



# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



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

Vol. 28 No. 5

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Whole No. 159

## BRO. OTTO STEDING, SECRETARY-TREASURER

It is with deep personal sorrow that I announce that Bro. Otto Steding, our Secretary-Treasurer since 1984, was called by the Supreme Architect of the Universe to his Eternal Home on December 12, 2003. He apparently was not sick for long and his wife, daughter and granddaughter were with him at the Hospice during his final days. His last letter to me was in late September and he reported at that time that he was fighting a blood infection. The Unit will miss his dedicated service and enthusiastic involvement in the activities of the Masonic Study Unit and Masonic Philately. I had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Otto in 2000 when I was invited by Bro. Norman Lincoln to speak at a meeting of the Third District Chapter School, Ohio Grand Chapter, R.A.M. in Miamisburg, Ohio. The picture shown below was taken at that time and shows, right to left, Bros. Otto Steding, Norman Lincoln and Robert Domingue – the officers of the Masonic Study Unit at that time.



Bro. Otto was 86 years old this past July and was very active in Blue Lodge, York Rite and the Shrine. He served as Master in 1957. He received his 50 Year Membership recognition in the Order of Eastern Star in 2002. He and his wife relocated to the Mapleknoll Retirement Community in September 2000. He leaves behind his wife, Elaine, his daughter, Bonnie Olmstead (and husband), his granddaughter Karen Desbles (and husband) and three great grandchildren.

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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS:

TBD. Royce Leonard Beale, P.O. Box 141, Romsey, Victoria 3134 Australia

463. LeRoy Curtis, 2117 Fisher Ave., Wooster, OH 44692 (Reinstatement)

TBD. Don Hopkins, 407 Seminole Drive, McCook, NE 69001

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

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

305. George Michael, 20-D James Buchanan Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831

### CLOSED ALBUMS:

45. Otto Steding, late of Cincinnati, OH

### MEMBER ACTIVITIES:

Bro. Stan Longenecker, recently "appointed" the Cover Chairman for the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club, has extended the following offer to members of the Masonic Study Unit: "Send in a dues payment for a friend who might enjoy reading **THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON** and receive 25 different Masonic covers free for your effort. Send in two names/addresses and get 50 different Masonic covers. These covers will be those published by the GWMSC, NATSCO and others." You can't beat that offer – Thanks, Bro. Stan.

Todd Reube has made the following request in conjunction with a census he is performing on two Masonic cancels (and backstamps) that use Hebrew lettering in reference to God. Shown below, he is looking for information regarding usage – date, stamp cancelled, on or off cover and a photocopy or scan if possible. He can be contacted at 215 Orvilla Rd., Hatfield, PA 19440 or at [treube@zdial.com](mailto:treube@zdial.com) for those using e-mail.

**Oregon, PA or Ohio? USA**  
(Hearst #1695, Skinner/Eno #FR-M7 8)



The Hebrew letter y

Dates of use as found in reference materials: 1861

**Putnam, CT USA**  
(Cole #ML-111, Hearst #315, Warmley #362)



The Hebrew letters yhw

Dates of use as found in reference materials: October 17, 1884;

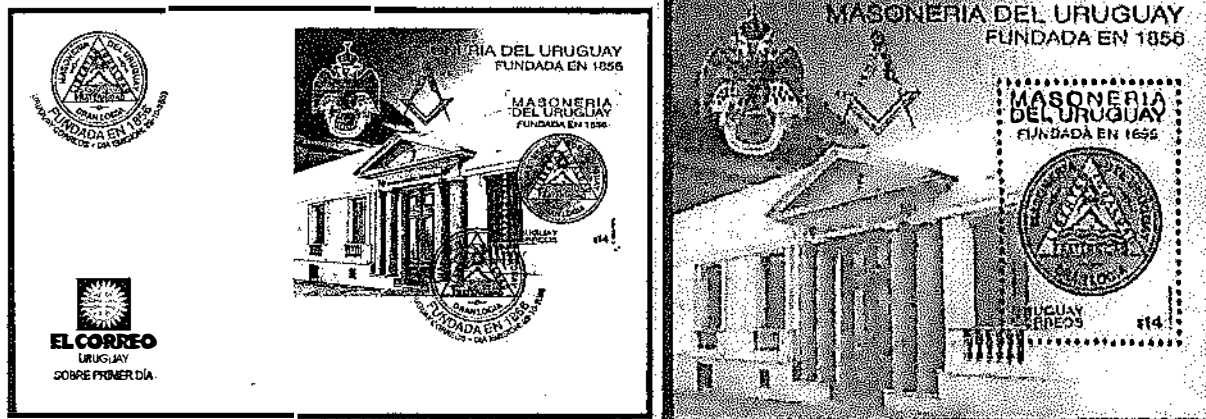
November 11, 1884; December 2, 1884

Bro. Emiel Crab has stopped working and is spending more time on his stamp collection. He is preparing a database of some 5500 entries of Brothers who appear on postage stamps. It is being made in Microsoft Works database but can be opened under EXCEL. Presently it is in his native tongue (Dutch) but he is translating it into English. He states he still has a lot of work to do on it but those interested in this project and its output should contact him at [emi@emi-crab.nl](mailto:emi@emi-crab.nl) or Sir Winston Churchillaan 717, 2287 AH Rijswijk, Netherlands. His intent is to e-mail the file or load it onto a CD or floppy.

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## NEW MASONIC ISSUE

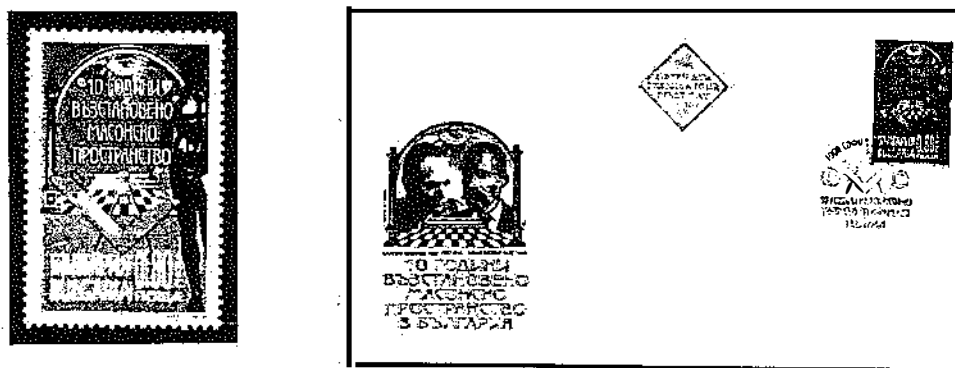
Uruguay is one of the latest Nations to issue a stamp honoring the Masonic Fraternity. On October 29, 2003, this country issued a souvenir sheet to commemorate the origin of Freemasonry in Uruguay in 1856. The sheet and a First Day Cover are shown here. I was able to acquire them from Bro. Antonio G. de Paiva, member 192 of Rua Capitaio Vilarim 25 – Fabricas, 36301/008 – S.S. del Rei, M.G., Brazil via the eBay route. I have also acquired some copies of the mint sheet.



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## ANOTHER NEW MASONIC ISSUE

Another new Masonic issue has also appeared on the eBay Auction board – it was released by Bulgaria in 2003. Shown below, we hope to have more information on its release in the next Newsletter.



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## HAROLD EDWARD "RED" GRANGE

The USPS issued a set of four stamps this year to honor the early football heroes. One of them pictures Red Grange and had not yet been pictured in the Newsletter. Bro. Grange was born June 13, 1903 at Forksville, PA and died Jan. 8, 1991. He was a member of Wheaton Lodge No. 268. A more complete article is found on page 1728 of the November-December 2002 Newsletter.

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## SUPPLEMENT TO BRAZILIAN MASONIC CATALOG AND BRAZIL MASONIC COVERS

Bro. Renato M. Schramm has issued a supplement to his Masonic Catalog of Brazilian stamps and cancels in 2003. Information on this 32 page booklet as well as the Brazilian covers shown below can be obtained from him at Caixa Postal 3085, 88010-970 Florianópolis, S.C., Brazil or through the e-mail address [clubslo@zaz.com.br](mailto:clubslo@zaz.com.br) or the website [www.geocities.com/Paris/Palas/5240/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/Paris/Palas/5240/index.html).

### SUPLEMENTO

do Catálogo Maçônico de Selos,  
Carimbos, Franquias do Brasil

CLUBE FILATÉLICO MAÇÔNICO DO BRASIL



Renato Mauro Schramm  
2003

### FOLHINHA COMEMORATIVA



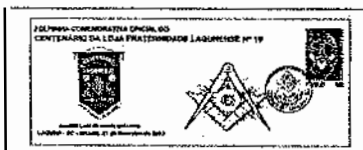
RMS Nº 103-B

100 Anos da Loja Maçônica Ordem e Tráfego 9787  
Jurisdicionada ao (KJES) e Sede da ao GGB  
21.05.2002, Florianópolis SC



RMS Nº 104-B

50 Anos da Loja Maçônica Carlos Alves 26  
1º EXFILMA  
23 e 24.09.2002 São Paulo SP



RMS Nº 105-B

100 Anos da Loja Maçônica Fraternidade Lagunense 19  
21.02.2003, Laguna SC

### SELOS COMEMORATIVOS



1938 Centenário do  
Br. José Vieira Casso de Magalhães  
RMS Nº 112-A, RHM C-130  
Rêis 400 (voos)



2002 Homenagem ao Atleta  
Ademar Ferreira de Silva  
Br. Campesão Olímpico  
RMS Nº 206 R\$ 0,40



2003 Homenagem aos 200 anos do  
nascimento Luiz Alves de Lima e Silva  
o Duque de Caxias  
RMS Nº 207 R\$ 0,50



V EXPOSIÇÃO NACIONAL DE FILATELIA MAÇÔNICA  
1º ANIVERSÁRIO DE FUNDAÇÃO  
ARLDO "FERRAZ DE VASCONCELOS" Nº 2519  
FERRAZ DE VASCONCELOS/SP - BRASIL  
12 a 16 de outubro de 2003



CLUBE FILATÉLICO MAÇÔNICO DO BRASIL  
V EXFILMA - EXPOSIÇÃO NACIONAL DE FRATELIA MAÇÔNICA  
XVº Aniversário da Loja Maçônica "Ferraz de Vasconcelos" Nº 2516  
Ferraz de Vasconcelos - São Paulo - Brasil - 12.10.2003




Clube Filatélico Maçônico do Brasil


Homenagem aos 60 Anos da Loja Simbólica, Rei Salomão Nº 1179  
São Paulo - SP - Brasil - 07 de Outubro de 2003

## MASONIC COVERS FROM NEW JERSEY


Bro. M. Richard Mekenian has been very busy producing various Masonic Cover sets this year. Shown on this page and the next, they are available from him at 711 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. The 5 Nov. 8 covers for the Cornerstone Laying and cathedral Dedication of the A.A.S.R. Valley of Central Jersey cost \$20.00 for the set and the 5 covers for the Annual Feast of Saints John on December 6 are the same cost. Remember, all proceeds go to Masonic charities, Bro. Mekenian makes nothing on these transactions.




**Dr. Walter E. Webber, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Commander A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the U.S.A.  
Celebrates the Valley of Central Jersey's  
Cathedral Dedication and Cornerstone Laying Ceremony  
November 8, 2003




Celebrating the  
Cornerstone Laying  
and  
Cathedral Dedication  
of the Scottish Rite  
Valley of Central Jersey




**Most Worshipful Robert L. Miller**  
Grand Master of Masons For the State of N.J.  
Celebrates the Cornerstone Laying  
For The Scottish Rite Cathedral  
Valley of Central Jersey  
November 8, 2003 Burlington, N.J.




Celebrating the  
Cornerstone Laying  
and  
Cathedral Dedication  
of the Scottish Rite  
Valley of Central Jersey




Cornerstone Laying And Cathedral  
Dedication of  
The Scottish Rite Valley of  
Central Jersey  
November 8, 2003  
Burlington New Jersey



**FIAT LUX**




**Dr. Verdon R. Skipper 33°**  
Deputy for N.J. Scottish Rite  
Celebrates the Cathedral Dedication and  
Cornerstone Laying for the Valley of Central Jersey  
November 8, 2003




Celebrating the  
Cornerstone Laying  
and  
Cathedral Dedication  
of the Scottish Rite  
Valley of Central Jersey

When the wind  
changes adjust  
your sails  
the Celebration  
of the Feast  
of St. John




**December 6, 2003**  
MCF Fellowship Center  
Burlington, New Jersey




When the wind  
changes adjust  
your sails with  
the Celebration  
of the Feast  
of St. John

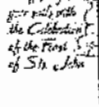
When the wind  
changes adjust  
your sails with  
the Celebration  
of the Feast  
of St. John



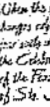
**Most Worshipful Robert L. Miller**  
Grand Master of Masons  
For the State of New Jersey  
Celebrating the Feast of Saints John  
Dec. 6, 2003 Burlington New Jersey



When the wind  
changes adjust  
your sails with  
the Celebration  
of the Feast  
of St. John




**Feast of Saints John Dinner**  
MCF Fellowship Center, Burlington, NJ  
December 6, 2003  
Guest Speaker  
Dr. Joseph Nazzari




**FIAT LUX**

When the wind  
changes adjust  
your sails with  
the Celebration  
of the Feast  
of St. John



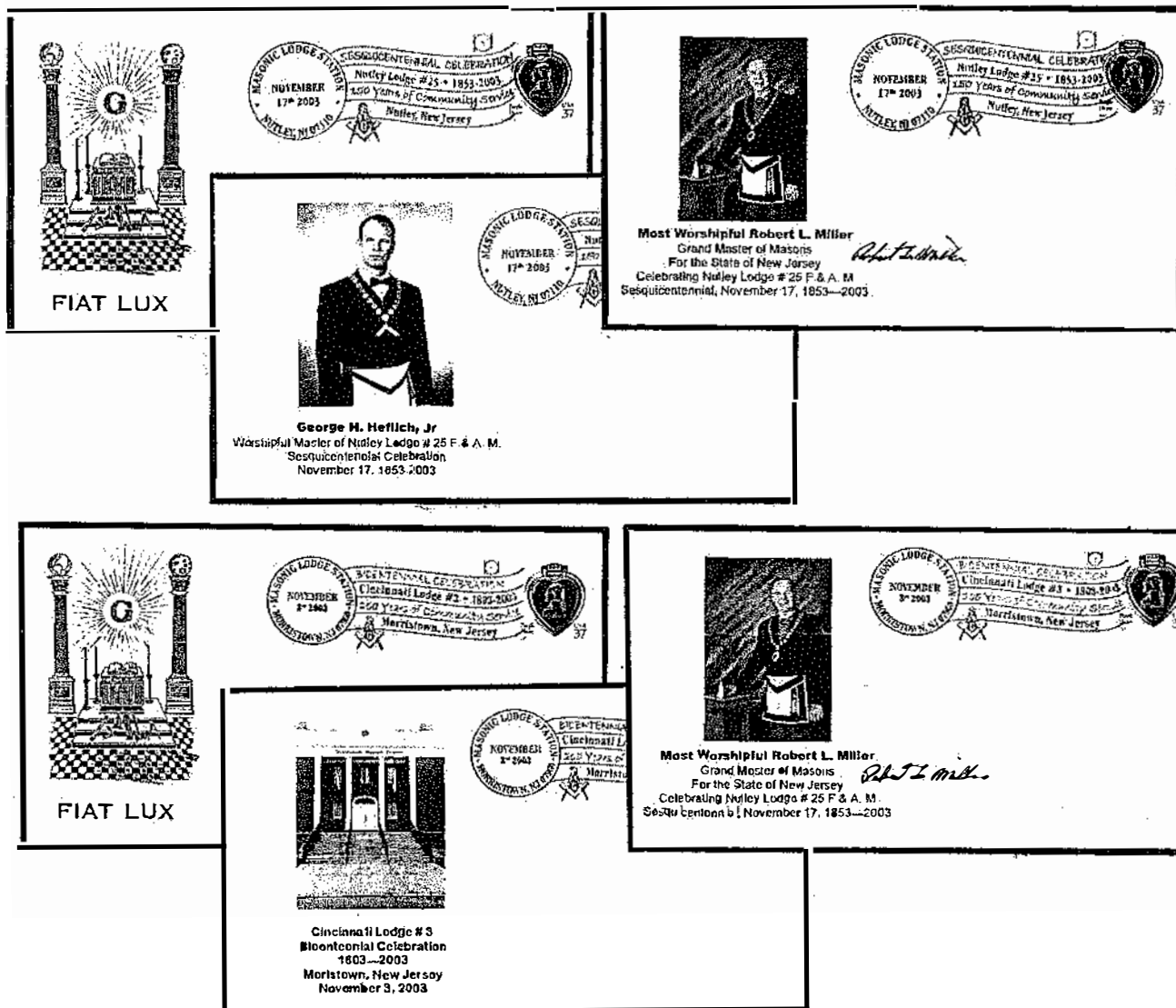
**Feast of Saints John Dinner**  
MCF Fellowship Center, Burlington, NJ  
December 6, 2003



When the wind  
changes adjust  
your sails with  
the Celebration  
of the Feast  
of St. John

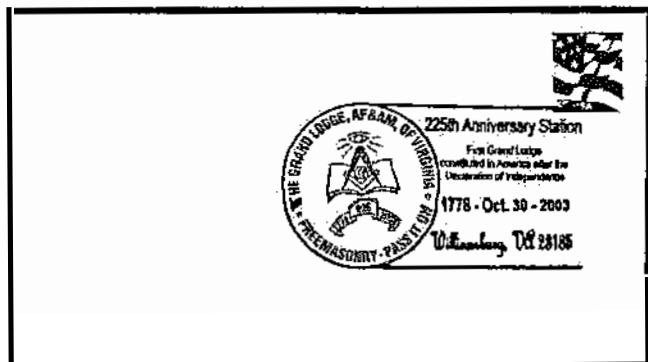
## MORE NEW JERSEY MASONIC COVERS

To continue with Bro. Mekenian's efforts, these two sets of 3 covers cost \$10.00 each. They commemorate the Bicentennial Celebration of Cincinnati Lodge #3, Morristown, NJ and the Sesquicentennial Celebration of Nutley Lodge #25, Nutley, NJ.



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## GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA SPECIAL MASONIC CANCEL



The Grand Lodge of Virginia was authorized to use this special cancel on October 30, 2003, to promote Freemasonry and to note that they were the first Grand Lodge to be constituted in America after the Declaration of Independence. Thanks to Bro. John Allen of the GWMSC for sharing this with us.

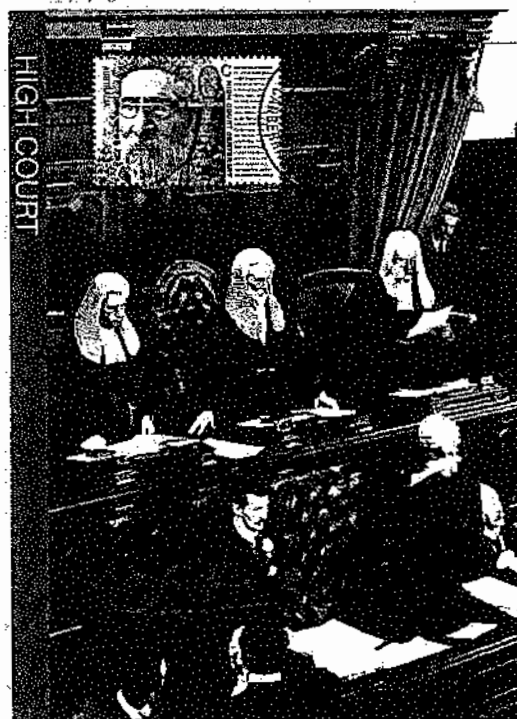
## RT. WOR. BRO. SIR SAMUEL GRIFFITH (1845-1920)

The man described as the "Father" of the Australian Constitution, Bro. Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, P.C., G.C.M.G., MA, was born at Merthyr Tydfil, Wales and immigrated to Australia in 1853. He was educated at Ipswich, Queensland; Woolloomooloo, Sydney and Maitland, New South Wales and graduated from the University of Sydney with firstclass honors. He returned to England and after a lengthy stay there returned to Australia when he was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1867.

He entered the Queensland Parliament in 1872 where he served as Attorney General and Premier on two occasions. He served as Queensland's Chief Justice and when the High Court of Australia was established in 1903, he became the first Chief Justice. The first sitting of the High Court took place in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court Building in Melbourne on Oct. 6, 1903. The distinguished Bench was made up of three men who had been prominent in the Federal movement. They consisted of Bro. Sir Samuel Griffith (former Chief Justice of Queensland), Bro. Edmund Barton (Australia's First Prime Minister and leader of Australia's Constitutional Convention) who was appointed Justice and Justice Richard O'Connor.

Bro. Sir Samuel Walker Griffith was initiated in the "Victoria Lodge" No. 1186, English Constitution (now No. 10, Queensland Constitution) on August 22, 1865. He was installed Master of this Lodge in 1871. He was also a member of "Lodge Hiram" No. 286, Irish Constitution (now No. 9, Queensland Constitution). He was District Grand Registrar for the District Grand Lodge of Queensland, English Constitution in 1871 and District Senior Grand Warden the following year. He was installed as Provincial Grand Master for Queensland of the Irish Constitution in 1893.

Australia issued a two value set on September 2, 2003, to commemorate the Centenary of the High Court of Australia. Bro. Griffith is pictured on the 50c value; "Justice" is illustrated on the \$1.45 value.



-Article, stamp and First Day Card  
provided by Bro. Eddie Levey of Milura,  
Victoria, Australia

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## CIVIL WAR MASONIC ENVELOPES

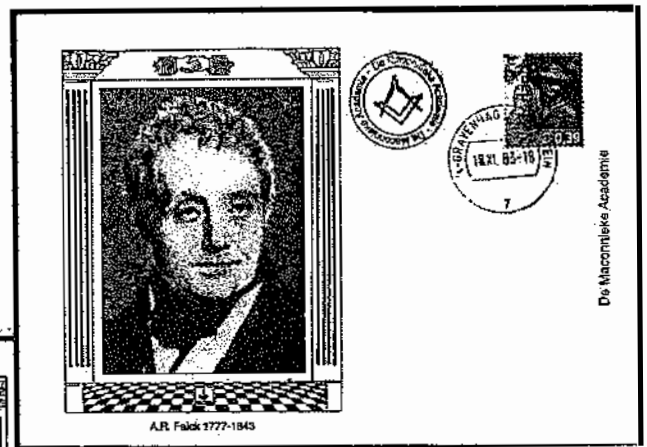
Our Unit President, Bro. Gene Fricks, has sent in some copies of Civil War envelopes which are embellished with Masonic designs. Unfortunately, neither he nor I are knowledgeable of these items and look forward to inputs from our readers. The paper characteristics and the decals appear to be from that period but we are not positive. Any assistance will be appreciated.



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## MORE COVERS FROM THE MASONIC ACADEMY

Bro. Matthieu Regoor of the Netherlands has issued some additional Masonic covers under the auspices of The Masonic Academy. This group is not associated with the Masonic Study Group of the Netherlands, De Getande Rand, even though Bro. Regoor is a member. The price of the covers is E3.70 each but Bro. Regoor would rather exchange for other covers. If enough of the members indicate that they would like to participate in a trading arrangement, I would be glad to serve as the focal point to reduce postage costs. Please let me know. These covers honor J. F. Willems, H. Boerhaave and A. R. Falck.





## JOHANN KEPLER LAVATER (1741-1801)



Switzerland issued a stamp in 1941 to note the 200<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of this noted Physiognomist (able to judge character from facial characteristics), Theologian and Poet. He is credited with being a Mason through a reference to him in Volume 7 of the A. Q. C. publication:

Diethelm Lavater (1743-1826) was the acknowledged leader of the Craft in Switzerland for upward of 50 years. John Henry Lavater, a widely traveled Freemason and Swiss physician, was Diethelm's nephew. John Henry's father was Johann who is stated to have been "also a Freemason though not a medical practitioner". No Lodge details are given for him.

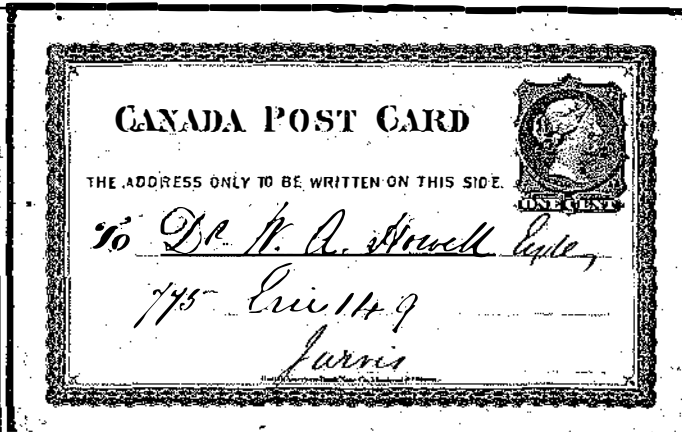
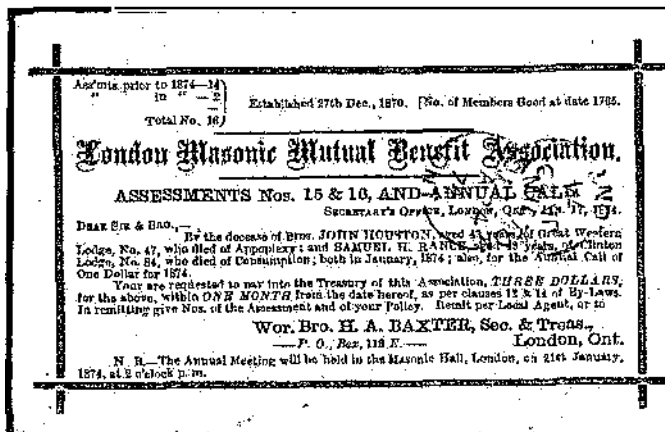
Born in Zurich, he took Protestant Orders in 1769. He became known by a volume of poems "Swiss Songs" (1767) and his "Prospect of Eternity" (1776-7) is characterized by religious enthusiasm and mysticism. He attempted to elevate Physiognomy into a science in five volumes written between 1789 And 1798 – "Essays on Physiognomy" designed to promote the knowledge and love of mankind. While attending the wounded during the capture of Zurich (1799), he himself received a serious wound from which he later died.

-Thanks to the Magazine of Masonic Philatelic Club (of Great Britain) from which this was borrowed.

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### INTERESTING MASONIC INSURANCE CARD – FROM CANADA

Your Editor has gathered quite a collection of the Masonic Insurance Assessment cards from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century but almost all of them were from the US. This one from Canada caught my eye and I was successful in the eBay auction.



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### MASONIC STUDY UNIT OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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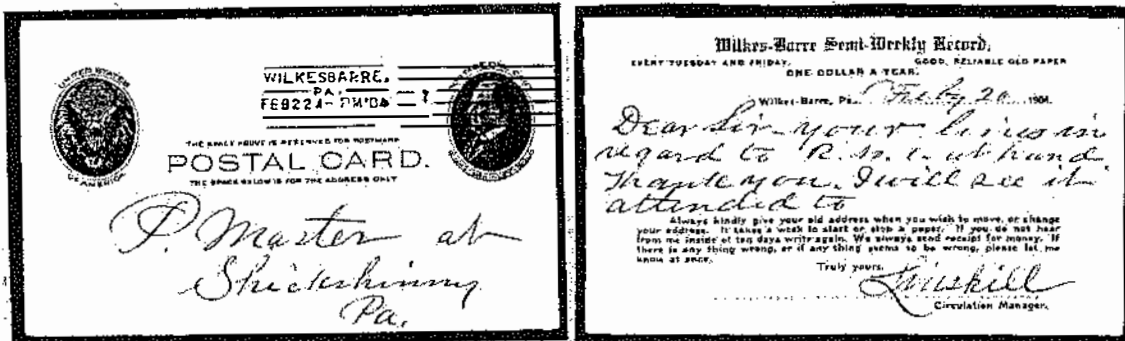
Annual Membership: \$10.00 – USA, \$12.00 – Canada & Mexico; \$16.00 – All Other

## JOHN WILKES

(1727-1797)

### "FRIEND OF LIBERTY"

A USPS postal card cancelled 100 years ago on Washington's Birthday honoring Brother/President McKinley. It may be addressed to the Presiding Master at Shickshinny, PA or a person by the name of P. Master. The reverse side of the card cites the price of the Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Paper as being one dollar a year. The city of Wilkes-Barre lies in North East Pennsylvania and was incorporated in 1871. Once a great anthracite mining center during the early 1900s, it was named for 18<sup>th</sup> Century English politicians, John Wilkes and Isaac Barre who defended the American Colonies. The city lies on the Susquehanna River and was badly damaged by hurricane Agnes in 1972.



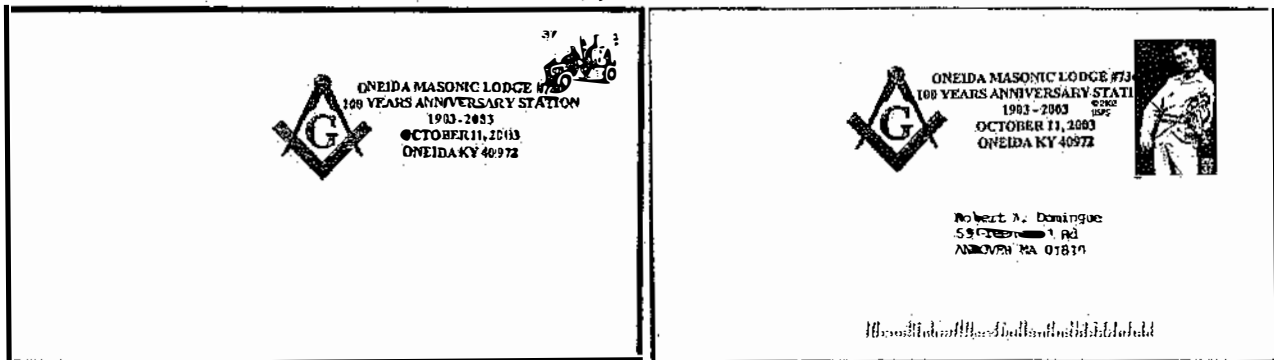
John Wilkes was a member of Parliament from 1757 to 1764 and served as Lord Mayor of London in 1774. He championed the Colonial rights in the American Revolution. He was put in prison several different times and while there in 1769 he was supposedly made a Mason – although this fact is disputed by some.

Article submitted by Bro. Stan Longenecker, cover from his Washington's Birthday collection

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## ONEIDA MASONIC LODGE #736 SPECIAL MASONIC CANCEL

Authorized for use on October 11, 2003 for their Centennial Celebration

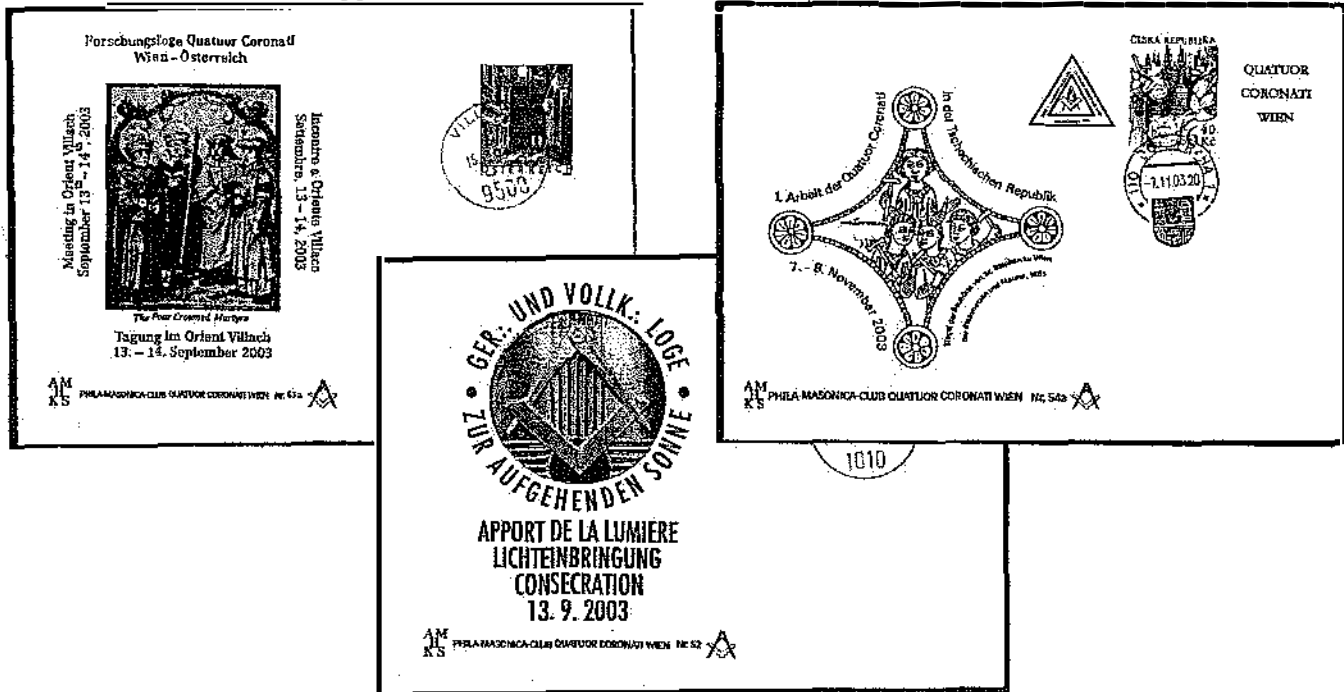


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Editorial Comment: It will be noted in the listing of the Unit Officers that I am "assuming" the role of Secretary-Treasurer in the wake of Bro. Otto's passing. This is prompted by the fact that I also had signature authority for the checking account and also maintained an active version of the membership list. We will see how this works out but if anyone really wants the job, please let me know and we can discuss it.

## AUSTRIAN MASONIC COVERS

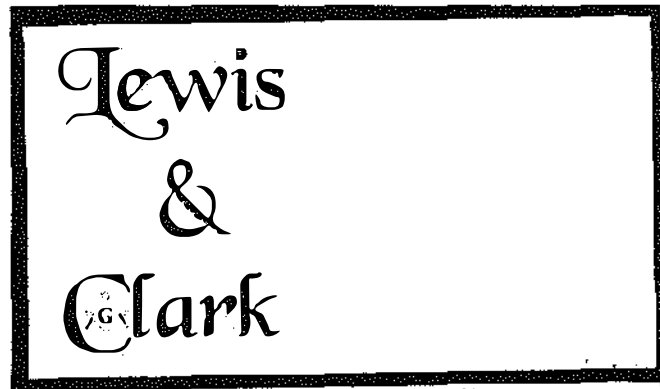
Bro Herbert SchmidKorlath of the Austrian Masonic Stamp Club has forwarded his recently issued Masonic covers. Information on their acquisition can be obtained from him at Hackenberggasse 29/33/3, A-1190 Wien, Austria.



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## LEWIS AND CLARK ALL PURPOSE COVER

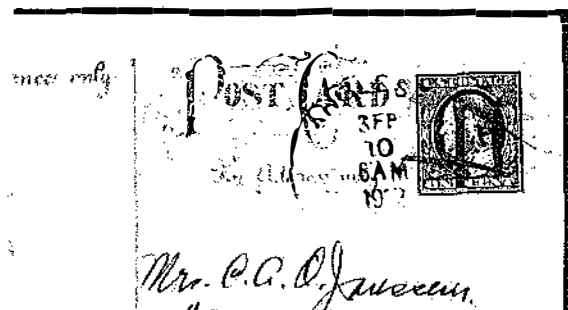
Bro. Stan Longenecker has prepared an all purpose cacheted cover for use with the many 2004 Lewis and Clark stamps and special cancels commemorating their journey. If members would like this cachet for their cancel gathering, they are available from him for 50 cents each plus a #10 SASE at 930 Wood St., Mount Joy, PA 17552. Stan's article on Bro. Lewis and Clark will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.



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## INTERESTING MASONIC CANCEL

This Masonic Cancel was applied to a picture post card mailed from Anglesea, NJ in 1912. Cancels of this type normally were used during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century or in the 1930s. It is definitely a desirable item and undoubtedly has a very interesting background - if we only knew.



## NEW ISSUES

The following new issues of Masonic note were announced in the philatelic media.

May 13, 2003 – Philippines – Apolinario Mabini – 100<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary. One value.

June 19, 2003 – Philippines – Jose P. Rizal's Roots in Fujian, China. Two values

Oct. 8, 2003 – Italy – Vittoria Alfieri - 200<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary. One value

Jan. 28, 2004 (?) – Cuba – Jose Marti. Four values showing his birthplace and portraits.

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## MASONIC COVERS FROM IRELAND

Bro. Frank Elliott has shared some of his Special Event Covers prepared for his Lodge activities in Northern Ireland. Anyone interested in acquiring any of them should contact him at 11 Wood End, Holywood, Belfast BT18 9PN Northern Ireland.

<p>Grand Council of Knight Masons LATHARNA COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASON No. 59 (Constituted and Dedicated on 25th April 1953)</p> <p><b>Golden Jubilee Celebrations</b></p> <p>Sir K.L. WILLIAM NORRIS Excellent Choir</p> <p>Sir K.L. BLANAGNEW      Sir K.L. William J. Rainey Senior Knight              Junior Knight</p> <p>In the presence of Most Excellent Sir Knight MERVYN W. MORRISON Most Excellent Great Chief and Right Excellent Sir Knight JAMES MADDEN Superintendent of Ulster North</p> <p>Masonic Centre, Mill Bide, Larne, County Antrim 25th April 2003</p>	<p>Grand Lodge of Free &amp; Accepted Masons of Ireland Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim Oak Lodge No. 326</p> <p><b>CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS</b> (1903 – 2003)</p> <p>Worshipful Brother Cyril McCullough Worshipful Master</p> <p>In the presence of Most Worshipful Brother Eric N. Waller Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Adam J. McKinley Provincial Grand Master</p> <p>Freemasons' Hall, Ballymerry Lisburn, County Antrim 26th April 2003</p> <p>26 APR 03</p>
<p>Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim</p> <p><b>INSTALLATION OF</b> The Most Excellent District Grand King Most Excellent Companion J. F. FERGUSON Most Excellent Companion J. C. CAMPBELL Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King</p> <p>The Provincial Masonic Hall, 14 Grosvenor Street Belfast, BT1 1QA</p> <p>17th May 2003</p>	<p>Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland Queen Victoria Royal Arch Chapter No. 294</p> <p>Visit of The Most Excellent Assistant Grand King Most Excellent Companion S. Gordon Leatham and Most Excellent Companion J. Ardle Agnew District Grand King of District Grand Chapter of Down</p> <p>to mark the 80th Anniversary and Election of Officers of Queen Victoria Royal Arch Chapter No. 294</p> <p>Excellent Companion Mervyn Cooper Excellent King</p> <p>17th March 2003 Freemasons' Hall, The New Mount, Belfast</p> <p>17 MAR 03</p>
<p>THE MOST ANCIENT ORDER OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF IRELAND</p> <p>Queen Victoria Masonic Lodge No. 294</p> <p><b>INSTALLATION OF</b> W.Bro. WILLIAM R. BALMER Worshipful Master</p> <p>W.Bro. JOHN WILLIAM HUSTON Exalted Officer</p> <p>4th January 2003 Freemasons' Hall, Arthur Square, Belfast</p>	<p>Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim The Antrim Lodge of Installed Masters No. 218</p> <p><b>INSTALLATION OF</b> W.Bro. WALTER K. CARSON</p> <p><b>INSTALLING OFFICER</b> W.Bro. RON BOYCE</p> <p>In the presence of Rt. W.Bro. JOHN S. DUNLOP Provincial Deputy Grand Master</p> <p>Freemasons' Hall, Antrim County Antrim 21st March 2003</p> <p>21 MAR 03</p>