



THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor
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59 Greenwood Road
Andover, Mass. 01810

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UNION LODGE CELEBRATES 225th - WITH A PAIR OF COVERS

Union Lodge, F.& A.M. of Nantucket, MA. celebrated its 225th Anniversary on June 1, 1996. Just think, this Lodge was operating several years before our country was established. Bro. Bob Grimes, member No. 202, who served as Worshipful Master of this Lodge in 1986, supplied some historical information pertaining to this Lodge to Bro. Edsel Hatfield, member No. 21. Bro. Edsel, in turn, generated a couple of his fine covers for this event. Shown here, they were donated to the Lodge by Bro. Grimes but he believes there may be some available following the celebration. Write to him at 22 Pleasant St., Nantucket, MA, 02554 for information on their availability and cost.



Nantucket is a beautiful island off the coast of Cape Cod which is steeped in history. In Moby Dick, Herman Melville writes of going to Nantucket for part of his crew. Bro. Ben Franklin's mother was named Abiah Folger and married a Mr. Franklin who set up Nantucket's school system after six children were born on the island. When she was heavy with the seventh child they moved to Boston where a boy was born and they named him Benjamin. The Folgers were an old Nantucket family.

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

Secretary-Treasurer
Otto Steding
1033 Hollytree Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Membership
\$8.00 - North America
\$14.00 - All Other

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

363. Robert M. Walker, 67 Marine Drive, West Amherst, NY 14228
376. John E. Sawyer, 11282 68th Ave. N, Seminole, FL 34642
382. Harry C. Trexler Masonic Library, %Charles S. Canning, 1524 Linden St.,
Allentown, PA 18102
391. Ernest Campos, Jr., 12 View Ave., Warwick, RI
395. Dr. Valentin Gechtman, P.O. Box 5496, 58154 Holon, Israel
405. Pierre R. Raymond, 55 Mead, Hempstead, NY 11550
460. Roger W. Read, 298 New London Tnpk, Stonington, CT 06378

ADDRESS CHANGES:

4. Adrian Faigin, 26861 Trabuco Rd. #E-65, Mission Viejo, CA 92691
52. Madison B. Cole, Jr., 246 North Linden Ave., Westmont, IL 60559
154. John A. Elmore, Jr., 10510 Six Pines Rd., Apt.330, The Woodlands, TX 77380
227. Robert L. Darby, 1336 Solomon Place, Augusta, GA 30901
437. Irving Berg, 2661 Willits Rd.#S-312, Philadelphia, PA 19114

RESIGNED:

92. Alfred R. Werner, Scranton, PA (90 years old)
143. Michael D. Lindsay, Lake Junaluska, NC
151. Martin Davison, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada

CLOSED ALBUMS:

342. Frank A. Clark late of Rancho Cucamonga, CA

New member Bro. Roger W. Read is presently the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

It is with a great personal sorrow that I announce the untimely death of Rt. Wor. Ralph B. Duncan, a personal friend and one known to many of the Unit members as a leading Masonic Deltiologist. Bro. Ralph was serving as the D.D.G.M. of my Masonic District when he died on June 17. He was extremely active in Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and York Rite Masonry at the local and state levels. He was known world-wide for his Masonic Post Card collection and travelled far and wide to speak on it. He was scheduled to become a member of Thomas Harper Lodge in Great Britain during their Consecration Ceremony on June 22, the day he was interred. As Bro. Maurice Beazley states: "The loss of Ralph to Freemasonry is inestimable. His Loss to Masonic Deltiology is a calamity. On a personal note, my life was uplifted by knowing and meeting Ralph. I will be ever grateful to the GAOTU that I was privileged to meet Ralph in New York, and to have him as a house guest in my home for a week during his UK holiday. We visited 6 Masonic meetings/venues and his luminescence is remembered there equally."

DUES ARE DUE

Many of those members whose dues come up for renewal in April have already responded to Bro. Otto Steding with their payment. Those who haven't are urged to do so - we don't want to lose any members. We are proud of our existence and product and want to see it continue. Thank you.

GWMSC COVER

The GWMSC has issued a cover for the 124th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine. Shown here, it is available at a cost of \$1.50 each from the Club Cover Chairman:

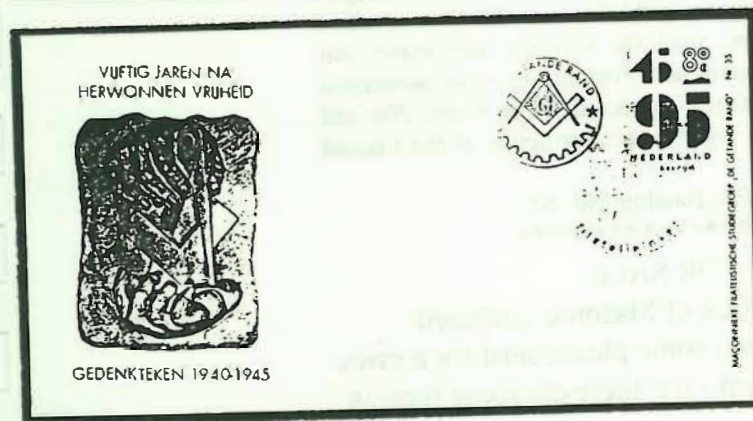
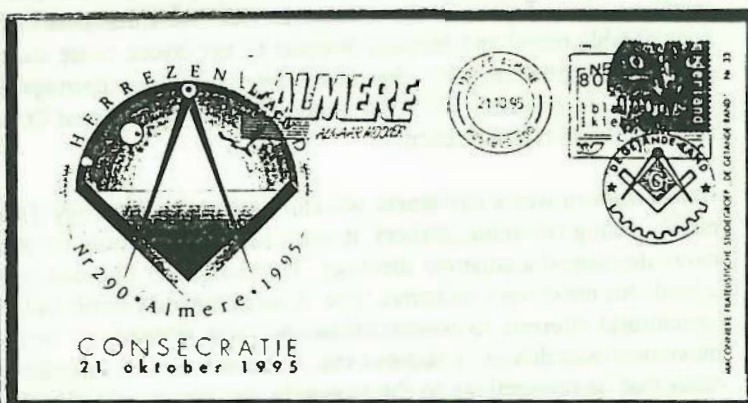
Paul M. Williams
2364 Beaver Valley Pike
New Providence, PA 17560



NETHERLANDS MASONIC COVERS

The covers shown here were issued in 1995 by De Getande Rand, the Masonic Philatelic group of the Netherlands. They are available at a cost of \$5.00 per cover - which includes postage. They can be ordered from: Fr. van Tricht

Bachstraat 3
NL-5283 kk Boxtel
Holland (The Netherlands)



ITALO BALBO

The review of Bob Lana's new book on the philately of the Italian mass flights of the late 1920s and early 1930s prompted some additional reading to gain more insight into Marshal Italo Balbo. Claudio G. Segre's Italo Balbo: A Fascist Life [Univ. of California Press, Berkley, 1987] provides a thorough examination of this man's quixotic life and touches upon his Masonic career.

Balbo always considered himself the spiritual successor of Mazzini, the republican leader and Freemason; this despite his role as the organizer of the Blackshirts and fascist boss of Ferrara. He, above all, organized the 1922 March on Rome that brought Mussolini to power. He was also a member of Girolamo Savonarola Lodge in Ferrara, which he served as Orator.

Ambitious, not a little vain, and very political, Balbo was always regarded by Mussolini as a potential rival. While always faithful to his boss, for whom Balbo seemed to have a genuine admiration, nevertheless Balbo was outspoken within the councils of the Fascist party. He opposed Mussolini on numerous occasions, such as the anti-Semitic laws of the 1930s and suffered several periods of 'shunning' for his efforts.

In October 1924, while Mussolini was preparing for the Locarno conference, violent outbreaks by squads of fascist rowdys occurred around Florence. This embarrassed Mussolini, not only for the impact on his standing while attending the conference, but because Florence was quite important to the Italian tourist industry. The violence was particularly directed at the Masons. Balbo was directed to investigate and instill discipline, which he did with enthusiasm. As Segre points out, this was a real test of Balbo's loyalties as he had been a member of the Loggia di Piazza del Gesu (Scottish Rite).

Balbo apparently became a Freemason because the ritual appealed to his romantic nature and because of the help that fellow Masons extended to him to become established in Ferrara. At least a dozen of the 28 members of the Fascist Grand Council in 1923 were members of the Craft. Members of the order had given considerable moral and financial support to the fascist cause during the March on Rome. Once he came to power, Mussolini opposed the order, distrusting their cosmopolitanism, their anti-clerical and democratic traditions. In February 1923 the Grand Council had ordered its members to choose between the Craft and fascism; Balbo chose fascism.

Italian fascism was a movement without much of an ideology. Founded in the aftermath of World War I by mainly young returning soldiers, it was characterized more by what it opposed than what it represented. It never developed a coherent ideology. The movement opposed, violently, socialism. It extolled patriotism of a loud, but never very reflective type. A predominately north Italian movement, it was supported by the large agricultural interests to counterbalance socialist attempts to organize agricultural workers into unions. The movement was driven by factions that coalesced around individual leaders. Mussolini's brand of the product cultivated its connections to the monarchy and the army. Other factions would have thrown out the king or replaced the army with the fascist militia. Never totalitarian to the degree of the Germans, fascism tolerated and supported more than ten newspapers throughout the country, until the German occupation that criticized the government and one another. It, therefore, becomes clearer how Freemasons could participate in such a movement with a clear conscience. Fascism restored Italian self-respect after the World War and gave Italy some standing as a great power. Ultimately, it led to the widespread destruction of the Second World War.

-article contributed by Bro. Gene Fricks, member No. 224, Haddonfield, NJ

MASONIC CACHETED COVERS FOR SALE

Your Editor has been able to replenish and increase his stock of Masonic Cacheted Covers available for sale. If you are interested in purchasing some please send for a price list. The stock is mostly U.S. - from the 1930s to the present - but there are some foreign covers also available.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

WOLF, WOLF, WOLF

Aesop wrote a fable about this boy who cried wolf once too often and then was ignored when the wolf actually showed up. Are Masons and stamp collectors crying "Wolf" once too often?

For many years philatelists have complained about "sand dune" nations who issue endless stamps for collectors. Scott refused to list them. They received the infamous "Black Blot". Linns provided statistics demonstrating who abused the privilege of issuing stamps. The USPS came under criticism for frivolous and unnecessary stamps. Yet collectors do not listen to the warnings. Will they be surprised if high-tech countries cease printing stamps completely, requiring all mail to have computer-generated labels? Will dealers rejoice if stamps become a thing of the past like buggy whips and mustache cups? They would then be worth more.

Scarcely a Masonic meeting goes by that some Brother does not express the belief that the Lodge is on its last legs. Membership is down, officers are aging, costs are escalating, nobody cares. Will this be a self-fulfilling prophecy?

Some states have begun to initiate large classes of new candidates who are not required to conform to the ancient landmarks of memorizing and examination. In the opinion of many old-timers, the object of the Fraternity is to make Masons, not to acquire numbers. The point being: Before you cry "Wolf", be sure you really have *genus lupus*, not just a large canine. All four-legged animals are not dangerous, nor is every change a threat.

When the meteor wiped out the dinosaurs, it allowed the mammals to survive. The mammals evolved into mankind. So far as we know, the dinosaurs did not collect stamps or meet in Lodges. Perhaps, just perhaps, some good will come from all the Elvis and Marilyn issues. Hopefully, Masonry will survive - if even in an altered form.

TREASURER'S REPORT - as of April 30, 1996

Beginning Balance		\$1,431.08
Receipts		
Dues	\$2,360.92	
Interest	41.76	
TOTAL	\$2,402.68	\$2,402.68
Sub-Total		\$3,833.76
Disbursements		
Postage	\$1,261.83	
Printing	1,018.92	
Linn's Subscription	39.00	
Envelopes	132.60	
Treasurer	101.00	
	\$2,553.35	\$2,553.35
Balance on hand April 30, 1996		\$1,280.41

Jan. 10, 1996 - Cuba - Patriots 6 value set picturing Carlos M. de Céspedes. Jose

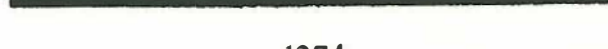
Jan. 29, 1996 - Grenada - Woodcuts by Durer (3 val + S/S) and paintings by Rubens
(3 val + S/S)

March 8, 1996 - Uruguay - Famous people and events, S/S of four stamps which include Yitzhak Rabin.

May 20, 1996 - South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands - Ernest Shackleton's Trek, 4 values

100% of the respondents reported that they had received training in the use of the system.

or Ian Wright
12 Collingwood Road
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk NR30 4LR
Great Britain

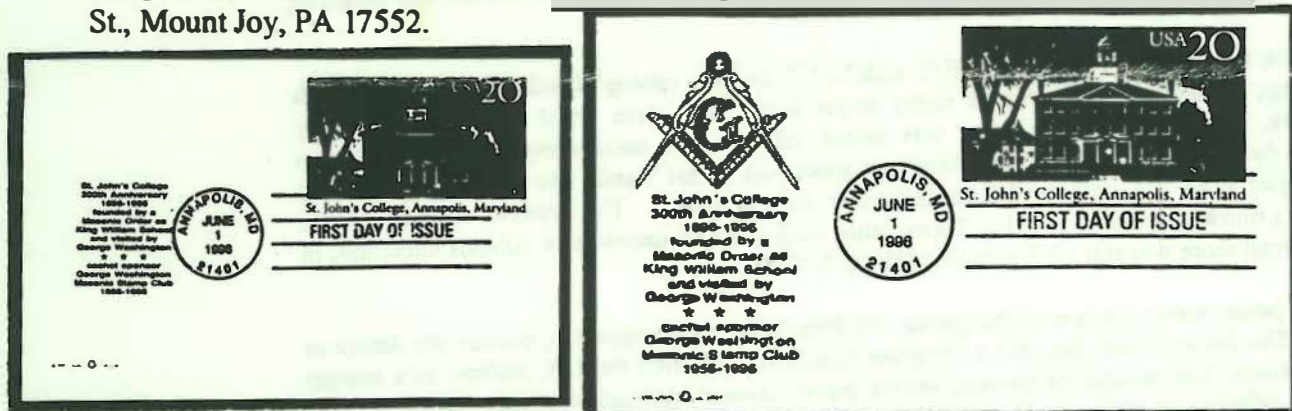


ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE POSTAL CARD

Previous notice had been provided that the USPS postal card for St. John's College was Masonic related. The College itself was apparently founded by a Masonic Order as King William School in 1696 - a date which preceeds organized Speculative Freemasonry. The building pictured, McDowell Hall was initially constructed in 1740 as a residence for the colonial governor, Thomas Bladen. It was never completed since the funds required exceeded those appropriated; the uncompleted building became known as "Bladen's folly". It remained empty and unfinished for 50 years before St. John's acquired it.

McDowell had served as the first Principal of St. John's College from 1790 to 1805. Wor. Bro. George Washington inspected McDowell Hall in the spring of 1791. Francis Scott Key, a 1796 graduate of St. John's, founded the Alumni Association for the college. In December 1824 a Ball was held to honor Bro. Lafayette during his visit to America.

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club has prepared cacheted postal cards and labels for this issue. One of the cards bears a printed cachet, the other the sticker. Copies of these are available from the Club Cover Chairman, Bro. Paul Williams (address cited earlier) for \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. Should anyone desire just the sticker, Bro. Stan Longenecker has several available for the asking and a SASE, his address is 930 Wood St., Mount Joy, PA 17552.



Bro. Stan attended the First Day Ceremony with his wife and some excerpts from his discription of the day's events include: "Off to the nearby St. John's and upon entering the grounds, we were joyed to be among the old campus buildings and especially the big old trees - I think one was eight feet across its trunk but one side was showing a brick and concrete filling - just like one of my old teeth." "We then joined the crowd at the other side of the College Commons in front of the new library building for the library dedication and first day ceremony. There we each received the postal program free. After the speeches and ceremony, we were asked to relax on the commons with some wine, cheese and crackers. One could just sense the history that took place here, Francis Scott Key a graduate and George Washington's step-grandson and two nephews as alumni. A slow walk back to the car just as Washington once might have walked back to his carriage. Now a drive through some of the other narrow streets and old buildings and then to the Naval Academy to sit by the bay to just enjoy this beautiful, sunny first day of June."

ALAN F. WILLIAMS

Olympic Gold - 1924

When France decided that it wanted to capture the first Gold of the 1924 Olympics they urgently requested the U.S. Olympic Committee to field a Rugby Team to compete with their championship French Rugby Team as a kick-off to the games. A U.S. team had won the 1920 Rugby Gold in what was considered a fluke. That team had been disbanded and Rugby was a non-existent sport on the American scene. Consequently, a team from the U.S. looked like a sure fire win for them, one that would guarantee a first Gold of the 1924 Games for France.

Because of the violent propensities of the French Rugby fans, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales had declined to field a team. Only Romania had challenged and they were so poor as to constitute no competition at all. A recruiting call went out in the American Press for volunteers for, as one player put it, "A punching bag to go to France and take our beating like Gentlemen".

Twenty-two of the most magnificent athletes in the U.S. answered the call including four former members of the 1920 Gold Medal Team. The others had never played rugby in their lives before. Six months of training in San Francisco and intense rules and tactics chalkboard sessions on the ocean voyage over got them to France a month in advance of the Games. The last team member was Alan Valentine, All-American football player in England as a Rhodes Scholar, who had become a member of the rugby team at his university in England.

Greeted by the most insanely obnoxious French fan behavior, they were subjected to a month of vituperation and abuse. The French press and even the French Olympic officials cast every obstacle in their way including refusal to allow them an adequate playing field to practice on.

On May 18, 1924, they entered the stadium filled with 50,000 booing, hissing Frenchmen, to face off with Adolphe Jaureguy, reputed to be the fastest rugby player alive. After three brutal, but legal, tackles by American players, Adolphe the magnificent was carted off the field unconscious. As our team ran roughshod over the French team, fans beat American spectators in the stands into unconsciousness and hurled their bodies onto the field to be carried away in ambulances. The referee, terrified of the consequences of a runaway score by the U.S. Team, called back three touchdowns on dubious infractions of the rules but the final score was still 17-3 in favor of the U.S. Team.

In the interest of peace during the rest of the games, the French journalists agreed to portray the American team as heroes. The fickle French fans did a complete turnabout and feted the U.S. athletes in a manner reminiscent of a Roman Bacchanalia for the next several weeks. Almost Hancockish in its prominence is the signature of Alan Williams on the menu from the Palais De'Orsay along with the signatures of eleven of his fellow rugby players.

Rugby was eliminated from the Olympic Games shortly thereafter, never to be reinstated. The U.S. Rugby players still boast of the mighty exploits of the 1920 and the 1924 Gold Medal Teams fielded in Antwerp and Paris.

Alan Williams is recognized as a Freemason although his Lodge is not known to the author of this article nor the Editor. It is believed he was the only Mason on the team. A write-up could be prepared using any of the upcoming Atlanta 96 Olympic stamps.

-article contributed by Bro. Edsel Hatfield, member No. 21, Hazelwood, MO.

MASONIC MARKER POST CARD

Bro. Ernest Sternole, member No. 258 of Victoria, Australia, has provided a copy of this post card which pictures a Masonic marker located at the Black Camp Gap Entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Can any Unit member provide information pertaining to its origin?



JOSEPHINE BAKER

Josephine Baker was born in St. Louis, MO, on June 3, 1906. In 1923, at the age of 16, she joined the chorus of the all-black musical *Shuffle Along* on a post-Broadway American tour and soon attracted attention with her brilliant clowning and dancing. In 1924 she appeared on Broadway in the *Chocolate Dandies*. Ms. Baker moved to Paris and in 1925 starred in *La Revue Nègre*. She became a leading star of the Folies-Bergere. She became a French citizen in 1937 and during World War II helped the Resistance by gathering intelligence.

On Mar. 6, 1960, Josephine Baker was initiated in Lodge Nouvelle Jerusalem, Grande Loge Feminine de France (Feminine Grand Lodge of France) which formed in 1945. In 1961 she received the Legion d'Honneur for her wartime service. After the war she devoted much of her time and resources to her "Rainbow Tribe" - twelve children of different races and religions from around the world. Josephine Baker died April 12, 1975.

-article and cover provided by Bro. Stephen Hill, member No. 323 of Seaside, CA



DANIEL MORGAN



The United States commemorated the 200th Anniversary of the Surrender at Saratoga with a stamp on Oct. 7, 1977. Gen. Daniel Morgan is the officer on the right.

Daniel Morgan was born in 1736, probably in Hunterdon Co., N.J. He moved to Virginia in 1753 to work as a woodsman, a sawmill superintendent and a wagoner. He joined Gen. Braddock's army as a teamster in 1755 during the French and Indian War; he acquired a reputation as an organizer and marksman. Twenty years later he joined Washington's army with his own company of riflemen and, as captain, accompanied Gen. Benedict Arnold to Quebec. Despite being captured by the British, he so distinguished himself at Quebec that when he was released during a prisoner exchange, he was commissioned colonel of the Eleventh Virginians in Nov. 1776. He joined Gen. Gates and contributed to the victories at Saratoga. He was made a brigadier general in 1779, fought at Cowpens in 1781 and retired that year. He was recalled to crush the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794. He served in Congress from 1797 to 1799 and died at Winchester, VA, on July 6, 1802.

There is considerable disagreement among Masonic researchers as to whether or not Daniel Morgan was a Freemason. The most popular version is that he was a member of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 of Virginia - there being an individual of that name in that Lodge at the appropriate time. Bro. J. R. Case of Connecticut disputes this theory but cannot disprove his being a Mason.

ANTONIO MEUCCI

Bro. Meucci (1808-1889), an Italian inventor in the field of telephone communication, is pictured along with Marconi on a stamp issued by Italy on May 5, 1965, to commemorate the Centenary of the ITU.



There is no record of where Antonio Meucci was made a Mason nor which Lodge he served as Worshipful Master. Bro. Wessel Lans believed he belonged to a Lodge in Florence. However, he did serve as the presiding Master for the conferral of the degrees upon Baron Saverio Fava, Ambassador of Italy, in Washington D.C. in the year 1888. He was never a member of Tompkins Lodge No. 471 of Staten Island, NY, but attended meetings there frequently with Guiseppe Garibaldi. According to a report in the Revista Masonica of the Grand Orient of Italy, Bro. Meucci, on Oct. 13, 1889, before he died, in the presence of three Masons of New York as witnesses, wrote his last will and testament and left his 33rd degree ring to be given to M.W. Adriano Lemmi, Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy, in recognition of his everlasting honor to be a Mason for many years. Garibaldi Lodge No. 542 participated in the Masonic Funeral service conducted in his home on Staten Island.

56904, 1332

OSCAR I and II - NORWAY and SWEDEN

Oscar I and Oscar II were father/son kings of Norway and Sweden; it was during the reign of Oscar II that Norway seceded from the union and became a separate nation under King Haakon VII. Oscar I can be seen on an 1856 regular issue of Norway, Oscar II is pictured on several stamps including the Sweden one shown here released in 1878.



Oscar I was born in Paris, France, on July 4, 1790, the only child of Bernadotte who was elected heir to the throne of Sweden on Aug. 21, 1809. He married Josephine, daughter of Eugene Beauharnais, formerly Viceroy of Italy. Oscar I ascended the throne of Norway and Sweden on March 8, 1844. He was a successful composer of music and in 1840 published a work on prisons and the punishment of crime. He died on July 8, 1859, and he was succeeded by sons Charles XV and Oscar II.

Oscar I was named Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden in 1818 by his father, Charles XIV John, and on his father's death in 1844 he became Grand Master and "Vicarius Salomonis". He took very little part in the Masonic activities of Norway but he did have the honor of initiating his son, Oscar II, in 1848.

Oscar II was born on January 21, 1829, in Stockholm. He succeeded to the throne at the death of his brother, Charles XV, on September 18, 1872. He served as King of Norway and Sweden from 1872 to 1905 and, following the separation, as King of Sweden from 1905 to his death in 1907. His literary and artistic talents were said to have been of a very high order.

Oscar II was initiated by his father on December 7, 1848, in St. Erics Lodge (or possibly Noriskor Forsta Lodge). He later served as Master of this Lodge, taking an active part in Freemasonry. He assisted in the initiation of King Edward VII of England in 1868 while he was still Prince of Wales. While his brother, Charles XV, was King, he was Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and upon his own ascension to the throne became Grand Master. During his term as Grand Master, an old palace built in the 17th century was acquired and rebuilt to serve as Freemason's Hall in Stockholm; it is still in use.

-information derived from the files of Bro. Marshall Loke

ELECTIONS

Your Editor has not yet been informed of the election results so that disclosure will have to wait for the next Newsletter.

