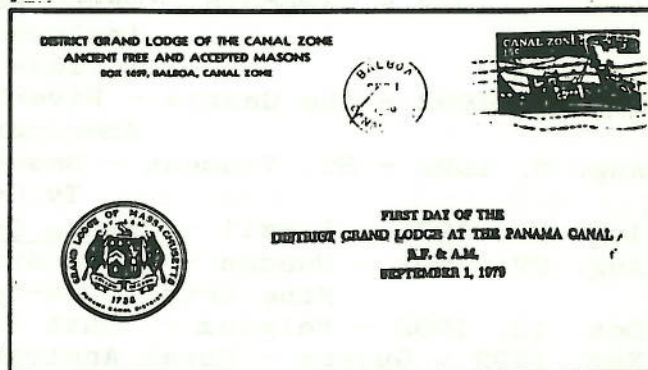
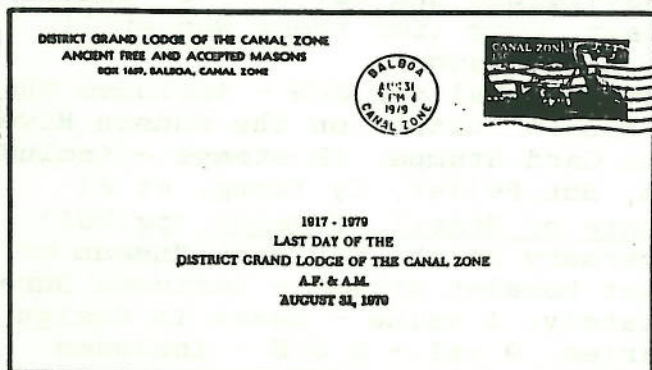
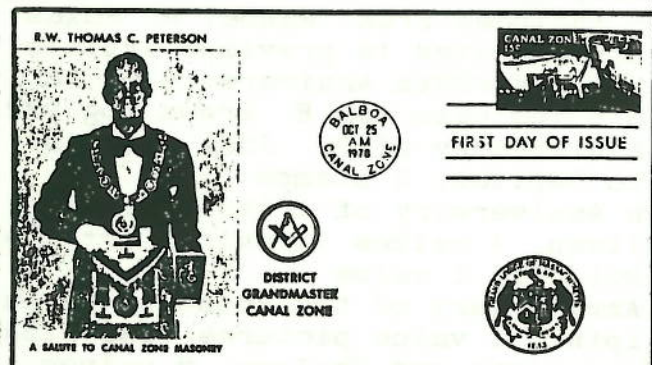
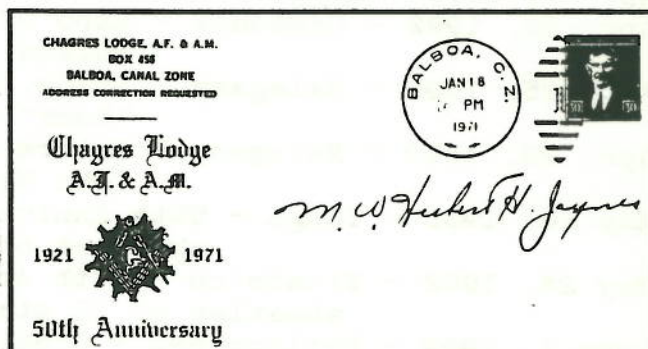
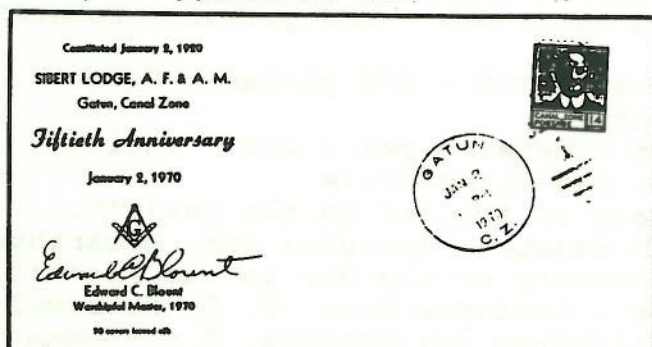
Not many realize that one of the most important operations of Canal construction was the railroad system - because of the requirement of hauling excavated materials out of the Canal. The yardmaster at Corozal, Canal Zone, was Bro. William E. Parker. Bro. Elhanon Zook was Superintendent of Tracks for building of the Canal. Some of the others

MASONRY IN THE CANAL ZONE (CONTD)

playing a role were Bro. Hartley Rowe, Electrical Supervisor at Empire, Canal Zone; Bro. Charles A. Black, Superintendent of Dredging; Bro. John Burke, manager of all commissaries of the Panama Railroad Company; Bro. Frank E. Berry, in charge of testing steel and concrete for the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.; Bro. Frank C. Clark, Asst. Superintendent of Erection of Lock Gates and Machinery; Rev. and Bro. Henry Compton, Chaplain of Isthmian Canal Commission; Bro. Collins P. Gibson, Asst. Superintendent of Construction in the Central Division and Bro. Frank H. Wang, General Counsel of the Panama Canal.

When the Americans first arrived, Masonic Clubs were organized in the townsites. Later, seven Lodges were gradually chartered in the Canal Zone under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. One of these Lodges was named Chagres Lodge after the famous river that feeds the Canal; this Lodge later joined with Canal Zone Isthmian Lodge to become Ancon Lodge.

-article and covers shown below contributed by R. W. Bro. Thomas C. Peterson, Past District Grand Master, R.W. District Grand Lodge at the Panama Canal and member No. 305 of Sarasota, FL.



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of interest to a Masonic Philatelist have recently been announced in the philatelic media.

- Nov. 14, 1991 - Jordan - Blood donation, 1 value
- Dec. 5, 1991 - Mexico - 200th Death Anniversary of Mozart, 1 value
- Dec. 30, 1991 - Maldives - 200th Anniversary of Mozart's death, 6 val.+ Souvenir Sheet
- 1992 - Guinea-Bissau - Healthy Hearts, 2 values
- 1992 - Equatorial Guinea - Homage to Cinema, 3 values - includes Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy
- 1992 - Guyana - Easter/Paintings by Durer (for those who still keep a page on Albrecht Durer), 4 val.+ S/S
- Jan. 31, 1992 - Chile - 200th Death Anniversary of Mozart, 2 values
- Feb. 20, 1992 - Panama - 50th Anniversary of Agreement between Costa Rica and Panama, 3 values - 20c depicts shaking hands
- Mar. 11, 1992 - Guyana - Movie Posters, 12 val.+ 4 S/S - includes Tom Mix, Douglas Fairbanks, Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy and several others.
- Mar. 11, 1992 - Marshall Islands - World War II/50th Anniversary of MacArthur Evacuated from Corregidor, 1 value
- Apr. 7, 1992 - Egypt - World Health Day, 1 value - depicts heart
- Apr. 23, 1992 - Cambodia - Expo 92, 5 val.+ S/S - S/S pictures Robert Fulton
- Apr. 25, 1992 - Malagasy - Space, 5 val.+ S/S - S/S pictures Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin
- Apr. 29, 1992 - Malagasy - Actors and Cinema, 6 val.+ S/S - includes John Wayne and Clark Gable
- May 26, 1992 - Tonga - 50th Anniversary of the War in the Pacific, sheetlet of 12 stamps - includes Gen. MacArthur
- May 26, 1992 - Niuafo'ou - 50th Anniversary of the War in the Pacific, sheetlet of 12 stamps - includes Pres. F. D. Roosevelt
- June 1, 1992 - Philippines - Great Filipines definitives, 5 se-tenant stamps - includes Pres. Manuel A. Roxas and others as cited in previous article
- June 1, 1992 - Grenada - Famous Entertainers/50th Anniversary of USO, 8 val.+ 2 S/S - includes Joe E. Brown (pg.932)
- July 17, 1992 - Philippines - 100th Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal's Exile to Dapitan, 2 stamps
- July 21, 1992 - Great Britain - 150th Anniversary of Arthur Sullivan/Gilbert & Sullivan, 4 values (previous article)
- July 24, 1992 - El Salvador - Simon Bolivar, 1 value
- July 31, 1992 - Philippines - 100th Anniversary of the Founding of La Liga Filipina, 1 value pictures Jose Rizal
- Aug. 1, 1992 - Cambodia - Genoa 92/Navigators and Sailors, 5 values - includes Capt. Cook (for those who still believe he was a Mason)
- Aug. 3, 1992 - The Gambia - Riverboats, 10 val.+ 2 S/S - includes the American 'Robert Fulton' on the Hudson River
- Aug. 5, 1992 - St. Vincent - Baseball Card Stamps, 12 stamps - include Ty Cobb, Bob Feller, Cy Young, et al
- Aug. 20, 1992 - Brazil - Grande Oriente of Brazil, 1 value (pg.931)
- Aug. 27, 1992 - Sweden - 200th Anniversary of the National Museum of Fine Arts, 5 se-tenant booklet stamps - includes Durer
- Oct. 12, 1992 - Belgium - Youth Philately, 1 value - heart in design
- Nov. 1992 - Guyana - Royal Anniversaries, 9 val.+ 2 S/S - includes Prince Philip for his 70th birthday