

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

VOL. 22, NO. 1

MAY-JUNE 1998

WHOLE NO. 125

CHARLES ALBERT BROWNING DIRECTOR of "DRACULA"

The USPS issued a set to note classic movie monsters on September 30, 1997. One stamp of the set, Scott No. 3169, depicts Dracula.



The Director of "Dracula", created in 1931, was Charles Albert "Tod" Browning. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, July 7, 1882, he ran away from home as a teenager to become a circus clown and contortionist. By 1913 he had become an actor in Hollywood. He assisted Bro. David W. Griffith with "Intolerance", 1915, and began directing in 1917. In 1925 he directed "The Unholy Three" which starred Lon Chaney as a transvestite ventriloquist, Harry Earles as a midget and Bro. Victor McLagen as a strong man involved in crime. He made seven more silent films with Chaney and he was planning to star the actor in "Dracula" 1931 when Chaney died of cancer. Bela Lugosi, who had played the part on stage, took over. The first part of the film had an eerie atmosphere with Karl Fruend's moving camera and Tschaikovsky's "Swan Lake" in the background. It soon, however, became a photographed play. In 1932 Browning directed "Freaks" which used his circus background but was banned from many theaters. "Mark of the Vampire" was a remake of "London After Midnight" 1927 and was a mystery story. In "the Devil Doll", Lionel Barrymore shrank people (1936). Browning retired in 1942 and settled in Santa Monica where he died October 6, 1962.

Bro. Charles A. Browning was a member of Henry S. Orne Lodge No. 458, Los Angeles, CA, as well as the Scottish Rite and Shrine.

-submitted by Bro. Norman Lincoln, Eaton, OH, Unit President

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

113. Otto Voigt, 4 Orchard Drive, Chester, NJ 07930
155. Claude Seguin, 102 DesPivoines, Aylmer, Quebec J9J 2M3 Canada
256. Golden B. Adkins, Rt. 1 Box 152A, Keyser, WV 26726
TBD. Don R. Dyson, 64 Brentwood Dr., Guelph, Ontario N1H 5M7 Canada

ADDRESS CHANGES:

20. James Zollickoffer, P.O. Box 1120, Union Bridge, MD 21791
135. Henry Wilkinson, Jr., 4545 Chestnut Ridge, Apt. 108A, Amherst, NY 14228
402. Terry Chateau, 418 Willner Circle, Stanford, FL 32711

OTHER:

227. The correct spelling of this Brothers name is: Lorin V. Waitkus - my apologies

MEMBERS DOINGS:

Bro. Zollickoffer cited above received his 50 Year Masonic Service Emblem from the Grand Lodge of Maryland on March 10, 1998. Congratulations on achieving this momentous milestone - especially when we Masonic Philatelists recognize that yours was not an inactive half century.

Bro. Stan Longenecker sent along a progress report on the controlling of his prostate cancer. He had the surgery on March 3 to insert the radioactive seeds and everything seems to be going in a positive direction. The only side effect seems to be that he is "hot stuff" - he cannot hold children on his lap nor be within 3 feet of an expectant mother. The tag that was around his arm after surgery and which he wears on his work coat "tells it all". (I can fully understand the situation having "messed" with 3 curies of Cobalt 57 myself during prior working assignments.)



Bro. Peter J. Westbere of Guelph, Ontario, is still collecting autographs of Famous Freemasons. Several Masonic Baseball Hall of Famers are providing autographs - Bros. Hal Newhouser and Bobby Doerr just to name a couple. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, recently received his Honorary 33rd degree in the Scottish Rite. He received this honor along with Country singer Mel Tillis in Washington, D.C.

Bro. Lincoln reminds us that Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research No. 2076 of London will be meeting in Alexandria, VA, with the Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865 on July 11, 1998. The session at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial will include the presentation of papers by both groups. Bro. Maurice Beazley, our Member #302 of England will be there as well as some other members of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain.

JOHN PARMENTER ROBERTS - NOT A MASON

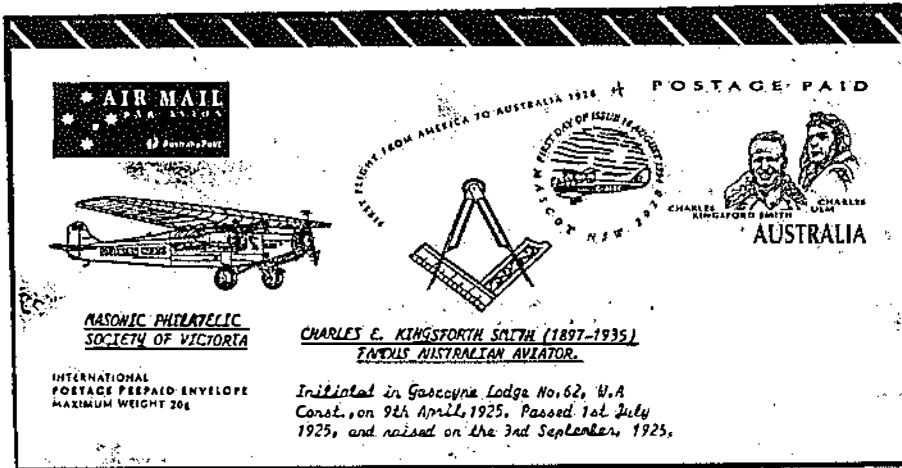
The reported Masonic membership of John P. Roberts, Premier of Ontario, cited in the previous newsletter, is not true. Bro. Alan Golding, Member No. 11, wrote to tell of his error. Bro. Robert M. Allardice, Member No. 178, also wrote on the subject and included a letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ontario which positively stated that they could not find any record of John Roberts' membership. Bro. Golding also sent along a list of all the Premiers of Ontario who were Masons - just in case they are pictured on future issues. The number indicates their sequence as Premier.

4. Arthur Sturgis Hardy (1837-1901) 7/25/1896 - 10/17/1899
Initiated Doric Lodge No. 121, Brantford, 1866
5. Sir George William Ross (1841-1914) 10/21/1899 - 2/7/1905
Initiated Beaver Lodge No. 83, Strathroy, 1872
7. Sir William H. Hearst (1864-1941) 10/2/14 - 11/14/19
Initiated Keystone Lodge No. 412, Sault Ste Marie, 1889; DDGM 1892
8. Ernest Charles Drury (1878-1968) 11/14/19 - 7/16/23
Initiated Corinthian Lodge No. 96, Barrie, 1920
9. George Havard Ferguson (1870-1946) 7/16/23 - 12/15/30
Initiated Mount Zion Lodge No. 28, Kemptville, 1895
10. George Stewart Henry (1871-1958) 12/15/30 - 7/10/34
Initiated York Lodge No. 156, Toronto, 1904; W.M. 1940, Grand Steward 1925
11. Michael Frederick Hepburn (1896-1953) 7/10/34 - 10/21/42
Initiated St. David's Lodge No. 302, St. Thomas, 1927
12. Gordon Daniel Conant (1885-1953) 10/21/42 - 5/18/43
Initiated Cedar Lodge No. 270, Oshawa, 1912
13. Harry Corwin Nixon (1891-1961) 5/18/43 - 8/17/43
Initiated St. George Lodge No. 243, St. George, 1919
14. George Alexander Drew (1894-1974) 8/17/43 - 10/19/48
Initiated Waverly Lodge No. 361, Guelph, 1923
15. Thomas Laird Kennedy (1878-1959) 10/19/48 - 5/4/49
Initiated River Park Lodge No. 356, Streetsville, 1905
16. Leslie Miscampbell Frost (1895-1973) 5/4/49 - 11/8/61
Initiated Faithful Brethren Lodge No. 77, Lindsay, 1926
18. William Greenville Davis (1929-) 3/1/71 -
Initiated Flower City Lodge No. 689, Brampton, 1961

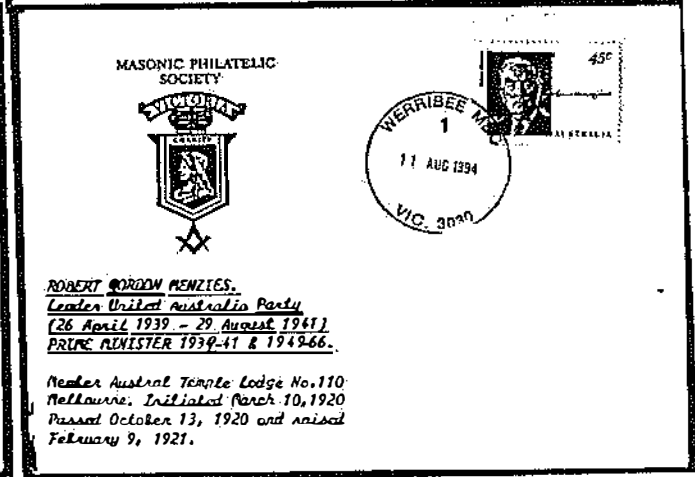
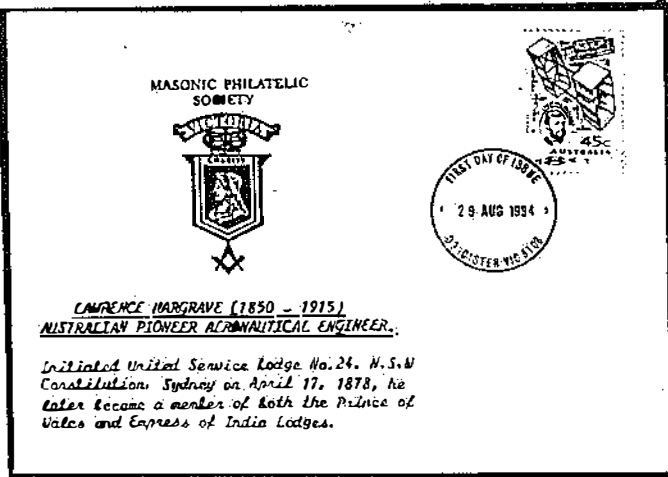
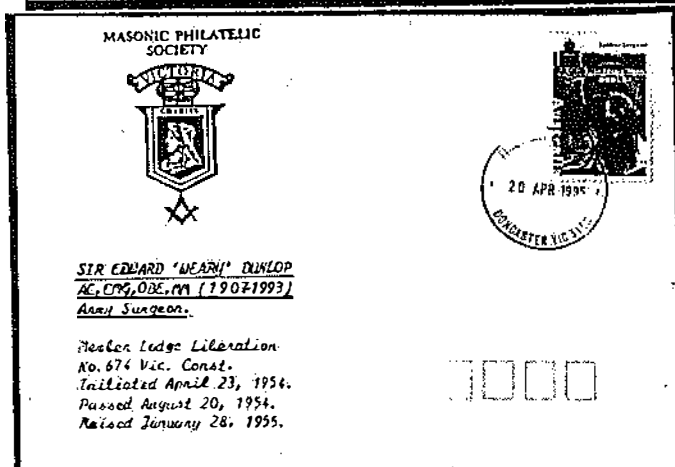
ELECTIONS

A call was issued in the previous Newsletter for nominations for the elected offices of this Unit - in accordance with our By-Laws. There were no responses received other than from our President who agreed he would serve again unless he is impeached. As we are seeing with our respective Lodges, this is not an uncommon occurrence and we should be pleased that we have members who will continue in their stations - especially our Secretary-Treasurer, Bro. Otto Stedding. He is doing a great job and I, personally, thank him. I am sure the other members also join in on this round of "thanks".

MORE COVERS FROM AUSTRALIA



Bro. Ernest Stermole has donated some more Australian covers to be given away to members of the Unit for the asking. When requesting them from your Editor, please include a #10 SASE. Thank you Bro. Stermole.



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

NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Canada is issuing a stamp for the 125th anniversary of this group later in 1998. The stamp shown here - issued on June 1, 1935 - also pictures a member of this elite organization. Two Canadian Masons associated with the Mounties are identified by Bro. Robert M. Allardice.



SAMUEL BENFIELD STEELE

Sam Steele was a legend in his own colorful lifetime. As a soldier and policeman, he turned up at most Canadian trouble spots - and in Canada's wars overseas - for half a century. As a 17-year old militiaman, he helped repel Fenians raiding into Upper Canada from the United States. He was given the rank of Sergeant Major when he joined the fledgling North West Mounted Police in 1873. He was on the great trek of 1874-1875 when the Mounties took the law to the West. In the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, he led the pursuit of the Indian leader, Big Bear. Two years later, he took the NWMP into British Columbia and built a post at Galbraith's Ferry (later renamed Fort Steele).

In 1898, sent to police the mountain passes the Klondike gold seekers used, he became known as the Lion of the Yukon. At the White Pass custom house, where snow seemed to fall endlessly, Mounties suffered great hardships. Steele, racked with bronchitis, heard that the inspector at the customs house was ill. Against doctor's orders he climbed the pass, ordered the inspector off duty and took over. Steele recruited a calvary regiment that served with distinction in the South African War. He raised the 2nd Division in Canada in 1915 and led it to Britain. He won a knighthood and was made a Major General. He died in England in 1919.

Although there is no record of his Masonic career, the Grand Lodge of British Columbia claims that Bro. Steele was a Mason.

HENRY ASHBJORN LARSEN

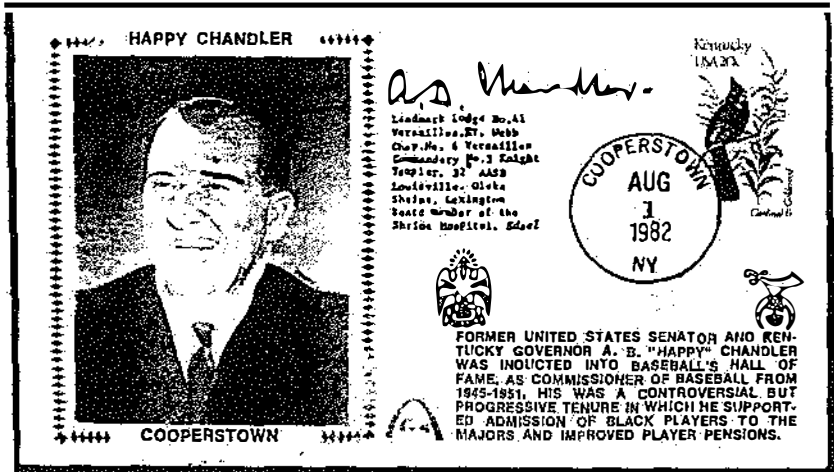
Larsen was born at Fredickstad, Norway, on September 30, 1899, and died at Vancouver, B.C., on October 29, 1964. He went to sea in a square rigger at the age of 15. He became a Canadian citizen in 1927 and in 1928 joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He was assigned as First Mate on the RCMP schooner St. Roche on her maiden voyage to the western Arctic in 1928. Later that year, he was made skipper, a position he retained until 1948. Under Larsen, called by the Inuit "Hanorie Umiarjuag" or "Henry with the Big Ship", the St. Roche patrolled the Canadian Arctic coast, often wintering in the north. The first ship to traverse the Northwest Passage from west to east (1940-42) it was the first ship to make the passage in both directions (1944). Later it was the first ship to circumnavigate North America (1950). Larsen retired with the rank of Superintendent in 1961.

Bro. Larsen was a member of Mount Newton Lodge No. 89 in British Columbia.

PROPOSED STAMP FOR BRO. HAPPY CHANDLER

Bro. Stan Longenecker has sent a letter to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee in Washington, DC, to suggest a postage stamp to honor Happy in July of this year on the 100th anniversary of his birth, July 14, 1898. Perhaps other members might join in on this campaign and also send a letter. The address is:

Stamp Advisory Committee
USPS
475 L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC
20260-2437



JACK DEMPSEY

For those newer members who do not have Jack Dempsey's Masonic biographical information to accompany the recent stamp which pictures him, let me reprint it from the March-April 1995 issue of the Newsletter (page 1179). William Harrison "Jack" Dempsey was a member of Kenwood Lodge No. 800 near Chicago, IL. He was received into the Medinah Temple of the Shrine, Chicago, in September 1962 at the age of 67.

RAJAH TEMPLE, READING, PA

For our postcard and ephemera collecting buffs, here is an interesting combination. The card depicts the temple, the ribbon was worn for the Dedication of the Temple on December 3-4, 1917.



WANTS, TRADES, OFFERS

This section will continue to be devoted to offers and solicitations for Masonic Philatelic material submitted by the members.

Bro. Peter Westbere, 33 Philip Ave., Guelph, Ontario N1E 1R5 Canada is searching for a copy of Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons" (not Bro. Allardice as reported in the previous Newsletter). He has a copy of the 1996 "Who is Who in Freemasonry" to trade; he is willing to trade or buy. He is also looking for a copy of the Bro. Ross Wetreich April 11, 1988, cover to honor Jessie Jackson becoming a Mason.

Bro. Stephen J. Kapp, 301 IS, P.S.C. 76 Box 8285, APO AP 96319-8285 USA is searching for the Masonic revenue stamp Scott RO106 and the set of four Space series overprinted Masonic stamps of Honduras, 1972. He states he is always looking to buy antique Masonic items.

Bro. Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560, who serves as the cover chairman for the GWMSC, informs that he is selling all GWMSC cards/covers/items on their list which are priced at \$2.25 or less for three for \$1.00. All other items are at a 20% discount during this inventory reduction sale.

Your Editor has a limited number of the Canadian Primiers Souvenir Sheets and a couple of sets of the Canadian Post FDCs. Cost for the sheet or the pair of FDCs is \$3.00 ea. (US\$).

Your Editor also has expanded price lists of Masonic Cacheted Covers available for sale - one for US issues, the other for foreign. The stock has been amplified by the additions of the Dave Power collection and the Otto Voigt collection cited in the previous newsletter. Those who want specific covers of the selections offered are invited to request a copy of the price list. The stock ranges from 1932 to present and has a good cross section of most all the Masonic cover producers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report provided by Bro. Otto Steding which gets us back on our normal 12 month reporting cycle ending April 30.

Balance - April 1, 1997			\$799.20
Receipts -	Dues	3074.84	
	Interest	<u>24.62</u>	
	Total	3099.46	<u>\$3099.46</u>
			\$3898.66
Expenses -	Printing Newsletter	1202.90	
	Postage Newsletter	1000.00	
	Linn's	39.00	
	Treasurer's Expenses	<u>107.84</u>	
	Total	2349.74	<u>\$2349.74</u>
Balance - April 30, 1998			\$1548.92

MASONRY IN THE CANAL ZONE

In an effort to amplify the Masonic significance of the Panama Canal Zone stamp recently released by the USPS, I would like to recall an article by R.W. Bro. Thomas C. Peterson which appeared in the November-December 1993 Newsletter. Bro. Peterson, Member No. 305, served as the District Grand Master, R.W. District Grand Lodge at the Panama Canal.

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

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

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

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

The first American employee to remove a steam shovel dipperful of excavated material from the Canal was a Mason, Bro. William H. Bates. When the steam shovel work was completed in the Calbra Cut prior to the opening of the Canal, Bro. Bates was then in charge of all steam shovels and had the honor of removing the last steam shovel from the Canal cut before water was admitted. The newspaper, "The Panama American" of Sept. 11, 1913, gave credit of loading the last steam shovel dipperful of materials from the Canal channel to Bro. Albert H. Geddis. He was assisted by Bro. William I. Hudson, craneman on the shovel.

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

Not many realize that one of the most important operations of Canal construction was the railroad system - because of the requirement of hauling excavated materials out of the

Canal. The yardmaster at Corozal, Canal Zone, was Bro. William E. Parker. Bro. Elhanon Zook was Superintendent of Tracks for building of the Canal. Some of the others playing a role were Bro. Hartley Rowe, Electrical Supervisor at Empire, C.Z., Bro. Charles A. Black, Superintendent of Dredging, Bro. John Burke, manager of all commisaries of the Panama Railroad Company, Bro. Frank E. Berry, in charge of testing steel and concrete for the Bureau of Standards, Bro. Frank C. Clark, Asst. Superintendent of Erection of Lock Gates and Machinery, Rev. and Bro. Henry Compton, Chaplain of the Isthmian Canal Commission, Bro. Collins P. Gibson, Asst. Superintendent of Construction in the Central Division and Bro. Frank H. Wang, General Counsel of the Panama Canal.

When the Americans first arrived, Masonic Clubs were organized in the townsites. Later seven Lodges were gradually chartered in the Canal Zone under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Thank you again, Bro. Peterson.

NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic note were reported in the philatelic press.

1997 Senegal - 100th Death Anniversary of Heinrich von Stephan, 1 value

1997 Chad - History of Space Exploration, six sets of six se-tenant stamps each plus a S/S. Included are Gus Grissom, John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin

9/22/97 Botswana - 50th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip, 3 se-

tenant pairs plus S/S

10/17/97 Peru - 200th Birth Anniversary of Marshal Ramon Castilla, 1 value

10/24/97 Philippines - 100th Death Anniversary of Heinrich von Stephan, 1 value

11/30/97 Philippines - 100th Anniversary of Independence/Andres Bonifacio, 3 se-tenant

stamps showing monuments to him

12/8/97 Guyana - Historical Events of the 1920s, 12 stamps which include Warren G. Harding, Sun Yat Sen, Richard E. Byrd

12/18/97 Peru - 25th Anniversary of the Hipolito Unanue Agreement, 1 value

3/16/98 Marshall Islands - The 20th Centiury/1920-29, pane of 15 stamps including Ataturk, Al Jolson, Alexander Fleming

3/28/98 Malta - 200th Anniversary of the end of the rule by the Knights of St. John and the arrival of the French - pictures Napoleon



EDSEL MASONIC COVERS

Here are some selections from Bro. Edsel Hatfield's recent sets for the Fort McHenry postal card and the USAF and airplane stamps. Further information on their acquisition can be obtained from him at P.O. Box 36, Hazelwood, MO 63042-0036.

