

THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

VOL. 22, NO. 2

JULY-AUGUST 1998

WHOLE NO. 126

FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA

Spain issued a stamp on June 2, 1998, to commemorate the 100th Birth Anniversary of this Spanish writer.



This noted poet and dramatist was born in 1898 and was "licensed" in Literature in 1923. He wrote for several vanguard artistic and literary movements and provided inputs for some minority magazines. He founded one such publication in 1928 in Grenada - "Gallo" ("Cook"). He was also a noted pianist and an orator and applied his talents to the foundation of a traveling university theater, "La Barraca" ("The Barrack"). This group staged shows in various Spanish towns featuring the more important works of the traditional theater. Some of his better plays are "Bodas de Sangre" ("Weddings of Blood") 1933, "Yerma" 1934 and "La Casa de Bernarda Alba" 1936. This great poet penned such works as "Poema del Canto Jondo" (Poems of the Jonda Romance) 1922, "Canciones" ("Songs") 1924 and "El Romancero Gitano" ("The Gypsy Romances") 1927. He was murdered in 1936 during the initial stages of the Spanish Civil War by the troops of the Dictator, General Francisco Franco. His murder, occurring under dramatic circumstances, emotionally moved people of the entire world and solidified his fame as a poet.

It was originally thought that Lorca was murdered because he was accused of being a homosexual and of republican persuasion. Recent reports, documented by Jacinto Martin, attribute his murder to his being a Mason and friend of Fernando de los Rios, Public Instruction Minister during the Republic. His book provides an unpublished document of the General Security Direction which talks of his affiliation with the Craft. He also has in hand a photograph of the poet in a Masonic apron during his Initiation in the Lodge "Alhambra" in Grenada. His symbolic name was "Homero". He concludes his study with the assertion that Lorca's affiliation with Masonry and his link to De los Rios cost him his life.

Spain 1998

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS:

NONE - This performance does not help our Unit grow and maintain its existence. Please try to gather new members and new initiates to Masonic Philately.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

154. John A. Elmore, Jr., 10510 Six Pines Rd., Apt. 3302, The Woodlands, TX 77380
259. Mark Van Houten, 902 Jacksonville Rd. - RMC-122, Burlington, NJ 08106
413. Herbert A. Rasmussen, 455 Alexander Loop #240, Eugene, OR 97401

CLOSED ALBUMS:

55. William D. Dow, late of Avon, CT

Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, our extremely active member of Barcelona, Spain, recently wrote that he and his wife had the delightful experience of spending the better part of a day with Bro. Maurice Beazley and his wife of Redcar, Cleveland, England. The Beazley's were on a cruise and had the opportunity to meet with Bro. Juan and his wife to tour the city of Barcelona with all its interesting sights and enjoy good fellowship. Sounds great!

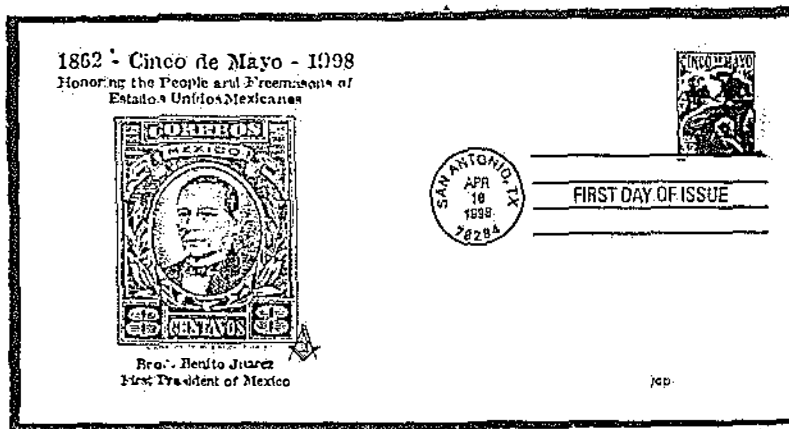
WANTS, TRADES, OFFERS

Not many new entries in this department. Bro. Westbere is still searching for Denslow's 10,000 Famous Freemasons and Bro. Knapp wants a copy of RO106 and the Honduras set overprinted for Freemasonry in 1972

Your Editor has an extensive list of Masonic Cacheted Covers - both First Days and Special Events, U.S. and Foreign - available for sale. The coverage extends from 1932 to the present and includes the works of many producers. The prices are much more reasonable than what I see at Stamp Shows and Bourses - when you are able to find Masonics.

"JIM" DOUGHERTY MASONIC COVER

The cover shown here was created by Bro. James G. "Jim" Dougherty, P.O. Box 1192, Austin, TX 78767. Although he is not a member of our Unit, he does belong to the GWMSC and the MSC of NY. From time to time, he produces some excellent covers on his computer.



PEDRO PABLO ABARCA, CONDE DE ARANDA



Spain commemorated the Bicentennial of Bro. Abarca's death with a release in 1998. Born in 1719, this politician and Spanish military leader attained the rank of General in the Army. He served as Ambassador to Portugal in 1755 and Poland in 1762. His travels put him in touch with several of the writers of the French *Encyclopedic* (1751-72) and those in Masonic circles. Following the plunder of Esquilache, King Carlos III appointed him President of the Council of Castille (1766). His rule was fruitful and typical of illustrated despotism and included expulsion of the Jesuits, struggle against the Inquisition and assistance to the "Friend Societies of the Country". He was then dispatched as Ambassador to Paris where he had more opportunities to interface with the "encyclopedist people". He was one of the few Spanish politicians who earned the warm praise of Voltaire. After his return to Spain, he was appointed Prime Minister under the reign of King Carlos IV, occupying the palace of Floridablanca. He was a supporter of France but before the Revolution changed his approach and opposed the Revolution. This outlook was not supported and he was replaced as Prime Minister by Gogoy who banished him and attempted an inquisition against him. He retired to his home town of Epila where he died in 1798.

In his book "The Masonry That Returns" (1980), Jose M. de Lera attests that Pedro Pablo Abarca was Grand Master of the Grand Spanish National Lodge in 1767. His Masonic ties are also cited in his biography, "Aranda, Dimension of Statesman" (1970), by Adolfo Hernandez and the "Encyclopedic Dictionary of Masonry" (Frau-Arus). A commemorative medal was coined in 1880 for the Centennial of the Grand National Orient of Spain - it states that the Orient was founded by the Count of Aranda. His Masonic membership is disputed by Jose A. Ferrer Benimeli in "Spanish Masonry in the XVIII Century" (1974) but Spanish Masonic tradition still considers him the first Grand Master and founder of this "irregular" Obedience.

-contributed by Bro. Juan Sabater Pie, Barcelona, Spain

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

RABINDRANATH TAGORE



Bro. Juan Sabater Pie has graciously translated information in the Lappas book concerning the Masonic membership of Rabindranath Tagore. The stamp shown here was issued by India on May 7, 1961, for his Birth Centennial. It is one of several issued throughout the world for him.

SC 341

He was from a noble family of India and all reports of his character were favorable. He was known as a dreamer and man of action, singer, philosopher, dramatist, actor, writer, educator, humanist, nationalist and internationalist. The western world learned of him when he translated his collection of poems "Gitanjali" into English. This work earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Following this translation, he extended the actions to French and Spanish. He visited four of the great continents carrying a message of fraternity and humanism. He went to Argentina in 1924 where he stayed for two months and wrote a grouping of poems published in a book titled "Puravi".

Tagore was initiated into Masonry at a young age; his life was a paradigm of the Masonic principles and teachings. On December 17, 1924, the Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree awarded him a Masonic distinction.

WILLIAM MULOCK

Canada Post issued a stamp on May 29, 1998, to commemorate the centennial of the Imperial Penny Postage. The design includes the likeness of Postmaster General Sir William Mulock who played a pivotal role in negotiating this change from the previous levy of five Canadian cents.



Canada 1998

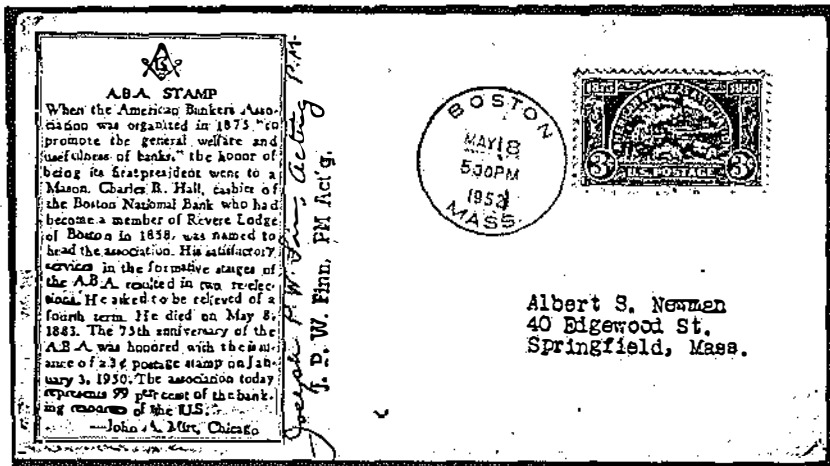
Bro. Mulock was born in 1843 and was elected to the Canadian House Commons - Parliament in 1882 as a member of the Liberal Party. From 1896 to 1905 he was Postmaster General of Canada in the cabinet of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He introduced the concept of a penny postage within the British Empire to the Inter-Imperial Postal Conference; they adopted it. In 1905 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Exchequer Division of the High Court Justice for the Province of Ontario. He was Chief Justice of Ontario from 1921 to 1928. He was knighted in 1902 by King Edward VII, another proud Mason. He died in 1944.

Bro. William Mulock was initiated into Ionic Lodge No. 25, Toronto, Ontario, in 1869. He received his 75 year award shortly before he died in 1944- a Bar added to the Veterans Jubilee Medal for those who had attained 75 years in the Craft.

- article provided by Bro. Peter J. Westbere, Member No. 419, Guelph, Ontario

MIRT SPECIAL EVENT COVER

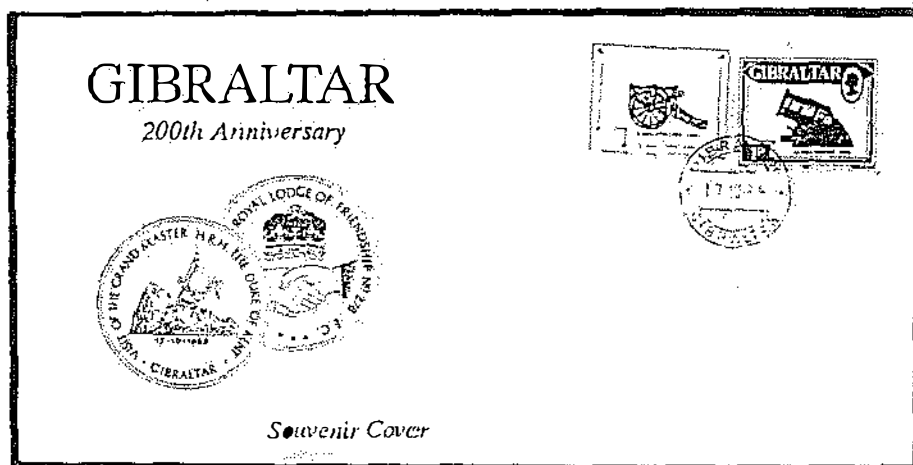
Your Editor found the illustrated cover at a local stamp show. The cachet on the cover was prepared by Bro. John Mirt for the First Day of Issue of the A.B.A. stamp on January 3, 1950. This cover was posted on May 18, 1952, in Boston and was autographed by Joseph P. W. Finn, Acting Master of ??? Lodge.



It appears that the event may have been to commemorate the life of Bro. Charles B. Hall, the first A.B.A. President - he was a member of Revere Lodge in Boston. I have written to the present Secretary of Revere Lodge but have received no response. Does any member have any knowledge of the origin of this cover?

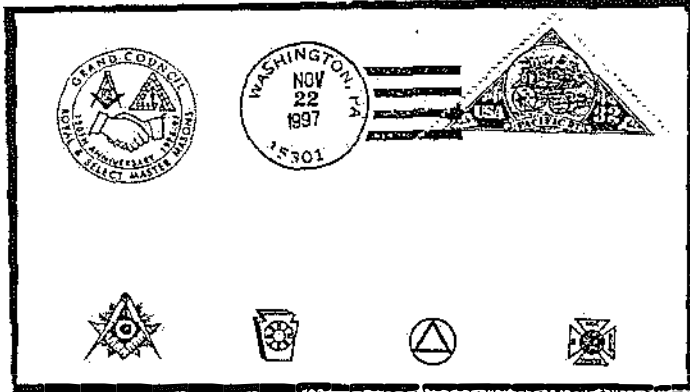
GIBRALTAR MASONIC COVER

The cover shown here is available from Lionel Perez, Brownie Corporation Limited, P.O. Box 771, Gibraltar. He apparently acquired 200 of these covers commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Royal Lodge of Friendship No. 273 (E.C.), Gibraltar. His initial letter indicated a minimum purchase of 20 covers at a cost of \$10 US or 5 pounds each. Apparently he is now willing to sell them individually.



He points out that this is the oldest Lodge in the Rock and one of three Lodges in the world that have the prefix "Royal" granted to it by royal charter. It was granted by His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, when he became Grand Master of the English Constitution in 1903. He became a Joining Member of the Lodge in 1875. He was elected a Permanent Honorary Member in 1880 but records show that he paid his annual fee until he died in 1942. The present Grand Master, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, took the Master's Chair at the bi-centennial meeting of the Lodge which was held at St. Michael Cave inside the Rock, attended by 410 Brethren of the three Constitutions (English, Irish and Scottish) working in Gibraltar. The Grand Master of Spain was also in attendance.

YORK RITE COVER



Bro. Paul M. Williams, 2364 Beaver Valley Pike, New Providence, PA 17560-9622, has provided a copy of this cover which was prepared by the Royal and Select Masons of Pennsylvania for their sesquicentennial. They are available from him for the cost of \$1.50 ea plus a SASE.

VINCENTE LUNARDI

At the end of the 18th Century the two forerunners of the balloon voyagers were Jean Pierre Blanchard who made a trip across the English Channel from England to France in 1785 and the Italian Vincente Lunardi. Born in 1759 in Italy, Vincente worked at the Italian Embassy in London during the 1780s and had a great deal of bad luck - in fact his balloon was once confiscated after a financial debacle. In the summer of 1785, however, he ascended in his balloon from the Artillery Ground while the Prince of Wales and about 150,000 other people watched. After a 40 Km flight he landed in a meadow. When he returned to London he was treated as a hero. He made more trips from Liverpool, Edinburgh and other big cities. He was banished from the country in 1786 when a young man was killed in an accident involving the cable of his balloon. He continued his success in Italy and Spain and died during a trip to Portugal at the age of 47.

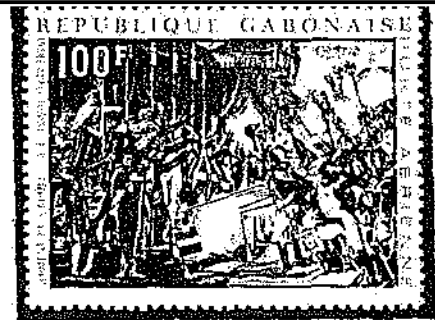


In the minutes of St. Andrews Lodge No. 160, Edinburgh, Scotland, it is stated that on October 14, 1785, the Lodge was visited by many and "also by the renowned Brother Vincente Lunardi Esquire, the first Aerial Navigator that has appeared in the city".

-article taken from the De Verlichte Loep No. 38 Newsletter, July 1992, and The Masonic Philatelic Club magazine of January 1991.

PIERRE FRANCOIS CHARLES AUGERAU DUKE of CASTIGLIONE

A stamp issued by Gabon on April 23, 1969, for Napoleon's Birth Bicentennial, includes Bro. Augerau in the design. He is in the middle of the scene on the left.



Pierre Francois Charles Augerau was born November 11, 1757, in Paris and became a noted soldier and nobleman. He was a fencing master at Naples before the revolution. He enlisted as a private in the French Army in 1792 and by 1796 had gained the rank of General in charge of a Division. In 1796 he contributed to the victories at Lodi, Castiglione and Arcola. He was the chief of the coup d'etat anti-royal of the Directory in 1797. In 1799 he was commander-in-chief of the French troops in Holland and was chosen a member of the Council of Five Hundred. He was appointed Marshal of France in 1804, Duke of Castiglione in 1805, served with distinction at Jena in 1806 and was wounded at Eylau in 1807. In 1813 he displayed intrepid courage at Leipzig. He transferred his allegiance to Louis XVIII in 1814 and did not join with Napoleon in the Hundred Days War. He died in La Houssaye, France, on June 12, 1816.

By 1801 the Duke of Castiglione was already a member of the "Rose Croix" and of the Lodge "Les Enfants de Mars", Orient of the Hague. On May 3, 1805, he was present at the mourning meeting in Lodge "L'Heureuse Rencontre", Orient of Brest, on the occasion of the death of G. Bruix. He was Premier Grand Surveillant of the Grand Lodge Symbolique of France in 1805. He was also a member of the Grand Hospitalier of the Grand Orient of France and, in 1814, the Grand Officer d'Honneur.

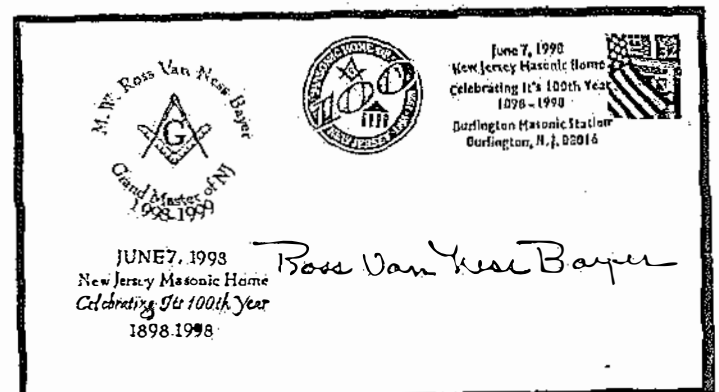
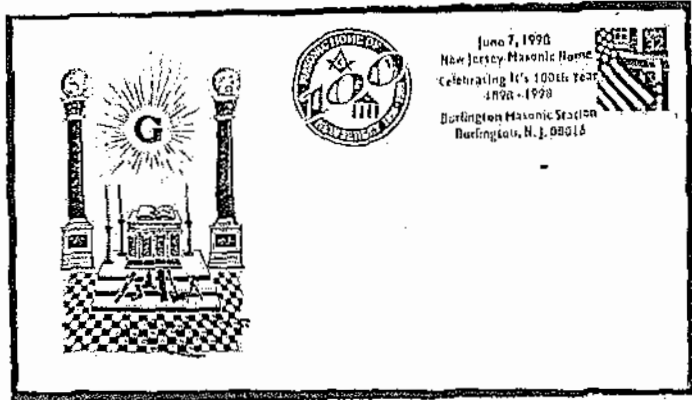
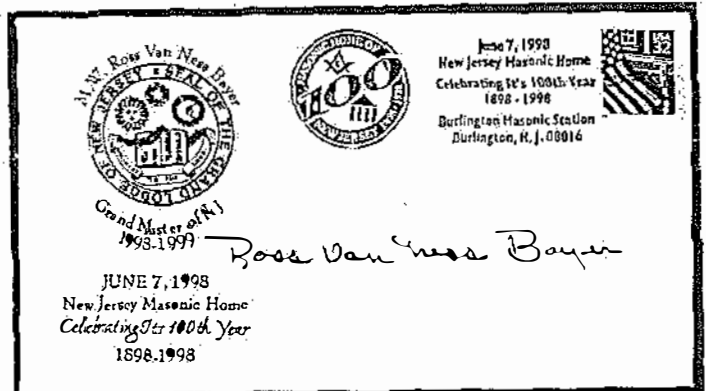
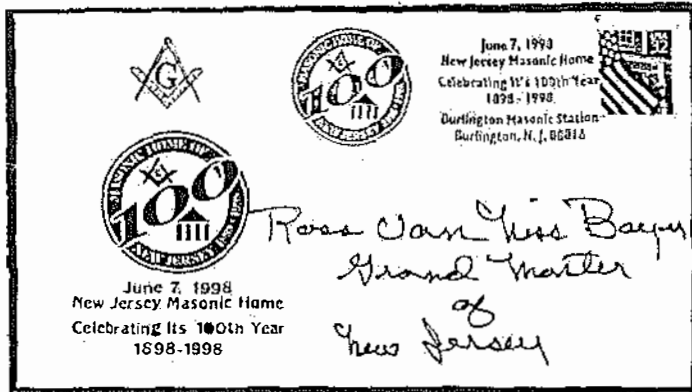
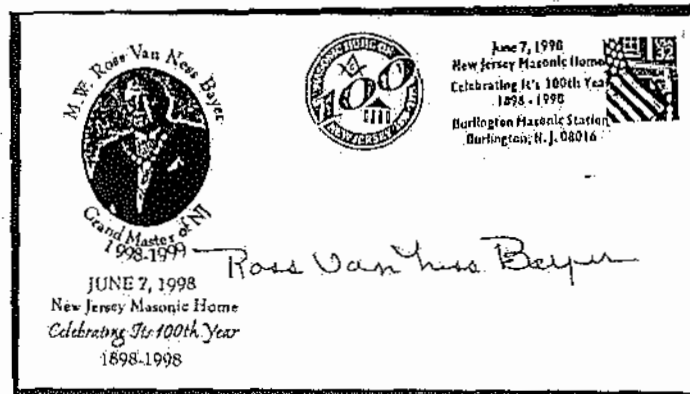
-information from De Verlichte Loep and Marshal Loke's files

ALFRED NOBEL - A MASON???

Bro. Juan Sabater Pie has sent in an article published in the *Revista Masonica de Chile*, the official organ of the Craft in Chile. This article claims that this famous Swedish chemist, inventor and philanthropist was a Freemason but offers no details of his membership. The article, unfortunately for your Editor, is in Spanish and I am not very *fluid* in that tongue. Can anyone add any insight into this potential "find"? If any member would like a copy of this article to assist in research on the subject, just request it along with a #10 SASE.

GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY COVERS

Bro. Dick Mekenian, member No. 363 has been the driving force behind another set of covers produced for the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. The five different covers are illustrated here. Each cover sells for \$5.00 with the set of five available for \$20.00. All monies collected will go to the New Jersey Masonic Home - residence of our member, Bro. Mark Van Houten. They can be ordered from Bro. Mekenian, 711 5th Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ 07762-1225.



NEW ISSUES

The following new issues are pertinent to a Masonic stamp collection.

1997 Gabon - 100th Death Anniversary of Heinrich von Stephan, one value

Oct. 9 Uruguay - 100th Death Anniversary of Heinrich von Stephan, one value

1998

Feb. 4 Macedonia - 2500th Anniversary of Pythagoras, one value which shows a representation of the Pythagorean Theorem.

Mar. 13 Hungary - 150th Anniversary of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence, three values including one picturing Lajos Kossuth

Mar. 20 Guinea - Old Cars, six values plus a S/S. The S/S pictures Henry Ford in an 1892 vehicle in the border

Mar. 23 Luxembourg - 100th Death Anniversary of composer Jean Antoine Zinnen, one value

Mar. 28 Malta - 200th Anniversary of the End of the Rule by the Knights of St. John and the Arrival of the French, se-tenant pair of stamps. One depicts Napoleon Bonaparte.

May 18 Montserrat - Famous personalities of the 20th Century, seven stamps, one of which shows Charles A. Lindbergh.
- European Royalty of the 20th Century, eight stamps which include King George VI, King Christian X, King Haakon VII, King Gustavus V.

June 2 Spain - 100th Birth Anniversary of Federico Garcia Lorca, one value.

GEORGE VILLIERS - SECOND DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

George Villiers, a questionable character whom Dryden described as the "epitome of mankind" was claimed by Dr. Anderson as being the Grand Master of England in 1674. He is pictured on a stamp released by Sierra Leone on December 24, 1990.



Born on Jan. 30, 1628, he joined the Royalists in 1640 and served under Prince Rupert, later joining Lord Holland's rising in Surrey in 1648. He engaged in a series of intrigues and caused much scandal by his personal immorality. He was attacked in parliament as a promoter of popery and arbitrary government and was dismissed from office in 1674. He is remembered as Simri in Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel* and a figure in Scott's *Peveril of the Peak*. A poet and author himself, his best known work is the burlesque, *The Rehearsal* (1671). He died on April 16, 1687.

Sierra Leone 1309
of 1303-1350

PRUDENTE JOSE De MORAES BARROS



Prudente Jose de Moraes Barros was born on Oct. 4, 1841, in Itu, Sao Paulo, Brazil. He died in that State - in Piracicaba - on December 13, 1902. In addition to being pictured on some of the early stamps of Brazil, he is shown on a release of Nov. 14, 1991, to celebrate the sesquicentennial of his birth.

A lawyer by profession being educated at the State University, he was untiring in his efforts to see the establishment of the Republic. He made his political debut in the Chamber of Deputies in 1866 where he and Bro. Manuel Ferrez de Campos Salles were the only Republicans. After the deposition of Dom Pedro and Proclamation of the Republic in 1890, he was one of the triumvirate who took the direction of affairs in Sao Paulo in their hands. His native province sent him to Rio de Janeiro where he presided over the constituent assembly and gained a great influence. Upon the organization of the Senate, he was elected Vice President and at the time of the first presidential election in 1891, he was nominated to stand against Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca; he failed to secure the election. He was, however, elected President of the Senate. On March 1, 1894, at the height of a great rebellion, he was elected President by an overwhelming majority to succeed Pres. Peixoto. During his period in office he had to cope with the revolt in the Military School at Praia Vermelha, Armada and Canudos. He was also able to avoid war over the question of the Island of Trinidad and settled the matter by diplomatic means.

He is recorded as a Founding Member of the Lodge Piracicaba in the city of the same name in Sao Paulo on Nov. 24, 1875. Some reports also indicate he was initiated there.

COUNT PEDRO RODRIQUEZ PEREZ DE COMPOMANES



This Spanish historian, lawyer, economist was well versed in literature. He is shown on a stamp issued by Spain on February 21, 1992. Born on July 1, 1723, in Sante Eulalia de Sorribas, Oviedo, he served King Charles III and King Charles IV. During that service he formulated many new laws and resolutions in economical and pedagogical domains. He was a strong advocate of the birth of New Spain and in his role as Postal Administrator, helped develop an effective postal system. He died in Madrid on February 3, 1803.

Pedro Rodriguez Compomanes was claimed to have been a Mason by Lennhoff and Posner but no details have been offered.

information provided by De Verlichte Loep.

Have a great summer, acquire new Masonic Philatelic items and write to tell us all about them. We want this to be your Newsletter

JOHN HODGE

John Hodge was a highly esteemed citizen of Lockport, New York. Details of his biography are not well known but he was reported to have been a philanthropist. In the 1870s, during hard times, the town fathers were striving to raise money for a community improvement. The contributions were slow in coming in until he offered to double the amount contributed by his fellow townsmen - the needed funds were immediately forthcoming.



Bro. Hodge was associated with the "Gargling Oil" business and guided that business to profit levels of several millions of dollars. After his death, intensive advertising was abandoned and sales declined. The stamp shown here is one of the Match and Medicine series of 1864 which was issued for Merchant's Gargling Oil.

John Hodge received his degrees in 1861, at the age of 23, in Niagra Lodge No. 275 of Lockport. Twenty years later he served as Master of that Lodge. In 1882 he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master, holding the office for three years. He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1885 and was annually re-elected for six years. In 1891 and 1892 he was unanimously elected Senior Grand Warden and during his term was devoted to the building of the Masonic Home in Utica. He held the office of Deputy Grand Master in 1893 and the following year was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. He died in this office on August 7, 1895, at the age of 57.

RS 178

-information from "A Masonic Stamp Collection (Part II)" by George B. Clark

CLARA BARTON



Clara Barton was born on Christmas Day in North Oxford, Mass. She was a clerk in the American Patent Office from 1854 to 1861 and during the Civil War was active in distributing supplies for the relief of the wounded. After the war she organized the Bureau of Records in Washington, DC, to aid in the search for missing soldiers. She took part in the Franco-Prussian War personally directing relief as she had done at the Johnstown and Galveston flood disasters, the Russian famine, the Armenian massacres and the Spanish-American War in Cuba. She became the founder and first president of the American Red Cross in 1882 and served in that position until 1904. She was then made president of the National First Aid Society in 1906. She died in Glen Echo, Maryland, on April 12, 1912.

The Clara Barton Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, in Oxford was named for her, with her permission, in 1898. She did not join Eastern Star until June 1906, at which time she was initiated by Dr. Robert Morris, founder of the Order. She was laid to rest in Oxford, Mass, by the Clara Barton Chapter, O.E.S.

JONATHAN BELCHER



Jonathan Belcher was born January 8, 1681 at Boston and was graduated from Harvard in 1699. He served as Colonial Governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire from 1730 to 1741 and of New Jersey in 1747. He died on August 31, 1757, in Elizabethtown, NJ.

Bro. Belcher is claimed by some to be the first native born American to become a Freemason. He was raised in an old "Guilde Lodge" in England in 1704 - 13 years before the founding of the Grand Lodge of England. After graduating from Harvard, he affiliated with St. John's Lodge in Boston. Upon his retirement as governor in 1741, the First Lodge of Boston called upon him to thank him for the many favors he betowed upon Freemasonry. In reply, he wrote to the Lodge; "... It is now thirty-seven years since I was admitted into the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, to whom I have been a faithful Brother and well-wisher to the Art of Mercy..."

FRANCISCO DE PAULA SANTANDER

This Colombian General and statesman was born April 2, 1792, at Rosario de Cucuta, New Grenada (later Colombia). He was a student at Bogota when the War for Independence broke out in 1810; he joined the partiotis and served throughout the subsequent campaigns. He served well with Bolivar, advancing to the rank of General and in September 1821 was elected vice-president of Bolivia under Bolivar. During Bolivar's campaigns, Santander governed the republic. When Bolivar assumed dictatorial powers in 1828, Santander opposed him, was arrested and condemned to death. The sentence was reduced to banishment and loss of rank; he went to Europe. After the dissolution of the republic of Colombia, his honors were restored and he was invited to return. He was elected president of New Granada in 1832 before his return and he held this post until 1837. He died in Bogota on May 5, 1840. Several nations of Latin America, especially Colombia, have issued stamps honoring Bro. Santander.

Bro. Santander may have received his degrees in Logia de los Caballeros Racionales, Cadiz, Spain. He founded the first Masonic Lodge in Bogota on January 2, 1820, with the name "Libertad de Colombia". He also founded a Chapter of Rose Croix in Bogota a couple of years later. He was invested 33 degree on April 21, 1824 by Joseph Cerneau, former Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of New York.