

WILLIAM "COUNT" BASIE

The USPS released a stamp on September 11, 1996, to honor this great jazz orchestra leader.





William "Count" Basie was born in Red Bank, NJ, on August 21, 1904. After learning to play the organ from the great "Fats" Waller in the early 1920s, he started touring the vaudeville circuit. In 1928 he was playing piano for Walter Page's Blue Devils in Kansas City and was a member of Bennie Morton's band from 1929 to 1935. In 1935 he formed his own orchestra at the Reno Club in Kansas City. A local radio announcer nicknamed him "Count" after hearing him perform. This group developed a new style of big-band jazz in which the various instruments exchanged ensemble riffs in a free and strongly rythmical interplay with occasional pauses to accomodate extended instrumental solos. His theme song was "One O'Clock Jump". His band appeared in several films starting in 1943 and his was the first black orchestra to play the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. Basie and his orchestra played a royal command performance in 1957 for the Queen of England; they made many appearances on radio and television. The "Count" died in 1984.

Brother William Basie was a member of Wisdom Lodge No. 102 of Chicago, Illinois. In 1975 he received the coveted Achievement Award from M.W. James H. Black, Sr., Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois.

-information provided by Bros. Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., and Norman Lincoln

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

76. Pieter J. Bom, Rede 12, 3891 AR Zeewolde, Netherlands

170. Dr. Z. Kucukalic, Nicolass Anslijnstraat 170, 1068 WZ Amsterdam, Netherlands

342. Raymond R. Blum, 793 3 Lyons St., Morton Grove, IL 60053

428. Eugene L. Saunders, 7701 Lindberg Blvd., Apt. 2203, Philadelphia, PA 19153

Bro. Bom is apparently the new Treasurer of the Netherlands Masonic Group Bro. Blum is presently Secretary of Decalogue Lodge No. 160

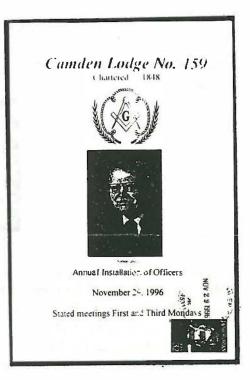
ADDRESS CHANGES:

231. James W. Hogg, P.O. Box 60112, Fort Myers, FL 33906

Our Unit President, Bro. Norm Lincoln, was installed Worshipful Master of Camden Lodge No. 159 of Camden OH, on November 29, 1996. He had a limited number of the installation programs cancelled for the event (sorry, no extras - all spoken for.) I also note that another member of our Unit, Bro. Dwight Seals, member No. 211 of Somerville, OH, is a member of the Sesquicentennial Committee (1998) for that Lodge.

Bro. Kit Carson Price, member No. 72 of Richmond, CA, was installed President of the Richmond High Twelve Club, Chapter #183, Richmond, CA, on November 15, 1996.

At the beginning of November the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey appointed Bro. Gene Fricks, member No. 224 of Clementon, NJ, Deputy Grand Secretary - on an interim basis.



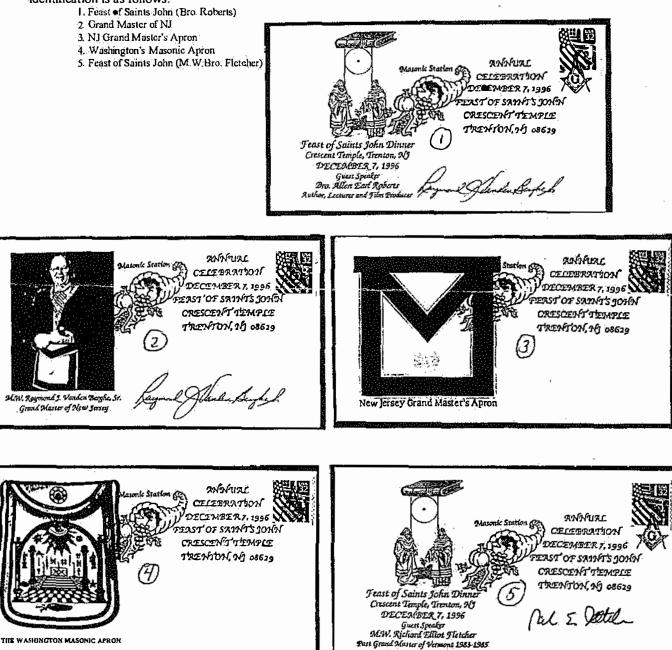
The Charlotte (NC) Philatelic Society is organizing its annual stamp exhibition and bourse, CHARPEX 97, to be held on July 27-28, 1997. The exhibition will consist of 50 frames (15 pages each) and there will be 15 to 20 dealers. Bro. Ferenc F. Sajgo, member No. 270, has facilitated the invitation of Masonic Philatelic exhibits and if five or more are received, they will be judged among themselves with the best receiving an award as well as any others the exhibitor may win in other categories. Let's support this effort by providing some meaningful exhibits on our topic. Contact Bro. Sajgo at 2201 Rocky Knoll Dr., Charlotte, NC 28210 for further information

MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION Secretary-Treasurer President Otto Steding Norman Lincoln 1033 Hollytree Drive P.O. Box 454 Cincinnati, OH 45231 Membership Eaton, OH 45320 \$8.00 - North America

\$1 4.00 - All Other

FEAST OF SAINTS JOHN - CANCEL COVERS

You may have seen the notice in Linns pertaining to the availability of a Masonic cancel for the Annual Feast of Saints John in Trenton, NJ. Our member No. 363, Bro. Michael R. "Dick" Mekenian, designed and produced the cancel and has five different cacheted/autographed covers available which use it. The speaker for the event was to have been Bro. Allan Roberts but he was taken ill and M.W. Bro. Fletcher, Past Grand Master of Vernont, stood in for him. The covers, shown here, are available from Bro. Menekian, 711 5th Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762, at a cost of \$5.00 each - the proceeds go to the G.L. of N.J. Cover identification is as follows:



Bro. Mekenian also has postal cards bearing all seven of the Masonic cancels he has produced - they are available for \$2.00 each or the lot of 7 for \$12.00.

LEONCIO PRADO (1853-1883)

A stamp released by Peru on February 3, 1984, Scott No. 807, pictures Bro Prado.

Leoncio Prado, a Peruvian patriot and military leader, was son of the President Mariano Ignacio Prado. His youth was full of adventures and he received his military education with Cuban patriots who fought for the independence of their country. He also fought, a few years later, against Chile joining with his fellow countrymen. He was seriously wounded in one leg, captured by the Chilean troops and taken to the general headquarters in Huamachucho. Shortly thereafter he was condemned to be executed by a firing squad. He requested that this sentence be carried out while he remained in bed - the execution was conducted in that manner.



Bro. Prado is cited as a Mason in two articles, "La Patria y la Masoneria" and "Ilustres Francmasones de la Independencia Nacional" which appeared in the 1996 Special Edition of the review "Fraternidad", the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Peru.

A 1986 issue from Peru, Scott No. 902, pictures Bro. Barrenechea.



A writer and Peruvian diplomat, Jose Galvez Barrenechea was born in Tarma. He became licensed as an Attorney and was also degreed in Philosophy and Letters. In 1919 he earned the "Natural Flower" in the first Flower Games of Peru and first prize for his "Canto a Espana" and "Reino Interior". He was appointed to several diplomatic positions and served as head of the General Consulate of Peru in Barcelona from 1918 to 1919. As a writer, he was famous for his poems "Bajo la Luna" and "Jardin Cerrado" and his books "Posibilidad de la Literatura Nacional" (1915), "Problemas Iberoamericanos" (1919), "Una Lima que se va" (1912), "Estampas Limenas" (1935) and "Calles de Lima" (1942). He served as Minister of Public Instruction in 1931, Minister of Foreign Relations, Ambassador to Panama in 1936, president of the Sanate and Vice-President of the Republic in the elections of 1945.

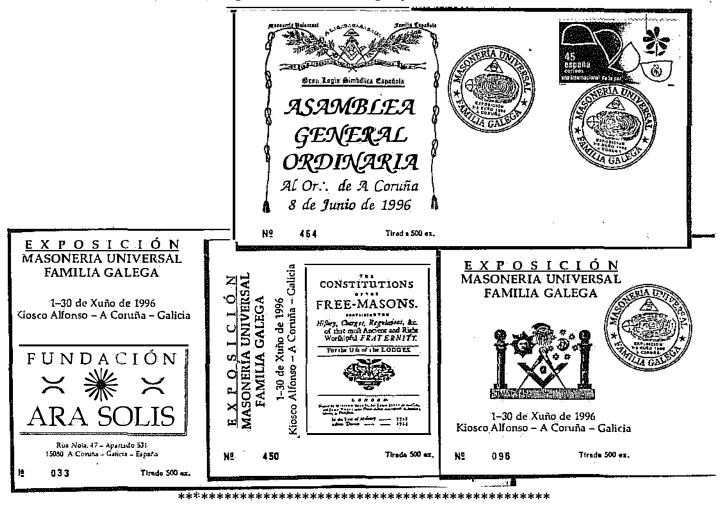
In the Special Edition of the magazine "Fraternidad", the official organ of the Grand Lodge of Peru, there is an article on Bro. Barrenechea titled "Estos Terribles Masones". A photograph is included which pictures him with a Masonic chain and apron. The article ends with the statement (loosely translated): "Joining Masonry for the benevolence of my Brothers, I now resign as Grand Master of Masons of Peru".

-articles provided by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, member No. 243 Barcelona, Spain

SPANISH MASONIC COVERS

During the month of June 1996, a Masonic cover was issued for the Gran Logia Symbolica Espanola on the occasion of an exposition in the city of La Coruna. The cancel translates: "Universal Masonry, Gallega Family". There are four different cachets but all have the same cancel. The edition was limited to 500 of each design and the cost is \$6.00 each or the four for \$20.00. They should be ordered from: Fundacion Ara Solis; Rua Noia, 47; Apartado 531; 15080 A Coruna; Spain.

Bro Juan Sabater Pie has provided this information and states that this Grand Lodge is an irregular Obedience similar to the Grand Orient of France and his Grand Lodge does not have Masonic relations with it. He does, however, have a good friend who is in that group.



MASONIC COVER COLLECTION FOR SALE

Your Editor has a member's Masonic cover collection available for sale. There are a total of 639 covers including GWMSC (345), MSC of NY (115), Beltmann (23), Lyre (4), La. Lodge No. 102 (22), David "C" (49), MSU/Kirby (6), MSU/Domingue (16), Walsh (11), Denver MSC (41), NATSCO (2) and Misc (5). The asking price is \$1100 for the entire lot (in Nu-Ace Albums). If you are interested, write to me for a detailed listing.

Also as part of this collection are some 3-ring binders containing my Cacheted Cover Catalogs - US and Foreign, a complete run of "The Philatelic Freemason" by Walter Kirby and myself and "The Masonic Philatelist" of the MSC of NY from Dec. 1980 (V36,#4) to June 1995 (V51, #2). Any interested parties should contact me so we can "dicker over price".

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS THE DAWN PATROL

During the two decades from WW I to WW II, many novels were written about the pilots who fought a new kind of war in the air. As a young boy, these stories always held my interest. Movies such as "Wings", 1927, with Bro. Richard Arles, "Hells Angels", 1930, and "The Dawn Patrol", 1930, with Bro. Richard Barthelmess added to the mistique of the aces of the air. One phrase which always bothered me was when a flier had "gone west". Not until years later did I travel from east to west.

Then I began to wonder how many common phrases had been adopted from Masonic ritual. Some were stolen from Shakespeare (That undiscovered country) or the Bible (a man plucked off his shoe) but others were original. Dozens of police thrillers of the era have scenes where the good guys give the bad guys the "third degree". My Library of Congress reference book lists three movies of this title from the silent period.

One sometimes hears of pulling the wool over his eyes. This does not mean a real hoodwink, but instead fooling someone. I don't think we intend to fool a Masonic candidate, but to provide the symbolic as well as actual light. I often wonder why high ranking Masons need to talk endlessly about the virtues of the Lodge. The greatest oration ever made consists of only four English words: "Let there be light."

The point to this essay is that Masonic ritual has meanings not always evident to the initiate. We all need to seek more light. One method is to study the stamps in our collections to determine if they have Masonic connotations not previously evident. When found, they should be shared with less informed Brethren.

FERDINAND HANUSCH

Bro. Herman Schmid-Korlath, leader of the Phila-Masonica-Club, Quatour Coronati Wien has provided some further comments on the article on Ferdinand Hanusch which appeared on page 1292 (Sept-Oct 1996 issue). Bro. Hanusch was born in Oberdorf which was within Austria prior to 1918, part of Czechoslovakia from 1918 to 1994 and is now in Slovakia. ("Europe is very complicated.") The monument of Hanusch is still in the Parliament Building - it is a monument of the Republik Austria. The Hanusch Krankenhaus, a hospital, is also named in his honor. (Two Brothers of Dr. Schmid's Mozart Lodge work in that hospital as physicians.)

Bro. Hanousch's Lodge was and is "Lessing zu den drei Ringen" founded in 1897 and reborn in 1946. Under the Emperor Franz Josef I Freemasonry was forbidden in all of Austria - not only in Vienna. That same person, Franz Josef I - the King of Hungary - permitted Freemasons in Hungary. Bratislava was at that time a Hungarian city with the name of Pozsony, which was Pressburg in German, approximately 60 km. from Vienna. It is now the capitol of Slovakia. Finally, Austria was not a communist country after the war - it is a democracy. From 1945 to 1955, Austria was divided into four zones: Russian in the east, England in the south, America in the middle and France in the west. Vienna was also divided into four zones. At the present time there are 45 Lodges working in Austria.

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Thank you Bro. Schmid for this information.

MASONIC COVERS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Bro, Frank H. Elliott has provided another excellent "year end" shipment of Masonic covers dealing with events of interest within his country. Information on their availability should be available from him at 11 Wood End, Holywood, Belfast BT18 9PN, Northern Ireland.



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NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic note have been announced in the philatelic press.

1996 Madagascar - 25th Anniversary of death of C. deGaulle - pane of 12 s etenant stamps. Pierre Brossolette, Winston Churchill and Jean Moulin are included.

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1996 Panama - 25th Anniversary of the Andres Bello Covenant - the one stamp pictures Andres Bello.

May 28, 1996 Nevis - Atlanta/Olympics - pane of nine s etenant stamps. Jim Thorpe is pictured on one, Bob Mathias on another.

- June 26, 1996 Grenada-Grenadines 100th Anniversaty of Radio/Entertainers four values and one S/S. Ed Wynn and Red Skelton are pictured
- July 25, 1996 Guyana 100th Anniversaty of Radio/Entertainers four values plus one S/S. Gene Autry, Red Skelton and Burl Ives are shown.
- July 31, 1996 Dominica 100th Anniversary of Radio/Entertainers four values plus one S/S Duke Ellington is pictured.
- Aug. 26, 1996 Grenada-Grenadines Famous Composers two panes of nine se-tenant stamps. Haydn, Beethoven, Rossini and Mozart are pictured.
- Oct. 26, 1996 Venezuela 132nd Birth Anniversary of Jose Gregorio Hernandez pair of ten se-tenant stamps.
- Nov. 6, 1996 Guernsey 100th Anniversary of Cinema in Guernsey/Classic Screen Detectives - five values. One value shows Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau

Bro. Norm Lincoln offers the following information pertinent to these issues and others recently released.

Brazil - Sept. 16 - <u>Antonio Carlos Gomes</u> was born in 1836 in Sao Paulo and died in 1896. He is remembered for the opera "II Guarany", 1970, which entered the repertory of several companies. He was a member of Lodge Amazade Sao Paulo.

Grenada - June 26 - Eddie Cantor (real name Edward Israel Isskovitz) was born in New York City Jan. 31, 1893. He was in Bro. Gus Edwards Kids Kaberet with Eddie Buzzell and George Jessell. He starred in vaudeville from 1907 as a blackface comedian. He acquired the nickname of "Banjo Eyes". He was in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1917, 18 and 19 and then starred on Broadway in musicals. He had his own radio program sponsored by Chase & Sanborn and started making recordings in 1917. His movie career started in 1926 with co-star Clara Bow in "Kid Boots" and ran to the mid 1930s. He was an early guest star on TV and died on Oct. 10, 1964. Eddie Cantor was a member of Munn Lodge No, 190, New York.

Grenada Grenadines - June 26 - <u>Ed Wynn</u> (real name was Edwin Leopold) was born Nov. 9, 1886, in Philadelphia. He made his stage debut at age 16 (in "American Grit") and was a vaudeville headliner from 1914 to 1925 on the Keith Circuit as the "Fire Chief". He was in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1914 and 1915. He was the star of a dozen shows of which "The Perfect Fool", 1921, was probably the most typical. On radio he is best remembered for "The Texaco Show" from 1932. He was in three forgettable movies until 1957 when he portrayed the title character of "The Great Man" in an amazing dramatic performance. This led to a new career in films which was closed out for Walt Disney as the grandfather in "The Absent Minded Professor and others. He was also a guest star on early television. He died June 19, 1966. He is said to have been a Mason - being raised in Sept. 1924 - but no Lodge has been cited.

- <u>Richard Bernard (Red) Skelton</u> was born July 18, 1913, in Vincennes, Ind. He is often considered America's foremost clown, mime and master of the pratfall. He began his career at age 12 in a tent show then performed in minstrels, medicine shows, carnivals, burlesque houses, circuses and vaudeville. His radio debut was on the Rudy Vallee Show in 1937. The next year he appeared in his first stage production - "Gentleman Unafraid" - in St. Louis and his first film - RKO's "Having a Wonderful Time". He served in the Army in 1944 and was on CBS Radio from 1949 to 1952 and CBS TV from 1953 to 1970. His characters are many and diversified. He has won two Emmys and has starred in over thirty movies. He is a member of Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, Ind., and a 33 deg. Scottish Rite Mason.

Guyana - July 25 - <u>Burl Ives</u> (real name Burle Icle Ivahoe) was born in Hunt Township, Ind., June 14, 1909. He attended East Illinois State Teachers College and played professional football. He became a singer of ballads and folk songs and played minor roles on Broadway. He was in Irving Berlin's "This Is The Army", 1942, and began his movie career in 1946. His television series included "OK Crackerby" and "The Bold Ones". He made hundreds of records for Columbia and Decca and became known as "The Wayfaring Stranger". He died in 1995 and was a member of Magnolia Lodge No. 242, Santa Barbara, CA, being raised in 1977. He was also a member of St. Omer Commandery.

USPS 1997 STAMP PROGRAM

Three Masons are to be honored on stamps in 1997 who have not been honored before; other stamps refer to Masons already pictured on stamps. George Washington and Benjamin Franklin are familiar to all Masonic collectors; John Philip Sousa wrote "The Stars and Stripes Forever". The cornet soloist on that stamp could allude to Herbert Lincoln Clarke, his most famous cornetist (1867-1945) - a member of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York. Was General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., a Prince Hall Mason? Was Raoul Wallenberg a Mason in Sweden? Thornton Wilder was not a Mason but there were some references to Masonry in "The Eighth Day", 1967. James McHenty was a member of Spiritual Lodge No. 23, Baltimore, MD. Chuck Yeager is not a Mason. Bear Bryant, George Halas and Vince Lombardi were not Masons. None of the four conductors were Masons, nor were Samuel Barber, Charles Ives or Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Lawrence Tibbett was not a Mason. Bugs Bunny obviously was not a Mason but his voice was! Mel Blaoc was a member of Midday Lodge No. 188, Portland, Ore. None of the actors portraying movie monsters were Masons. John Boles (1898-1969), Greenville Lodge No. 335, Texas, appeared in a supporting role in "Frankenstein". Co-composer of the chilling music for "The Wolf Man" was Charles Previn (1888-1974) a member of Pacific Lodge No. 233, New York.

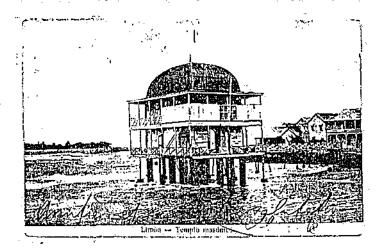
<u>Glenn Scobey "Pop" Warner</u> was born April 15, 1871, at Springville, NY. A graduate of Cornell University, he was the school heavyweight boxing champion and played guard on the football team. He coached at Georgia, Cornell, Carlisle, Pittsburgh, Stanford and Temple amassing a record of 313 wins, 106 losses and 32 ties. He took Stanford to the Rose Bowl three times and developed 47 All-American players. He died Sept. 9, 1954. He was a fifty year member of Springville Lodge No. 351, NY, and was also a member of both the Scottish and York Rites.

<u>Ferdinand Rudolph von Grofe</u> was born in New York City March 27, 1892. An arranger, conductor and composer, he studied in Germany and played violin for the Los Angeles Symphony from 1909 to 1919. He also played the piano in theaters and vaudeville. He was with Bro. Paul Whitman's band from 1917 to 1933 and as Whitman's principal arranger, he orchestrated Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" in 1924. In the 1930s he led a dance band, appeared on radio for Phillip Morris, conducted at Carnegie Hall and played at the New York World's Fair. He taught at Julliard from 1939 to 1942. He died in Santa Monica, CA, April 3, 1972. He was a member of Silver Trowel Lodge No. 414, Los Angeles, and St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City.

<u>Richard Tucker</u> was born Rubin Tucker Aug. 28, 1913, in Brooklyn, NY. He served as cantor for Temple Emanuel in Passaic, NJ, and Temple Adath Israel in Manhattan. In 1936 he married Sarah Perelmuth, sister of tenor Jan Peerce. He appeared on the Metropolitan Audition of the Air in 1944 and made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Enzo in "La Gioconda" on Jan. 25, 1945. For many years he was the principle tenor of the Met and also sang at Vienna, Naples, Rome, Verona, La Scala, Florence, Parina, Buenos Aires and Covent Garden. He made extensive recordings of operas by Verdi and Puccinni. He died Jan. 8, 1975. Bro. Tucker was raised in Perfect Ashlar Lodge No. 604, New York City, June 27, 1940. In Jan. 1956 he became a member of Stepping Stone Lodge No. 1141, Great Neck, NY.

MASONIC TEMPLE POST CARD - LIMON, COSTA RICA

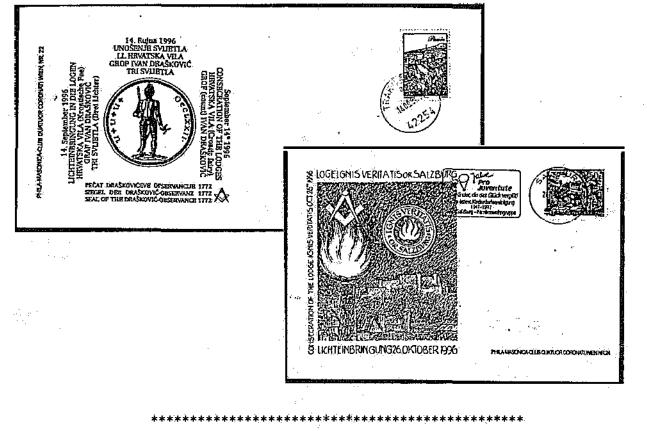
Bro. Charles A Fricke has sent along a copy of a post card of a Masonic Temple to add to those previously illustrated. It can be seen that the edifice is built on pilings out over open water and only accessible by a walkway from the shore. It certainly embodies one of the landmarks of the Craft in making sure that everyone in Open Lodge was a Freemason. A check of Lodges presently operating in Costa Rica did not reveal any in the port of Limon. Can any member shed light on which Lodge occupied this Temple?



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AUSTRIAN MASONIC COVERS

Bro. Herbert Schmid has provided the covers shown here as the latest releases of his Masonic Study Group. Although prices were not identified, they are probably \$3.00 each plus applicable mailing costs. His address is Hackenberggasse 29/33/3, A - 1.190 Wien, Austria.



MASONIC CHRISTMAS CARD

The interesting postal card shown here was sent by Bro. Stief Rootman, member No. 384 of Jeffries Bay, South Africa

Read Airth Lodge Good Friendship The Lodge on the Beach Robert a Moningue 59 Greenwood Ril. andanas May 01810 Our neighbours at the Penguin Rehab Centre

EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

We are glad to report that Bro. Edsel Hatfield has successfully undergone his cataract surgery and is back making covers - seeing better than ever. Some of his recent selection is shown here. He can be reached at P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

