

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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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1994

WHOLE NO. 99

LAURA ELIZABETH INGALLS WILDER



The USPS release of four stamps on October 23, 1993, highlighting Youth Classics includes Little House on the Prairie and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The latter was written by Samuel L. Clemens, a Freemason who has been well documented, the most recent being on page 513 of the Nov-Dec 1985 Newsletter. The Little House series of books was written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, an Eastern Star member.



The Little House books tell the story of Laura's life. She was born in 1867 in a little log cabin at the edge of a big woods in Wisconsin. Through the years she traveled with her family by covered wagon through Kansas, Minnesota and finally the Dakota Territory where she met and married Almanzo Wilder. There were years of want and hard work. Crops were lost to storms, fire and grasshoppers; but there were also the happy times of love and laughter. In 1894, Laura, Almanzo and their daughter, Rose, moved to Mansfield, Mo., - a town just developing in the Ozarks. They operated an apple farm there named "Rocky Ridge Farm" and also raised crops and animals. By 1911 she had become Editor for a couple of newspapers and organized the Mansfield Farm Loan Association. She and her husband decided to retire in 1929 and after prodding by her daughter, she started writing down the memories of her childhood. Her first book was published in 1932 and at age 65 was suddenly famous and beginning a new career. In 1943, at age 76, she published her last book. In October 1949 Almanzo passed away and she joined him seven years later - three days after her 90th birthday.

Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder was an Eastern Star member with her parents and sister in De Smet, So. Dakota. On May 15, 1897, Mansfield Chapter #76, Mansfield, MO, was Instituted and Constituted. She affiliated with this Chapter and served as Esther that first year. She served as Worthy Matron three times, the first being in 1902 when Almanzo, her husband, was initiated into the Eastern Star. Both she and her husband were extremely active in the Order.

-Article contributed by Bro. Milton P. Youmans, member No. 252 of Waynesville, MO. Excerpted from an article he provided titled "An Evening with Laura Ingalls Wilder", presumably authored by Jo Ann Gray, a friend and fraternal sister of Laura Wilder.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

384. Stephanus Rootman, P.O.Box 1083, Jeffrey's Bay 6330, Republic of South Africa.
388. Ronald J. Young, 200 Mire Court Dr., Slidell, LA 70468.
390. Ole F. Olsen, CMR 427/Box 2494, APO AE 09630.
391. Wyndham M. Lossner, 1702 North Keebler, Collinsville, IL 62234.
393. Elmer L. Nelson, 4220 Oak Hill Rd., Evansville, IN 47711.
395. Milo J. Cumpston, 1949 Bois D'Arc, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

REINSTATEMENT:

128. Jeffrey S. Nelson, 121 E. Arikara Ave., Bismark, ND 58501.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

67. Roy Schwartz, 9530-D S.W. 85th Ave., Ocala, FL 34481
95. Robert C. Krueger, Alexian Village East - Apt 233, 9301 North 76th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224.
230. Donald L. McClenahan, 39248 U.S.Hiwy 19N #156, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
347. Larry D. Moore, 580 Hawkins Ave., No. Braddock, PA 15104.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES:

On November 16, 1993, Bro. Rick Wright, member No. 139 of Lodi, CA, was feted at a Dinner held in his honor. During this event he was presented with the Hiram Award - the highest award that can be bestowed on a Master Mason in the Blue Lodge (in California only??). Congratulations, Bro. Rick.

Bro. Bob Krueger recently moved to a retirement facility (cited above) but, unfortunately, most of the move took place while he was hospitalized as a result of a slight stroke he suffered. He seems to be recovering and I am sure that the prayers and best wishes of all of us are with him in that struggle. Stay with it Bro. Bob.

It is with a great deal of sadness, but with full understanding of the circumstances, that I announce the "End of an Era" in Australia. Bro. Sid Martin, member No. 60 of Lockleys, So. Australia, has disbanded The Australian Masonic Philatelic Study Group. This group, organized by Bro. Martin, has been in existence for 10 years and Sid has published 40 Bulletins over that time frame. Such a decision was not reached lightly and I am sure that Bro. Sid put in many hours weighing the pros and cons of his actions. Age and the recent loss of his wife played a major role in the decision as did difficulties of producing a magnetic Bulletin each quarter. He did output a worthwhile publication and his contributions to the hobby will be sorely missed. I personally hope he will continue his research activities and elect to forward them to us for publication. Bro. Sid - many thanks for your decade of efforts - "Well done, true and faithful servant..." - BRAVO!!

Secretary-Treasurer

Otto Steding

1033 Hollytree Dr.

Cincinnati, OH 45231

Membership:

\$8.00 - No. Amer.

\$14.00 - All Other

President

Stanley Longenecker

930 Wood St.

Mount Joy, PA 17552

1994 USPS ISSUES

Bro. Norm Lincoln, our Research Chairman from Eaton, Ohio, has provided an excellent coverage of the Masons honored on the forthcoming 1994 USPS releases.

Silent Screen Stars - April

Rudolph Valentino, Charlie Chaplin, Lon Chaney and Buster Keaton were not Freemasons. Clara Bow married Rex Bell who was not a Mason. Zasu Pitts was a Roman Catholic and neither of her husbands were Masons.

John Gilbert is listed as a Mason in Denslow's 10,000 Famous Freemasons but no Lodge is mentioned. He was born July 10, 1897 in Logan, Utah. He entered films in 1916 with the Triangle Company; after a number of films with Paramount and Fox, he joined MGM. "The Merry Widow" with Mae Murray directed by Eric Von Strohem made him a star. His next film, "The Big Parade" directed in 1925 by King Vidor is one of the best of all silent films. He was married to Leatrice Joy, Ina Claire and Virginia Brace but his real love was Greta Garbo who starred opposite him in four films. His voice did not suit his image as a great lover and he never succeeded in sound films. He died Jan. 9, 1936.



Harold Lloyd's career has already been profiled in The Philatelic Freemason (page 1045 - May/June 1993 and page 1083 - Nov/Dec 1993).

Theda Bara was born July 29, 1890, in Cincinnati, Ohio; her real name was Theodosia Goodman. William Fox (1879-1952) hired her for "A Fool There Was" in 1915. Fox's Masonic affiliation is unknown but he is believed to be a member of the Craft. Theda Bara appeared in 41 films as a "vamp". In 1921 she married Charles Brabin who was born in Liverpool, England, March 17, 1883. He was a member of Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528. Theda died on April 7, 1955, and her husband died in 1957. Although her career lasted only four years, she was arguably the first superstar of the movies.

The Keystone Kops included several members of the Fraternity:

Max Asher - born in 1879, member of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 506.

Eddie Baker - Nov. 17, 1897 to Feb. 4, 1968, member of Cahuenga Lodge No. 513.

Billie Bevan - 1887-1957, listed as a member of the 233 Club of Hollywood.

Glen Cavender - Aug. 9, 1887 to 1962, member of Mount Olive Lodge No. 506.

Chester Conklin - 1888-1971, member of University Lodge No. 394.

Fred Kelsey - 1884-1961, member and Past Master of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 506.

Hank Mann - 1887-1971, member of Mt. Olive Lodge No. 506.

There is no information yet uncovered of any Masonic membership of Ford Sterling, the most famous of the Kops.

1994 USPS ISSUES

Myers Hall Postal Card - March

Myers Hall at Whittenberg College was the home of Bro. Norman Lincoln in 1950-51. He was born in Preble County, Ohio, May 11, 1932. He earned a BA at Whittenberg in 1953 and an MEd from Miami in 1962. He served in the U.S. Army and then taught high school history. He is now a case worker for the Montgomery County Department of Human Services.



Bro. Lincoln was raised in Bolivar Lodge No. 82, is a Knight York Cross of Honor and Junior Deacon of the Ohio Lodge of Research. He is also a Past President of the Eaton Kiwanis Club and a member of the American Legion, National Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Odd Fellows. He collects and writes about Masons on stamps and Masons on records.

Popular Signers - September

Al Jolson has been cited earlier in connection with the talking pictures stamp of 1977. His show business career was considerably greater than that livelihood. Born Asa Yoelson May 26, 1886, in Srednick (St. Petersburg) Russia and died October 23, 1950, in San Francisco. He came to the U.S. when 7 years old, was reared in Washington, D.C., and made his first stage appearance there. In 1919 he joined Lew Dockstader's minstrel troupe and went on to perform in the circus, vaudeville, minstrels, revues, musical comedy, radio and films. He was a member of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York - "The Actor's Lodge" - being raised on July 1, 1913.



Nat King Cole was born Nathaniel Adams Coles March 17, 1919, in Montgomery, Alabama, and died Feb. 15, 1965 in Santa Monica, CA. He grew up in Chicago and in 1939 formed the King Cole Trio which performed on radio and TV and in films. Although he played a decent jazz piano he is best known as a pop singer of sentimental ballads. He wrote and recorded "Straighten Up and Fly Right" and played W.C. Handy in the film biography "St. Louis Blues", 1958. Other well-remembered hits include "Route 66", "Sentimental Reasons", "Nature Boy" and "Mona Lisa". He made Mel Torme's "Christmas Song" into a permanent fixture of the season. He was a member of Thomas Waller Lodge No. 49 (Prince Hall) of Los Angeles, California, being raised January 31, 1944.

Ethel Merman was married (briefly) to Ernest Borgnine who was born May 24, 1915, in Hamden, CT. After serving in the Navy, he became an actor. He won an Oscar for "Marty" in 1954 and starred in the TV series "McHales Navy", 1962-66, and Airwolf, 1984-86. He was raised in Abington Lodge No. 48, Virginia, and is a member of Melrose Lodge No. 602, California. He is also a Shriner and a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite.

Buffalo Solders - April

Bro. Lincoln states that many of the "Buffalo Soldiers" belonged to a Regimental Lodge but defers to Bro. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., for the information on this organization and these members.

Legends of the West - March

Jim Bridger, Chief Joseph, Bill Pickett, Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, Geronimo, Bill Hickock, Jim Beckworth and Bill Tilghman were not members of the Craft.

John C. Fremont (1813-1890), American explorer and army officer known as "the pathfinder" is often referred to as a Freemason but no proof of membership can be found. He was the son-in-law of Thomas H. Benton, Civil War General who was raised in Iowa City Lodge No. 4, Iowa, in 1849 and served as Grand Master of Iowa 1860-62.

The Masonic career of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody has been well documented in previous issues of this Newsletter (pages 706, 718 and 791)

Charles Goodnight, model of the legendary Texas cattleman, was born in Illinois on March 5, 1836. His family went to Texas and settled near Cameron when he was nine years old. In 1857, he purchased 430 longhorns from his brother-in-law, Claiborne Varner, Charter Master of Waco Lodge No. 92. He drove his new herd up the Brazos to Palo Pinto County where he started his Black Springs Ranch. In 1860 he accompanied Captain Sul Ross and his Texas Rangers in their campaign against the Nocona Comanche on the Pease River.

During the Civil War he was assigned duty as a scout and guide with the frontier regiment fighting the plains tribes in northwest Texas. In 1866 he and Oliver Loving, "Father of the Texas Cattle-drive", became partners and pioneered the famous Goodnight-Loving Trail to New Mexico. He invented and designed the "chuck-wagon" for their first cattle-drive. His partner died at Fort Sumner, NM, and Bro. Goodnight returned the body to Weatherford, Texas, where a burial was performed by Phoenix Lodge No. 275. Loving had requested not to be buried in "foreign" soil. In 1876, with the Comanche finally on the Fort Sill Reservation, he moved his herd to the Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle. Through the introduction of Hereford bulls, he developed one of the nation's finest herds with over 100,000 head on over a million acres. He died on Dec. 12, 1929.

Bro. Charles Goodnight became a member of Jacksboro Lodge No. 238 in 1863 and later affiliated with Belknap Lodge No. 274 and Phoenix Lodge No. 275 at Weatherford. In 1910 he affiliated with Goodnight Lodge No. 1015.

(Information from The Texas Masons by Bro. Pete Normand)



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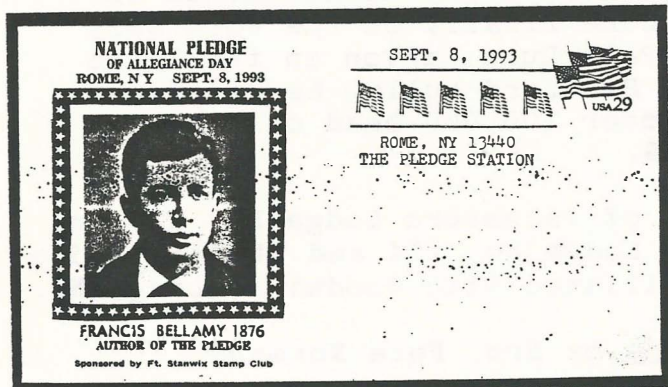
Kit Carson was born Dec. 24, 1809, in Madison County, Ky. While an infant, his parents moved to Howard County, Mo., which was then a wilderness. At the age of 15 he was apprenticed to a saddler but ran away two years later to join a party of hunters in Santa Fe, N.M. He lived the life of a plains trapper for eight years and then appointed hunter for the garrison at Bent's Fort for another eight. Next he served as guide for Gen. John C. Fremont. In 1851 he settled down to ranching near Taos and within a few years was appointed Indian Agent for Colorado Territory even though he was totally illiterate at the time. He became instrumental in bringing about treaties between the Indians and the U.S. At the age of 47 he dictated his memoirs and finally learned to read and write some time in his fifties. He died on May 24, 1868, as a result of an accident in which his horse fell on top of him. This fall resulted in a tumor which pressed on his trachea and led to hemorrhaging into his lungs - yet he smoked his clay pipe right up to the end.

Bro. Carson received his degrees in Montezuma Lodge No. 109 (under Missouri charter) receiving his degrees on March 29, June 17 and Dec. 26, 1854. When Bent Lodge No. 204 was chartered by Missouri in Taos on Dec. 15, 1859, he demitted to it on April 30, 1860, and became its first Junior Warden. This new Lodge surrendered its Charter in 1864 and in 1865, Carson again affiliated with his Mother Lodge and remained a member there until his death.

-information gathered from Denslow's 10,000 Famous Freemasons and Murphy's The Masonic Specialist

Bro. Lincoln has provided a copy of the Guyana souvenir sheet cited in the previous newsletter which depicts Bro. Cecil B. DeMille (upper right) and Bro. Paul Robeson (lower left - stamp misspells his name as Roebeson). Thank you for sharing this with us, Bro. Norm.

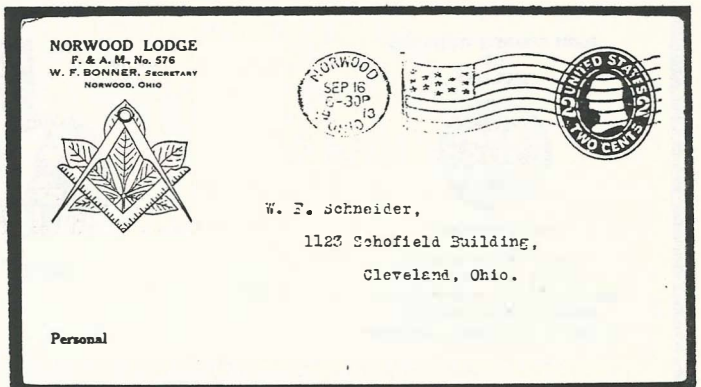
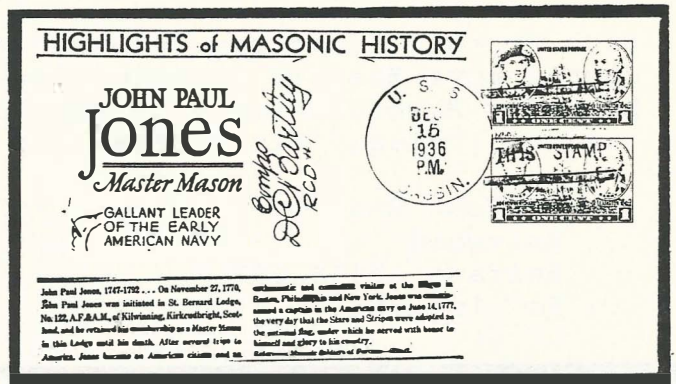




An interesting cover has surfaced which honors Bro. Ralph Bellamy, author of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. Although not Masonic in nature, it would make an interesting addition to a Masonic album. The cover sells for \$1.25 ea (+ SASE) and is available from:
Ft. Stanwix Stamp Club
614 N. James St.
Rome, NY 13440-4232.

SOME INTERESTING COVERS

Bro. David Carlson, member No. 482 of Nashwauk, WI, has sent in some interesting covers he has acquired recently. The hand-made John Paul Jones cover must be unique. The K.T. Insurance cover is different in that it is a 6 3/4 size and not the normal #10 size. The Lodge corner card is quite well done.



ADDED NAMES - GUYANA ISSUE

Since some readers have identified additional names on the Guyana posters, Bro. Norm Lincoln can add a few more - it seems that there are some large magnifying glasses in use.

Ray Bidwell Collins (12/10/1889 - 7/11/1965) Appeared in 74 films after Citizen Kane; also played Lt. Tragg on Perry Mason Show on TV from 1955 to 1963. He was a member of Tehama Lodge No. 3 Sacramento, CA.

Carl Laemmle (1/17/1867 - 1939) "Carl Laemmle presents The Mummy." Head of Universal Studios 1912 to 1936. He was a member of Pacific Lodge No. 233, New York City.

William Fox (1879 - 1952) The Great K & A Train Robbery. Founded Fox Films. Was called a Mason but details not available.

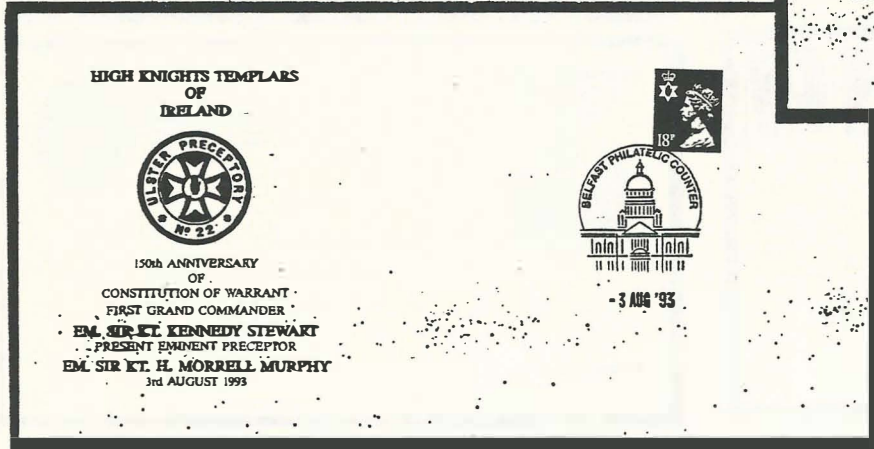
MASONS IN SUPER BOWLS

St. Vincent has issued some "stamps" honoring professional football's Super Bowl. The souvenir sheet for Super Bowl I (1967) shows Bart Starr (No. 15), Green Bay Packers quarterback who is a member of Washington Lodge No. 21, Green Bay, WI. Ray Nitschke, also a member of the same Lodge, played middle line backer for the Packers. Weeb Ewbank coached Joe Namath and the New York Jets to victory in Super Bowl III - he is a member of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 37, Beverly, OH. Johnny Robinson, a member of Cass Lodge No. 147, Harrisonville, Mo, helped the Kansas City Chiefs defeat the Vikings in Super Bowl IV. Billy Ray Smith played defensive tackle for the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III; he is a member of Mountain Pine Lodge No. 147, Henderson, Ark. This list exhausts Bro. Norm Lincoln's repertoire of professional football players in Super Bowls who were Masons.

IRELAND COVERS

Bro. Frank Elliott has released a couple more Masonic Cacheted Covers honoring Masonic events in his homeland of Ireland. His address is:

11 Wood End
Holywood
Belfast BT18 9PN
No. Ireland





Bro. Gene Fricks, member No. 224 of Clementon, NJ, has sent in this illustration of yet another Masonic post card.

CARL HAYDEN

Bro. Lincoln has sent in an interesting cover honoring Bro. Carl Hayden. He was born Oct. 2, 1877 in Tempe, AZ (formerly Hayden's Ferry) and died in 1972. He served as a member of town council of Tempe and treasurer and sheriff of Maricopa County. He served in the infantry in WW I. He entered Congress in 1912 when Arizona became a state and served there 57 years. Bro. Carl Hayden was a member of Tempe Lodge No. 15.



MASONIC ISSUE FROM ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Bro. John M. Cunningham has provided a folder containing Masonic stamps issued by Antigua & Barbuda. The folder states that the stamps are to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of St. John's Lodge No. 492. The First Day for the stamps was apparently August 16, 1993. The information I have learned to date is that they were most likely produced by the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp., 460 West 34th St., New York City. Letters to this firm have gone unanswered to date but I will continue to try for information so we can all acquire this issue.



SYMBOLS FROM PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

Papua & New Guinea issued a set of stamps on Feb. 8, 1967, to mark the commencement of higher education in the Territory. Each stamp contains symbols which can be interpreted to be Masonic in nature. The set comprises:

- 1c Fine Arts
- 3c Surveying
- 4c Civil Engineering
- 5c Science
- 20c Law.

-submitted by Bro. Erhard Stermole, member No. 258 of Victoria, Australia



THOMAS R. MARSHALL

**THOMAS
MARSHALL**

Vice-President Under
WOODROW WILSON

BORN
MARCH 15, 1854

MAILED
MAY 10
'94

RECEIVED
JUN 17 1894
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Ms. P. H. Rensick
4 Jackson Place
Port Washington
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FOR SALE ** FOR SALE

- 1098 -

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues, cited recently in the philatelic media, are applicable to a Masonic Stamp collection:

1992

May 28 Comoros - Explorers set of 6 values and a S/S - the 225 fr value depicts Robert F. Scott.

1993

No Date Equatorial Guinea - 3 value set issued to honor Henry Ford - two show his cars, one depicts him.

Jan. 8 Sierre Leone - Great Boxing Movies - sheetlet of eight stamps which include Wallace Beery and, undoubtedly, some others who are/were Masons.

Jan. 8 Sierre Leone - Masters of the Ring - sheetlet of eight stamps which may picture Freemasons. (Joe Louis, Archie Moore, Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Leonard, Evander Holyfield)

Jan. 14 Marshall Is. - World War II/Casablanca Conference - one value which shows F. D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

Jan. 22 Venezuela - People and Buildings set of 6 values. 2b and 100b show Simon Bolivar, 20b shows Gen. Jose Antonio Paez.

May Ghana - two stamps picturing cars issued for the 100th Anniversary of Henry Ford's first gasoline-powered engine.

Dominica - two stamps and S/S picturing cars issued for the 100th Anniversary of Ford's first gasoline engine.

St. Vincent & The Grenadines - two stamps and S/S picturing cars issued for the 100th Anniversary of Ford's first gasoline engine.

June Grenada-Grenadines - First Anniversary of Willy Brandt's Death - two values and a S/S - design of 75c value includes Lyndon B. Johnson.

June 1 Philippines - Decade of Filipino Nationalism/Great Filipinos - se-tenant strip of five stamps which includes Nicanor Abelardo.

June 2 The Gambia - 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - sheetlet of 8 stamps with 4 different designs - one includes Winston Churchill.

Guyana - 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - sheetlet of 8 stamps with 4 different designs - one includes Prince Philip.

Turks & Caicos - 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - sheetlet of 8 stamps with 4 different designs - one includes Prince Philip.

Maldives - 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - sheetlet of 8 stamps with 4 different designs - one includes Prince Philip.

June 7 The Gambia - 100th Anniversary of first car built by Henry Ford - 12 se-tenant stamps which show H. Ford and his cars.

NEW ISSUES

- June 18 Paraguay - 100th Anniversary of Goethe College - two values showing paintings of Goethe.
- July 5 Tuvalu - four values and a S/S for the 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - one value depicts Prince Philip.
- July 8 Tokelau - four values for the 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - two values depict Prince Philip.
- July 14 Malagasy Republic - Events and Anniversaries - Souvenir Sheet shows Mozart.
- July 26 Cuba - Anniversaries - four stamps - one shows Jose Marti and one shows Carlos Manuel de Cespedes.
- Guyana - Famous Personalities of the 20th Century - three panes of six stamps each. Included are: Cecil B. Demille, Paul Robeson, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin.
- Aug. 16 Anguilla - four values and a S/S for the 40th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - the S/S depicts Prince Philip.
- Aug. 20 Transkei - Heroes of Medicine - four values. The 45c value shows Alexander Fleming.
- Sept. Guyana - Milestones of World War II - eleven values and one S/S - the \$6.50 value depicts Audie Murphy.
- Sept. 21 China - Bees - four values showing bees.
- Oct. 27 Cuba - Latin America Integration - se-tenant block of four stamps which include Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti, Benito Juarez.
- Dec. 1 Marshall Is. - WW II/50th Anniversary of the Teheran Conference - one value which shows Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

OLD COVER

