

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

VOL. 20, NO. 1

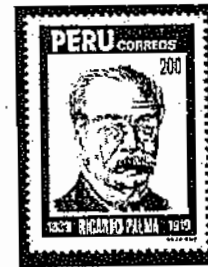
MAY-JUNE 1996

WHOLE NO. 113

RICARDO PALMA  
(1833-1919)



Two stamps of Peru picture Bro. Ricardo Palma; Scott No. C326 of Aug. 27, 1971 (left) and Scott No. 820 of Mar. 20, 1984



This literary and political Peruvian was born Feb. 7, 1833 in Lima. He joined the "Jurical Corps" of the Army at an early age and rose to become an officer in 1853. He was designated an accountant in the war ship "Libertad" and then the "Rimac". He started his political career with a group of liberals under the leadership of Bro. Jose Galvez Egusquiza. They assaulted the house of the president, Ramon Castilla y Marquesado, but it failed and he was banished to Santiago, Chile. He returned to Peru in 1863 and devoted his efforts to literary activities. He became well known for his various articles in magazines and newspapers. His 1863 book, "Anales" ("Annals") started a new literary genus known as "Traditionalism". In 1868, following the rise to power of Bro. Jose Balta (1816-1872), Ricardo Palma became his personal secretary. He was later elected Deputy and Senator for Loreto and in 1887 a constitutional member of the Academia Peruana de la Lengua (Peruvian Academy of the Tongue); he also was one of the founders of the National Library of Peru. He died on Oct. 6, 1919 in Miraflores.

Bro. Palma was initiated on July 4, 1855 in Concordia Universal Lodge No. 4, Lima, and was raised in Virtud y Union Lodge No. 3. He became an honorary member of Cruz Austral Lodge No. 5 in 1860; when he affiliated with this Lodge, he stated "Tired of teaching...I come to Cruz Austral to learn". He was also a member and Worshipful Master (several times) of Estrella Polar Lodge No. 10. He was awarded the 33rd degree in 1877.

-article and stamps provided by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, Barcelona, Spain

\*\*\*\*\*

## MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary-Treasurer

Otto Steding  
1033 Hollytree Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45231

President

Norman Lincoln  
P.O. Box 454  
Eaton, OH 45320

Membership  
\$8.00 - No. America  
\$14.00 - All Others

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS

- 284. Jim Morgan, 1774 Northeast Rd., Nixa, MO 65714-7318
- 324. Clarence Bollinger, RR2 Box 2527, Gouldsboro, PA 18424
- 325. Fred Lowstetter, 5B Pine Valley Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15239
- 333. Gary Prowse, 7646 Terrace St., Ferndale, WA 98248

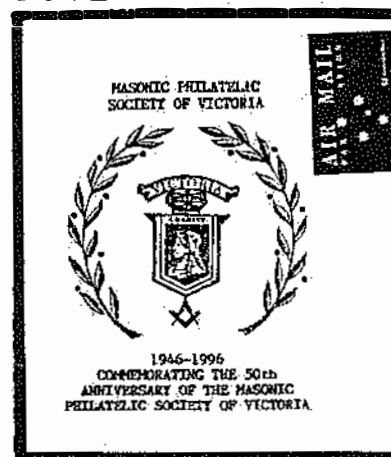
### ADDRESS CHANGES

- 163. Elwood T. Foss, 1445 Winnie E., Swift Current, Sask. S9H 1R2, Canada
- 175. E. A. C. Crab, De Melkpotte 10, 2631 PV Nootdorp, Netherlands
- 428. Andre F. Demets, 340 avenue Lansdowne, Westmount, QC H3Z 2L4, Canada

\*\*\*\*\*

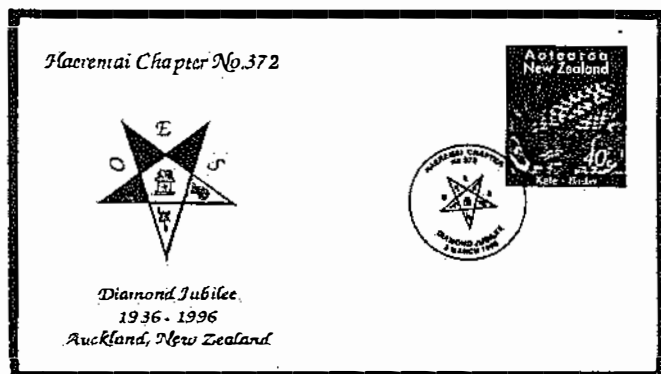
## LATEST AUSTRALIAN MASONIC COVER

Bro. Erhard Stermole, 12 Radford Court, Hoppers Crossing, Victoria 3029, Australia, has notified us of the latest cover effort of The Masonic Philatelic Society of Victoria. It was issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of this group, the oldest Thematic Society in Australia. A small number of Souvenir covers are available at a cost of US\$ 2.50 payment by US banknote or stamps, postpaid, from Bro. Stermole. The cachet design is shown here.



\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ZEALAND COVER FOR ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



Another cover offer from "Down Under" was received from Bro. Vic Fabian

8 Northgrove Ave  
Northcote  
Auckland 1309  
New Zealand

This one commemorates the 60th year, the Diamond Jubilee, of Haeremai Chapter No. 372 on March 2 of this year. An insert card provides information about the Chapter and the stamp used. The cost is US\$ 3.00, postpaid - no checks please - order from Bro. Fabian.

## WHAT IF?

What if the United States Postal Service ended its prohibition against depicting living persons on its stamps? We could have Gene Autry and Roy Rogers get the honors they deserve. Ex-President Gerald Ford would join the Masonic Presidents on US stamps. Ernest Borgnine, Warner Baxter, Wallace Beery, Victor McLaglen, Donald Crisp, Charles Coburn, Burle Ives would become Academy Award winners on stamps. (Clark Gable and John Wayne have already made it.)

Suppose the various churches who vilify Masons suddenly decided to spend their energy fighting sin and social misjustice instead of attacking Masonry? What if Arnold Schwartzenegger and Jim Carrey and Michael Jordan and Joe Montana and Ken Griffey, Jr., decided to petition a Lodge? What if every member paid his dues on time and every Lodge had enough officers?

What if there were a law that no nation could use a person on a stamp unless he or she had some connection to that country? What if there were a limit to the number of issues each nation could have each year? Suppose watermarks and perforations and plate numbers and liminescence made no difference at all? Wouldn't it be nice just to collect the way we did when we were kids?

Suppose all the Grand Officers were elected on the basis of ability, not popularity. Suppose every Mason got to vote on the leaders of the Grand Lodges, not just the priviledged few. Suppose the boring ritual of endless details at inspections were eliminated. What if Masonic Education were not an oxymoron?

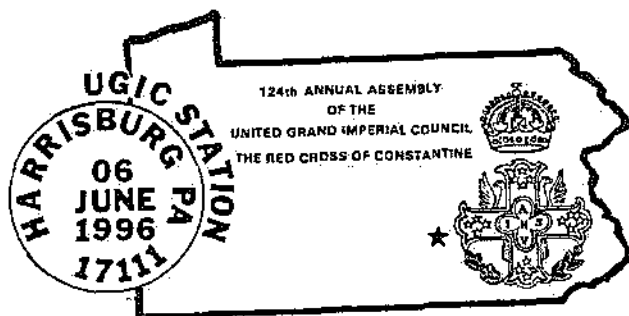
Imagine every school with a stamp club of active collectors. Imagine Masonic Stamp Clubs in every large city. Imagine, just imagine.

-from our President, Bro. Norman Lincoln

\*\*\*\*\*

### UPCOMING MASONIC CANCEL

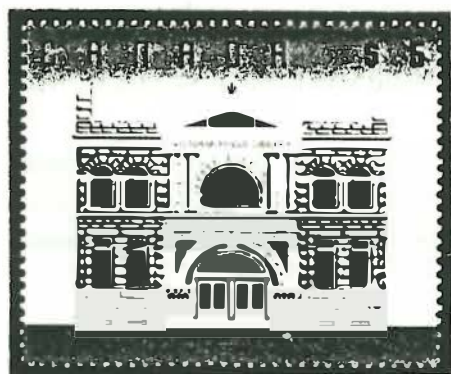
Bro. Stan Longenecker of Mount Joy, PA, has designed a cancel for use at the 124th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council, The Red Cross of Constantine, in June. He received a call from a Harrisburg "official" asking if the organization is Fraternal. It is being sent in for approval - lets hope that it is not maimed or killed as has happened to so many others in the past. Hopefully, Bro. Stan will let us know. In the meantime, requests could be sent to the Postmaster, Harrisburg, PA 17111-9998 to arrive about a week before the intended usage. Natsco and GWMSC will be preparing cacheted covers for the event.



## CANADIAN ARCHITECTURAL STAMPS

Bro. Alan R. P. Golding realizes that many of our Brethren save architectural stamps as a subdivision of Masonic Philately or on their own merit. Consequently, he wanted to pass on information regarding a couple of recent Canadian issues pertaining to that theme.

On November 2, 1995, Canada Post issued three stamps depicting the Corinthian-styled and sculptured Chapters (capitals) by Emile Brunet. That on the left (45c) depicts "The Nativity", that in the center (52c) depicts "The Annunciation" and that on the right (90c) depicts "The Flight to Egypt".



A Canada Post release of February 29, 1996 shows the beautiful and graceful architecture on the Victoria (Carnegie) Public Library in British Columbia's capital. The \$5.00 definitive stamp is the 6th in the Canadian architecture series. This Library is a remarkable example of the Romanesque style of architecture which combines rough stonework, large entrances and deeply set windows. It was constructed in 1904. Note the royal arch over the main portal, complete with keystone, the four majestic columns

surmounted by Ionic Chapters, protected by a triangular peak.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ISSUES

The following new issues have been reported which have pertinence to a Masonic collection.

- 1995 - Costa Rica - Famous Men series. 10 col pictures Antonio Jose de Sucre, 30 col. pictures Jose Marti
- Dec. 8, 1995 - Mali - 100th Anniv. of Cinema/Western Actors, pane of six se-tenant 150 fr stamps - include Tom Mix, Wallace Beery and John Wayne.  
- 100th Anniv. of Cinema/Leading Ladies and Directors, pane of six se-tenant 200 fr stamps - include Cecil B. DeMille.
- Dec. 19, 1995 - Paraguay - 100th Death Anniv. of Jose Marti, two values.
- Jan. 24, 1996 - Nicaragua - 50th Anniv. of V-E Day, pane of eight se-tenant stamps - include W. Churchill and F. D. Roosevelt.
- Mar. 8, 1996 - Uruguay - Souvenir sheet honoring, among others, Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
- Mar. 26, 1996 - Madagascar - Famous people, eight values - the 2500fr stamp shows Thomas Stafford.
- April 22, 1996 - Tristan da Cunha - 70th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth, three values - the 60p stamp shows the Queen and Prince Philip.



## MASONIC CANCELS FROM NEW JERSEY

Bro. Michael R. Mekenian, 711 5th Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ 07762 has created another Masonic cancellation for use at an appropriate event within New Jersey. This time, it is to salute the Diamond Jubilee of the International High Twelve's Investment in Higher Education. Shown here, it will be used in Freehold, NJ, on May 17. He will be preparing covers with this cancellation for sale at a cost of \$5.00 each for black ink (200 will be made) or a set of three different colors for \$15.00 (45 sets will be made). All monies received will be donated to the Masonic Walcott Foundation.



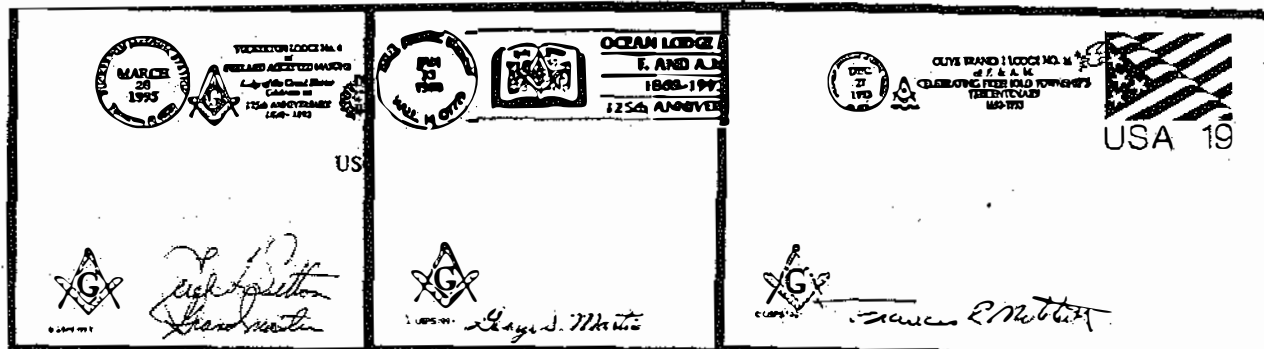
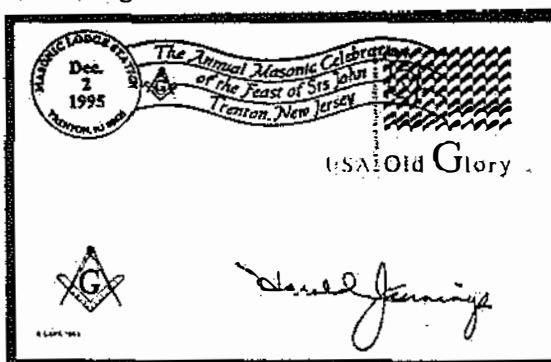
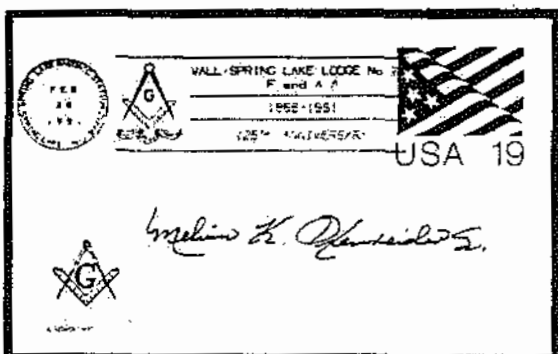
*Freehold Township salutes the  
International High Twelve's  
DIAMOND JUBILEE 1921 - 1996  
Investment in Higher Education  
the Future of America*



\*\*\*\*\*

Over the past six years, Bro. Mekenian has prepared six different Masonic cancellations. The previous five are still available as a set of postal cards cancelled with the special cancel and signed by the Grand Master at that time. He has a limited number of these sets left at a cost of \$12.00 per set.

Feb. 28, 1991 - Wall-Spring Lake Lodge 125th Anniv. - M.W. Melvin K. Oxenrider  
Jan. 23, 1993 - Ocean Lodge 125th Anniv. - M.W. George S. Martin  
Dec. 27, 1993 - Olive Branch Lodge - Freehold 300th - M.W. Frances R. Mitchell  
Mar. 28, 1995 - Tuckerton Lodge 175th Anniv. - M.W. Earl F. Sutton  
Dec. 2, 1995 - Annual Feast of St. John - M.W. Harold Jennings





## ITALO BALBO

Exactly ten years ago this issue, we enjoyed an article on Bro. Italo Balbo prepared by Bro. Andre Demets. Five years later a non-Scott stamp for this Italian Aviator was identified. We now have another article on Bro. Balbo submitted by Bro. Gene Fricks, Clementon, NJ, which reflects information gathered from a new book on this individual. The book is by Robert E. Lana, *The Mass Flights of Italo Balbo: The Flights of 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1933 - A History and Catalog of Their Postal Artifacts*, American Air Mail Society, Greg Schmidt, 1978 Fox Burrow Ct., Neenah, WI 54956-1184, 1996. Perfect bound, 144 pp, illustrated, indexed, \$12.50 [domestic], \$13.50 [foreign].

Italo Balbo is an enigmatic figure from the period between the World Wars. From this vantage point, we are at a loss truly to understand how this prominent Italian Freemason could have also subscribed to the fascist movement founded by Mussolini. Fascism enjoyed widespread popularity among Italians after World War I, a popularity that did not wane, at least in northern and central Italy, until Mussolini led his country into a disastrous war.

By the mid-1930s Italian Freemasonry represented an isolated voice for peace and justice, a potential power center that was perceived as a threat to Mussolini's regime. The Fraternity was pilloried by the movement and its captive press as an agent of French conspiracy. French Freemasons had been prominent in the peace process and the subsequent League of Nations. Likewise, French Freemasons had formed an international clearinghouse in Paris to exchange information. This lent color to the accusations of French Control. Finally, the Fascist Grand Council decreed that all Italian fascists must resign from the Fraternity immediately or be run out of the party. After considerable hesitation, Balbo complied but with much evident discomfiture. At this point the Italian Grand Lodge ceased to meet and the Craft went underground.

Bob Lana's excellent new book discusses none of the Masonic ramifications; his focus is upon developments in Italian aeronautical technology and Balbo's leadership of the Italian Air Force in a number of spectacular aviation feats. Nevertheless, the book evokes the tenor of the period and provides us with some sense of the Italian psyche and motivations. Lana brings together many of the facts of the flights from Italian-language literature for the first time in English.

The author summarizes the life of Balbo, a man full of contradictions. Raised in a politically aware family of school teachers, he started his own newspaper upon graduation from the university and became caught up in a variety of patriotic causes. With Italy's entry into the World War, Balbo enlisted. It was during 1914 that he first became acquainted with a journalist of considerable charisma, Benito Mussolini.

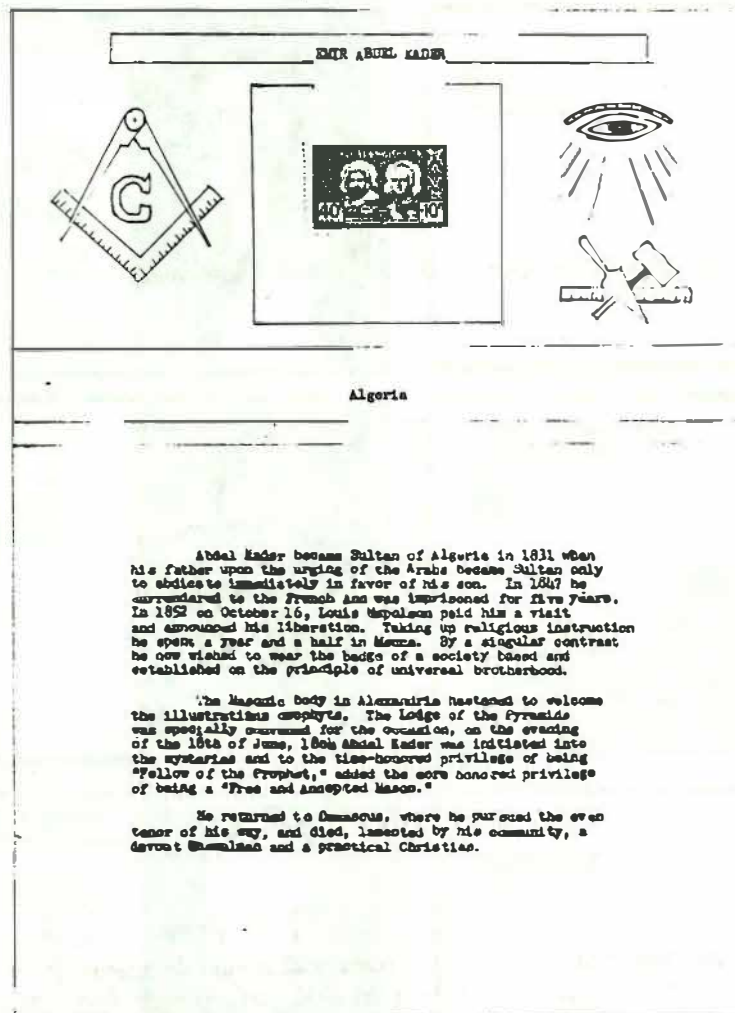
When Mussolini assumed power in 1922, Balbo was appointed commanding general of the militia and then undersecretary in the air ministry. He became a convert to the concept of an independent air force and a devotee of Giulio Douhet's concepts of strategic bombing. To build support among the Italian people for the air force, Balbo undertook many spectacular demonstrations of aviation capability. Italian aviators established speed and endurance records that supported an effort to export aircraft to other nations. They specialized in flights of multiple aircraft, unlike the solo activities of other nations. Italian air accomplishments built national pride and instilled a sense of technical superiority that served well fascist goals. The success of these feats also elevated Balbo to a position of national hero which Mussolini perceived to be a threat to his own power. Consequently, Balbo was shipped off to Libya in 1933 as governor, a position that he filled with distinction. As the 30s wore on, Balbo vehemently protested Mussolini's anti-Jewish laws and the alliance with the Nazis, whom he despised. With the outbreak of war in 1940, Balbo was named commander of the ramshackle Italian forces in North Africa. He was killed by friendly fire after a British air raid on the Tobruk base.

Lana takes us on a tour of Italian aviation developments with an examination of aircraft and engines; the photographs are most interesting. Each of the mass flights then receives some background discussion. A chapter is devoted to maps of flight routes and photographs of the crew members of the 1933 Chicago flight. Some 40 pages into the book, we get to the stamps and covers commemorating the flights. In addition to the Italian issues for the flights of 1930 and 1933, Iceland and Newfoundland produced overprinted issues, the varieties of which are depicted. The catalog portion comprises some 70 pages with each stamp and cover priced (expensive). In summary it is a worthwhile book of material that most of us will never own, but can admire.

## MASONIC PHILATELY COLLECTION FOR SALE

Your Editor has in his possession a six volume collection of Masonic Philately which the owner has asked to be sold. The binders are 1" with slip cases for each. Most of the pages of the first five volumes are hand drawn such as shown here. The first four volumes contain Masons on stamps with a covering of many world-wide countries as well as strong in US. The fifth volume contains Masonic symbols on stamps. Volume six contains 52 Masonic Cacheted covers from the 1959-1965 era, including a complete set of Beltmann's.

The stamps contained in the first five volumes catalog a total of \$1227 using 1994 Scott catalogs; the covers can conservatively be priced as worth at least \$125. The owner wants to dispose of the entire collection as one package rather than break it up. He wants to recover his investment of \$600.00 for the entire lot. If you are interested, please contact the Editor for an itemized listing if you so desire.



Abdel Kader became Sultan of Algeria in 1831 when his father upon the urging of the Arabs became Sultan only to abdicate immediately in favor of his son. In 1847 he surrendered to the French and was imprisoned for five years. In 1852 on October 16, Louis Napoleon paid him a visit and announced his liberation. Taking up religious instruction he spent a year and a half in Meaux. By a singular contrast he now wished to wear the badge of a society based and established on the principle of universal brotherhood.

The Masonic body in Alexandria hastened to welcome the illustrious neophyte. The Lodge of the Pyramids was specially convened for the occasion, on the evening of the 18th of June, 1854 Abdel Kader was initiated into the mysteries and to the time-honored privilege of being "Fellow of the Gavel," added the more honored privilege of being a "Free and Accepted Mason."

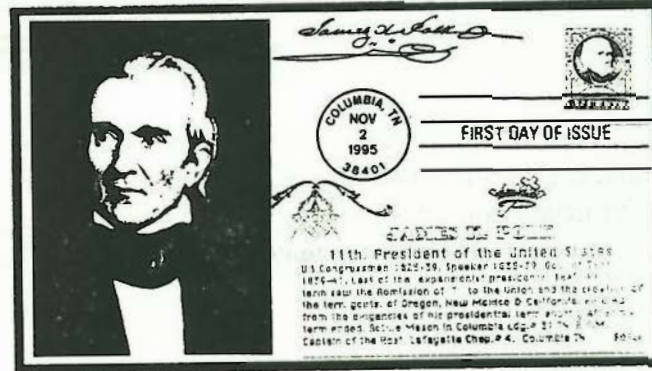
He returned to Annaba, where he pursued the even tenor of his way, and died, lamented by his community, a devout Mussulman and a practical Christian.

\*\*\*\*\*



## EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

Another selection of some of the recent Masonic covers produced by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042 is shown here. Information on purchase of these fine covers is available from Bro. Edsel at the address cited.





## ALPHONSE MUCHA 1860-1939

How many Masonic stamp designers can you name? - other than President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. There aren't very many. One who was a leading artist of his time was Alphonse Mucha. About a hundred years ago he was an important exponent of Art Nouveau - this branch of art can be seen in posters of the period from Toulouse-Lautrec to Aubrey Beardsley. The Scottish Rite (Southern Jurisdiction) for February has an article about him.

Alphonse Marie Mucha was born on July 20, 1860, at Ivancice, Monrovia, which was later part of Czechoslovakia. He began his studies in art in Brno. He was refused entrance to the Academy in Prague in spite of his obvious talent. Instead, he entered the well-known stage design workshop of Kautsky-Brioschi-Buckhardt in Vienna. He found a supporter in Count Khuen and decorated his mansions in Moravia and in Italy. Only then did he study successively at the Munich Academy of Art and the Julien Academy in Paris. He arrived in America in 1904 where he taught in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. His first major successes were posters advertising Sarah Bernhardt in her various roles. He returned to his own country in 1910 and worked over a period of almost 30 years on a monumental painting called "Slavonic Epic" - it has never been permanently installed. In 1918 he designed the first series of postage stamps released by Czechoslovakia. He was one of the leaders of this new nation and became a victim on July 14, 1939, of the Nazi takeover of Czechoslovakia.



The postal issues of 1918 show Hradacany Castle in Prague, the special delivery stamps picture two doves, the postage dues contain numerals and the newspaper stamps have a windhover. These make a nice mini-collection. Bro. Mucha was honored by a commemorative issue in 1960, Scott No. 1019. Every ten years since 1948, Czechoslovakia has issued a stamp honoring its first stamps and their Masonic designer.

Bro. Mucha received his three degrees in 1919 in the Lodge "Jan Amos Komensky" in Prague and his Scottish Rite degrees in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1922. In May 1922 he was installed in the newly consecrated Supreme Council of Czechoslovakia as Sovereign Grand Commander. He held this position to his death.

—article developed from inputs provided by Bro. Norman Lincoln and  
enhanced by data from the Marshal Loke files

The W. Master of Star Line 1241

NEW-YORK  
MAR  
23

Petersburgh  
Penn. 47

117

ANTIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY  
OF  
**Free and Accepted Masons.**

At an adjourned meeting of the GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, held at the City Hotel, in the City of NEW YORK, on Wednesday the 14th day of March, A. D. 1891, A. L. 5821.

The M. W. His Excellency DANIEL D. TOMPKINS, Vice-President of the United States: the GRAND MASTER, in the Court.

The W. B. ROSE, of No. 178, handed up the following Resolution, which was ordered to be printed and distributed to the several Lodges within the jurisdiction:—

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, 25th Wardlight Queens Grand Master, and Grand Warrant, and the Worshipful  
Brethren, comprising the GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, Greeting:

BEFORE COME.

As a member of the Grand Lodge, and believing the interests of Masonry requires it, I deem it my duty, and hereby submit to the Grand Lodge the following notice, and pray the same to be entered in your minutes, and information of the same to be sent by the Grand Secretary to the several Subordinate Lodges in this Jurisdiction:—

**Notice.**

87 persons of our Supreme Grand Master collection, and [redacted] occurring so as to render it practicable and proper, as it is opposed to many restrictions of the first [redacted] of the Grand Lodge, I, of the said small stone the Grand Lodge of 30 have the [redacted] Maine, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, etc. of the Grand Lodge [redacted] stone a system of [redacted] Grand Lodge Lodges, Inc. number in, at having the same leading features, in the same [redacted] by me in [redacted] A. L. 68 25, in Grand Lodge of [redacted]

And further, I give notice that as said Communist (if thought proper) I also propose to have the Representatives from these Subcommunities (which amount to a divorce from the City of New York, attending that Communist, paid their expenses and entire cost as money for traveling to, and returning from, the said Grand Jurors.

I wish to see the following returned to his office, (that as every Lodge has been furnished with a copy of the same above stated, to the purpose is, and will there be considered to full and effect, that it will be returned and put in action in an early date.)

1 remiss, in bonds of National love.

Your affectionate brother,

**In behalf of many brethren,**

FOR THE RECORD

3

OLIVER ADAMS, President  
Zachariah, No. 172.

(A true Copy from the Minutes.)

ELLAS DICKS, Grand Secretary.

-information and material provided by Bro. Charles A. Fricke, Philadelphia

The Honorable Daniel D. Tompkins was an illustrious Mason, a famous statesman and a jurist. He was admitted to Hiram Lodge No. 72 on Feb. 3, 1800, and since this Lodge did not survive for long, he was admitted

## ELECTION TIME

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Masonic Study Unit of the American Topical Association, we must elect a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer every two years. This is the year and the time is now! The following slate of officers is offered on the basis of the suggestions provided by you, the members of this Unit. Please jot your selection on a postal card or note and send it to:

Bro. Otto Steding  
1033 Hollytree Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45231

### For PRESIDENT:

Bro. Norman Lincoln, Member No. 12, Eaton, OH (incumbent)

Bro. E. E. "Gene" Fricks, Member No. 224, Clementon, NJ

### For VICE PRESIDENT

Bro. John O. Welch, Member No. 126, LaGrange, TX (incumbent)

Bro. Robert W. Gilbert, Member No. 387, Robesonia, PA

### For SECRETARY-TREASURER

Bro. Otto Steding, Member No. 45, Cincinnati, OH (Incumbent)

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in, if desired

\*\*\*\*\*

## JAMES GADSDEN



The US issued a stamp on Dec. 30, 1953, Scott No. 1028, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gadsden Purchase. James Gadsden was the U.S. Army officer and diplomat who concluded the treaty with Mexico, acquiring the tract of land known as the Gadsden Purchase. This area consisted of 45,535 square miles; the purchase price was \$10,000,000. This strip of land provided a route for the Southern Pacific Railroad and settled the boundary dispute with Mexico. Bro. Gadsden served in the War of 1812 as an aide-de-camp to General Jackson. He became Minister to Mexico in 1859.

Bro. James Gadsden was an early member of Jackson Lodge No. 23, Tallahassee, FL, which was under the Grand Lodge of Florida; it is now No. 1 of the Florida Jurisdiction.

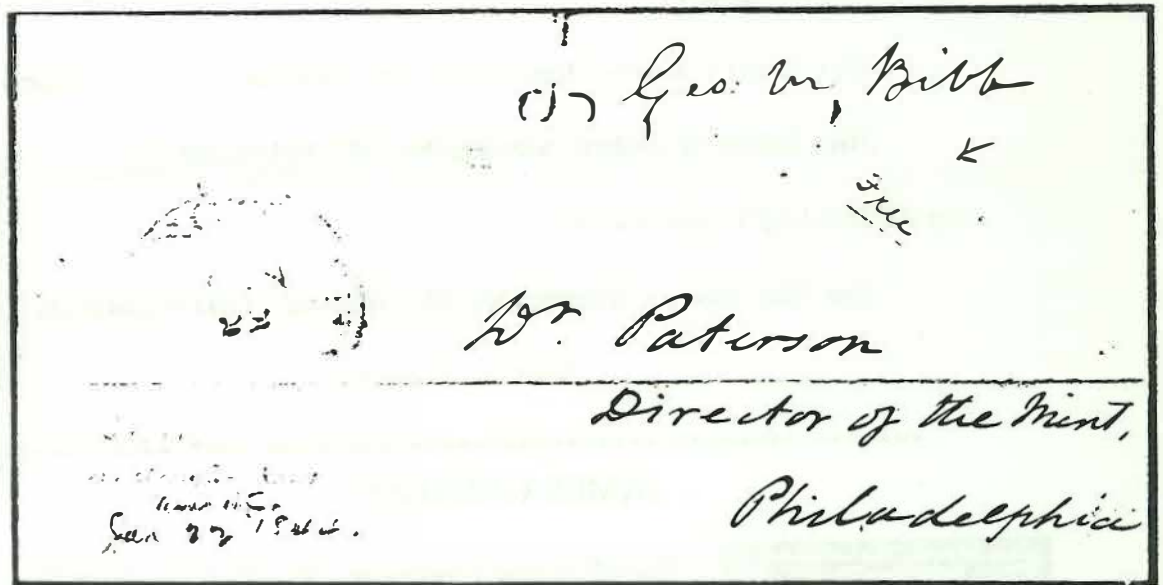


GEORGE M. BIBB  
1776-1859

George M. Bibb was born in 1776 in Prince Edward County, Virginia, but later moved to Kentucky where he was elected Senator from 1811 to 1814 and from 1829 to 1835. He was appointed Secretary of the Treasury by President Tyler on July 4, 1844 and filled the position until March 1845. He served as Professor of ancient languages in the primary department of the Masonic College of Kentucky.

Bro. Bibb served as Worshipful Master of three Lodges in Kentucky - Lexington Lodge No. 1, Lexington, Hiram Lodge No. 4, Frankfort, and Russellville Lodge No. 17 (Charter Master), Russellville. He also served as Secretary for Lexington Lodge No. 1 in 1804 and as the Grand Master of Kentucky in 1804.

George M. Bibb is shown on the \$5.00 Documentary Revenue stamp of 1940, Scott No. R304. Your Editor is also fortunate in having acquired (a number of years ago as the price today would be too high) an 1844 cover franked by Bro. Bibb. Unfortunately, there are no contents which might indicate the purpose of this letter to the Director of the Philadelphia Mint.



\*\*\*\*\*  
LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY  
1858-1954

The Gardening stamp, Scott No. 1100, issued by the U.S. on March 15, 1958, would have portrayed the picture of Liberty H. Bailey but he had not been dead for the 25 year period to be so honored. This noted American Horticulturist and author had died on December 25, 1954, at the age of 97.

Bro. Bailey was raised in Hobasco Lodge No. 716, Ithaca, N. Y.; his father, a member of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, attended that meeting

