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The Lectern

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To Seek The Light of Knowledge

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R.W.Bro. W.H.J.Mayers was the first District G.M. of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria within the United Grand Lodge of Queensland

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AFFILIATE OF THE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
MASONIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Lodge as a whole or Freemasonry in General but are of the authors

Talk by RW Alan Wakeham on Philately and Freemasonry
Preceptor thanked RW Bro Wakeham on his lecture and how it is possible to advance in Masonic Knowledge by studying Stamps. There followed discussion on this subject.

1. Freemasonry and Philately by Alan Wakeham

Brethren

What I am about to read is a précis of a 23 page document given to me by Wor Bro Alan Bunn of Victoria many years ago..

Philately is another name for stamp collecting. The word Philately is derived from the Greek word “Philos” meaning loving and “Tele” free from tax. By this I mean that when the correct postage is placed on a letter then it is delivered free and exempt from any further charges to any country that is a member of the Universal Postal Union. The first postage stamps were printed by Jacob Perkins the American engraver and Freemason who emigrated to England in 1818.

The collecting of these postage stamps evolved as a hobby and study, growing in popularity over a period over of time to the present day when there are millions of collectors and a very large body of students of the history of the past.

Until the past few decades collections were usually formed on a country basis, but for many reasons the collecting of stamps on a thematic basis has become much more widespread, particularly amongst young people, but adult collections were frequently very extensive, involving an enormous amount of research and study, not to mention the cost.-

Towards the latter part of the last century a young midshipman whose ship was on a cruise to the West Indies called at a local post office on Turks Island and purchased some stamps for his collection. This young midshipman was later to become King George 5th of England and his collection, now in the possession of Queen Elizabeth, ranks as one of the finest and most valuable collection in the world today.

The collection of the late Monsieur Burrus of Switzerland, the Alsatian tobacco king, was many years ago estimated as being worth over \$6 000 000, while the collection of Edmund Caspary and Theodore Steinway, of piano fame, each realized \$2 000 000 when auctioned some years ago. The Thomas K Tapling collection, bequeathed to the British Museum, may well be the finest in public hands.

In Victoria Willsmere Philatelic Lodge in 1946 sponsored the formation of the Masonic Philately Society of Victoria and this was the only Philatelic Society in the British Empire until a similar society was formed in Sydney in 1960 and now there are Masonic Stamp Clubs in New York, Great Britain, Belgium, France, Holland, Italy and many others around the world.

Many books have been published on Masonic Philately. These include postage stamps and Freemasonry, Masonic Stamps of the World and Freemasons of Many Nations on Stamps. A number of magazines are published monthly.

Masonic stamp collectors recognize 3 types of Masonic philately: stamps with a Masonic theme, such as temples, symbols and stamps featuring Freemasons and Postmarks and First Day Covers.

In 1990 Wor Bro Fray in the English publication "Masonic Square" wrote:- When referring to Freemasonry the media always uses the term Secret Society, which immediately alienates non masons towards us, but I ask the critics if they know of any secret society that have had postage stamps from different countries to commemorate their existence as Freemasonry.

Masonic Philately deals with the collecting of postage stamps honouring great men who were Freemasons. The first two stamps ever issued by the USA were portraits of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, two outstanding Freemasons of their day. The leading participants in the Revolutionary war, the declaration of Independence and the drafting of the constitution were Freemasons.

In the early days of the US Post Office the postmasters were required to supply their own hand stamps. These were usually made from corks and a number of ingenious designs are known among which are a number of Masonic Symbols.

As in Masonry there are various degrees in Philately. At one end of the scale there is the collector who just collects a stamp because it is a stamp. At the other end there is the Master Philatelist, the historian, who is interested in the whole story of postal communications giving due regard to the type of paper used and the watermark, the perforations of the stamp, date of issue, the quantity printed and most importantly any defects in the issue.

Stamps issued for anniversaries form only one section, a very small one at that, of the theme of Masonry on postage stamps. Items of interest that appear on stamps, are monarchs who exchanged the sceptre for the gavel. These include Oscar 1st and 2nd and Gustav 5th of Sweden, George 1st and 2nd and Constantine 1st of Greece, king Haakon of Norway, Kalakaua 1st and Kamahameha 4th of Hawaii, Victor Emmanuel and Umberto of Italy, George 5th of Hanover and Frederick the Great of Prussia.

Edward the 7th of England was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, George the 6th of England was initiated in Navy Lodge 2612 becoming Master in 1921. George 6th became a PGM of the GI of Scotland and an Honary PGM of England. Christian 10th King of Denmark and Greenland was the GM of the National Lodge of Denmark. The Duke of Edinburgh was made a Mason in Navy Lodge in 1952.

Of the 42 Presidents of the USA 18 have been Freemasons while of the 39 signatories of the Declaration of Independence 22 were Freemasons. President Harry Truman was Grand Master of Missouri. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, Poland issued a stamp with the portraits of Washington, Kosciusko and Polaski all three were ardent masons.

Military names of note that have appeared on stamps include Garibaldi, an Italian patriot and mason, he established the Italian dynasty out of the Papal States and was Grand Master of the Supreme Council of Turin.

Sir Arthur Wellesley (Duke of Wellington) known as the hero of Waterloo, Napoleon Bonaparte and his four brothers, Lord Kitchener and General George Pershing (commander in chief of US forces in World war 1) and General Douglas MacArthur were all Freemasons. Among famous seamen we find Lord Nelson, Admiral Byrd, Admiral Rodney, Stephen Decatur and Captain Scott of the ill fated Scott expedition to the South Pole and John Paul Jones known as the Father of the US Navy.

In the field of aviation we have the Australian pioneer in Aeronautical Engineering, Lawrence Hargraves, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith who made the first flight across the Tasman and from Australia to the USA, also Charles Lindberg the first aviator to fly from New York to Paris. Other names you would recognise include Will Rogers, comedian and humourist, Henry Ford, Bud Abbott of the Abbot and Costello fame and Oliver Hardy. Musicians Sir William Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Composer Jan Sibelius was the Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of Finland for over 25 years. Franz Listz was initiated in Union Lodge in Frankfurt. Wolfgang Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" is regarded as a Masonic Opera. He was made a Mason in 1784.

In Literature we find Tolstoy, Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling and Sir Walter Scott, Voltaire, whose pungent pen had previously satirized Freemasonry, being initiated into the Lodge of Nine Muses in Paris only a few weeks before his death. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the greatest figure in German literature celebrated his 50 years in Freemasonry by having his Lodge present him with a Diploma.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English physician, novelist and detective story writer who created Sherlock Holmes was initiated, passed and raised in Portsmouth at Phoenix Lodge 257 in 1893. Famous statesmen include Raffles of Singapore, Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Robert Menzies. Explorers too have appeared on stamps they include John Stuart, Hamilton Hume, John Oxley, William Wentworth and Edward Hargraves. In sports we have Sir Walter Lindrum and Sir Donald Bradman. In the US stamps were issued in 1990 depicting Clark Gable and John Wayne.

Jean Henri Dunant 1828-1910 born in Geneva Switzerland founded the Red Cross and was responsible for the Geneva Convention.

Another interesting side-line may be made from the furnishings of the Lodge. Many stamps illustrate aspects of the Ritual and symbolism. We have discussed some stamps which commemorate anniversaries, but many stamps reveal our Ritual unintentionally –the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Waterfall, while the dove bearing an Olive branch appears on stamps from a number of countries. Pakistan, Egypt and Hong Kong portray the Scales of Justice and Ireland depicts the drawn sword. Greece portrays the 47th proposition of Pythagoras also the columns of the Doric and Corinthian orders. New Zealand gives us two examples of the Lamb an emblem of purity and our apron.

The symbols of Faith Hope and Charity, together with the dedicated symbols of corn, wine, oil and salt are also depicted on a number of stamps from many countries. The penny black, issued in 1840, shows a profile of Queen Victoria 1819-1901, who was chosen by the Grand Lodge of England as the Patroness of Freemasonry. In the upper corner of this stamp appear 2 Maltese Crosses which are Knights Templar emblems. With each Maltese Cross is a representation of a “certain point within a circle” a definite Masonic Symbol.

The peace stamp of Great Britain, issued in 1946 has been called the Masonic stamp. It is known that the designer was not a Freemason, however, King George VI gave his approval for it and on it can be seen the square and compasses, the trowel, the dove bearing a sprig of acacia and it is embordered with what may be taken to be a cable tow.

The founder and Secretary of Lions International, Melvin Jones was a member of Garden City Lodge in Chicago. All four founders of Rotary were Freemasons and one of these four, Paul Harris appeared on a US stamp. Edward Benes, born in Czechoslovakia, a statesman and a Mason was elected President of that country in 1935 and led the Czechoslovakian Government in exile after the outbreak of World War II. Space pioneers who were Freemasons include Virgil Grissom, who was burnt to death in a capsule on the ground, Gordon Cooper, Walter Schirra, Don Eisele, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong (the first man on the Moon). William Cody (Buffalo Bill) was a 32nd Degree Mason.

Latin American countries provide a host for the collector of Masonic subjects. Every President of Argentina for 24 successive years was a Freemason, four of them being members of the same Lodge at one time. In Honduras ten successive Presidents 7 of whom have been depicted on stamps were members of the craft. General Jose De San Martin, the liberator of Chile was made a mason in Spain and organised the first Lodge in Peru in 1821. Simon Bolivar, born in Venezuela, was the liberator of Spanish South America. He became a Mason in Paris and was also a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite mason in France. Simon Bolivar along with Cecil Rhodes are the only two people to have ever had countries named after them, Bolivia and Rhodesia.

Don Pedro, the first Emperor of Brazil was an eminent Mason. Prospero Fernando who was president of Costa Rica from 1882-85 joined Freemasonry in Costa Rica and is depicted on a stamp of his native country. Gerardo Machado born in Cuba in 1871 was president of Cuba. Jose Marti, born in Havana was a Cuban patriot and a Mason and the Republic of Cuba dedicates his birthday (Jan 28th) to the Masonic fraternity. The creator of the Argentinian Flag was a patriot and a Mason.

Honduras selected as the subject for a 1935 stamp, the Grand Lodge Temple at Tegucigalpa, while in 1956 Cuba portrayed on two stamps an imposing 11 story building, the home of Grand Lodge Cuba. The Cuban flag was also designed by a Mason.

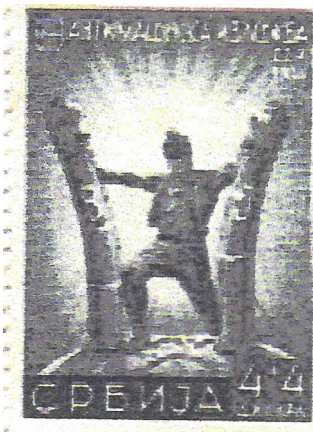
A number of Roman Catholics have been prominent in Freemasonry. Daniel O'Connell who was known as the Irish Liberator, because of the work he did resulting in the emancipation of Irish Roman Catholics, was in 1829 Master of his Lodge. His statue is prominent outside St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. The Rev Father Jose Burgos depicted on a Filipino stamp was a liberal minded priest, who while being in accord with the spiritual side of the Catholic Church, resisted the subjugation of the people under the cloak of Religion. He campaigned vigorously for reform in

religion and government in the Philippines in the later half of the 19th century. For these efforts he was put to death by garroting, a Spanish form of strangulation. Marcelo Del Pilar was a Filipino patriot and a 33rd degree mason. He was Grand Orator of the Spanish Supreme Council and was called the Father of Filipino Masonry.

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla was a Catholic priest in Mexico. He was a bitter opponent of clerical and Spanish oppression of the native in Mexico. He was initiated into Freemasonry in Mexico City in 1806 and became one of the leaders in the 1810 revolt against Spain. Known as the father of Mexican Independence he was betrayed and executed in 1811.

Freemasonry has not always flourished and attempts have been made from time to time to eradicate the Order. In 1826, one William Morgan of New York declared that he was publishing a book Titled "Illustrations of Freemasonry" revealing the secret Rituals of Freemasonry. Before the book was published Morgan disappeared and it was claimed by some that he had been kidnapped by Masons and thrown into the Niagara River. This led to the formation of an anti-masonic party, whose operations by 1830 had assumed serious proportions and for a time the holding of lodge meetings in Tennessee were suspended.

Most aspects of life are reflected on postage stamps of the world and from time to time there have been issues of anti-masonic stamps, especially in countries where the Order had been banned as subversive by political dictators such as Hitler and Mussolini who both suppressed the Craft and during the Second World War Lodges were not permitted behind the Iron



Curtain. The independent Kingdom of Serbia disappeared after World War One when it became part of Yugoslavia which in 1941 was occupied by the Nazis. The authorities instituted a campaign to eradicate Freemasonry and an anti-masonic exhibition was opened in Belgrade in 1941 and a set of four anti Masonic stamps were issued to mark this exhibition. Each stamp was surcharged above its face value to provide a source of revenue for the propaganda. The stamp designer clearly had little knowledge of the Craft and although he knew about the square and compasses he thought that Freemasonry was a Jewish

organization, thereby making it a target for persecution. One stamp has a hand emerging from a ray of light, grasping at a huge snake, the Nazi's

concept of Freemasonry. This is depicted crawling over the Volume of the Sacred Law and the square and compasses. The snake is decorated with the stars of David, representing the forces of evil and is being crushed by the clean hand of its enemies. The second stamp shows a sheaf of wheat superimposed on a cross, splitting a large star upon which rests a hammer and sickle. Presumably the wheat represents law and order while the cross is a symbol of Christianity, so the pious Nazis are seen to be destroying both Jewry and Communism. The third stamp shows a Serbian Samson destroying the two pillars marked “B” and “J” with the light, supposedly of truth and reason, illuminating the scene. The forth shows a hooded figure wearing a Masonic Apron and a star of David cringing from the strong ray of light thrown upon it by the so called National Socialists from which the term Nazi was formed.

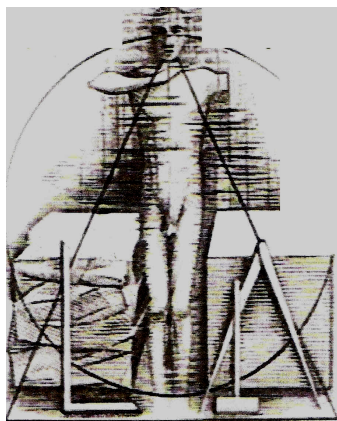
Although not on postage stamps a lot of Anti-Masonic literature was printed and I gathered what I could of this and put it in my book called “A Brief Survey of Anti-Masonry”.

Perhaps the most unusual Masonic Stamp that I have been able to collect was issued by Belgium to mark its 150th year. It depicts a man standing to order as an Entered Apprentice with the rough and perfect ashlar next to a Square and Compasses.

GRAND ORIENT de BELGIQUE

GROOTOOSTEN von BELGIE

Brethren I hope that this talk has shown that Masonry is in fact universal and that you can make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge through the study of Philately or postage stamps from around the world.



BELGIE - BELGIQUE 1833 10f

Ed Note: I found theses Stamps depicting Masonry from the Philipines.



1987, December 19. Stamps issued to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Grand Lodge of the Philippines F, & A. M. Design features Dr. Jose Rizal, Master Mason and National Hero.



1976, October 9, Manila, Philippines. Souvenir Cover with Masonic cachet. 75th Anniversary. Founded in 1901, Manila Lodge No. 1 played a huge part in erecting the first Masonic Temple to be used as a Grand Lodge.



1977, January 26, Quezon City, Philippines. Souvenir Cover with Masonic cachet. MacArthur's 97th Birth Anniversary. Cover No. 3 in a series of covers issued commemorating 1977 as Reunion For Peace Year.

The following article is copied from the MQ magazine Issue 9 2004.

On page 19 you will see stamps spoken of by Alan in his talk.

Masonic groups

Stamp of approval

One of the most active organisations for Freemasons is The Masonic Philatelic Club, as **John Kernick** explains





The collecting of stamps has been a popular pastime since shortly after the issue of the first Penny Black in 1840. Over the years the number of new issues throughout the world has grown yearly making it impossible to collect all stamps of all issuing countries.

This has led to an increased interest in collecting those stamps associated with a particular theme, and an interest in those associated in some way with Freemasonry has been around for many years.

In fact, there was an article in AQC – the Transactions of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2075, the Premier Lodge of Masonic Research – some years ago, when the author described how he went about this.

There were clubs associated with this theme in other countries, but never in the UK until the formation of the Masonic Philatelic Club, the brainchild of Trevor Fray of St. John's Lodge No. 70 in Plymouth.

In 1974 Trevor, whose interests were the stamps of Great Britain and the colonies, was asked by the Plymouth Philatelic Society to give a display at one of their meetings.

He decided to show just one of his interests, the stamps of Tristan da Cunha. As an addition to the stamps, and to add more interest to his exhibits, he contacted Jennifer Tombs, the designer of the set of stamps issued the previous year to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the return of the islanders, who had been forced to leave the island in 1963 due to a volcanic eruption.

She agreed, but requested a favour in return, and asked that, at his display, he mention the Guild of St. Gabriel, a society for those interested in the theme of religion on stamps.

Trevor agreed to do this, and at the same time mentioned that he did not collect any theme, but if he ever did so it would be on Freemasonry. Not only did Jennifer send him the designs he asked for, but also included a first day cover of a French stamp, issued in 1973, to commemorate the bi-centenary of the Grand Orient, the first stamp that he had seen referring to Freemasonry.

From this one cover an idea was born, and Trevor decided that his theme would be Freemasonry, if he knew what to collect. He therefore contacted the secretary of the Devon and Cornwall Masonic Study Circle for help.

This enquiry resulted in an introduction to the late Terry Waghorn, Past Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons in Cornwall, an avid collector of the Masonic theme.

After several discussions they agreed to form a club, with Freemasonry as its theme, and Terry Waghorn became President. An advert was placed in Stamp magazine about the formation of a Masonic Philatelic Club and more than 50 replies were received and the Club was born. The club's stated objectives were:

"The furtherance of Masonic Research via the media of postage stamps, the dissemination of knowledge gained and the quiet enjoyment of this interesting hobby."





The area of study has now been extended to cover postcards and postal seals. A preliminary newsletter was sent to prospective members under the banner of The Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain, with Trevor as secretary and newsletter editor.

In February 1976 the first newsletter was sent to the 111 founding members who had joined over the five months since the original advertisement appeared.

Initially the newsletter was scheduled to appear twice a year but, from the January 1977 issue, this has been four times a year. In July 1978, for constitutional reasons, the Club changed its name to The Masonic Philatelic Club.

At the 1991 AGM, the newsletter became *The Philatelic Club Magazine*. On the death of Terry Waghorn, Trevor Fray was elected President and holds this office to this day.

Every effort is made to include details in the magazine of new issues that are applicable, in one way or another, to the Masonic theme, and more than 1,800 are now recorded on the club database. The majority of these also appear in Trevor Fray's *Masonic Philately*.

In 1992 the Club was invited to enter the newsletter/magazine in the Philatelic Periodicals section of PHILITEX 92, the first International Literature Exhibition in America, and it was awarded a Bronze.

One of the problems of collecting a theme is obtaining suitable stamps, as most of those that can be used are invariably part of a set, and dealers are quite understandably loath to split sets.

To overcome this problem the club makes efforts, with varying degrees of success, to purchase suitable items directly from the country of issue. A circulating exchange packet scheme is also in operation, and members are encouraged to make use of this to dispose of surplus and duplicate issues, as well as to purchase those items missing from their collections.

The methods of displaying stamps are very much a matter of individual preference and, providing the collector has no wish to enter competitions which have their own rules, he is able to please himself and do anything he likes.

One of our members, who also collects copies of Lodge summonses, involves himself into a great deal of research through the stamp catalogues to find a stamp, or stamps, that depict the name of the Lodge concerned. Once found, the stamp is attached to the copy of the summons on file. Perhaps the most common method used by club members is to split the collection up into sections. The most popular are:

Those that depict known Freemasons, e.g. Royalty, politicians, sportsmen etc.



The amount and depth of information about the person concerned varies according to individual tastes. We always endeavour to list the dates when his various degrees were conferred: no individual is confirmed as a Freemason until this information is available.

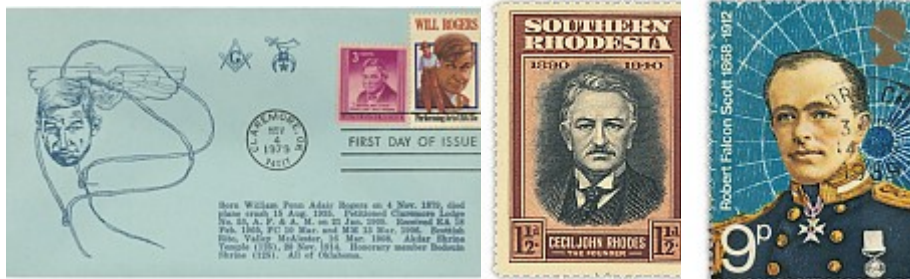
Until this information is known he is classed as a doubtful. The exception is when the individual concerned is stated to be a Freemason by a recognised source: e.g. a list of Freemasons published by Grand Lodge or Masonic publication.

Those that depict various aspects of Masonic symbolism – working tools etc.



It is quite surprising what connections can be made between a stamp and a phrase from the ritual.





Those from countries where Freemasonry is, or was, forbidden.



Examples of these are the stamps of Germany under Hitler, and Spain under Franco. There is also the well-known set of four anti-Masonry stamps issued by Serbia.

Those that depict scenes or events that can be in some way associated with Freemasons, or Freemasonry in particular.



An example of this is the set issued by Great Britain to commemorate the works of Brothers Gilbert and Sullivan.

Those issued to commemorate a particular Masonic event.



An example is the set and miniature sheet issued in 1992 by Jamaica to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the first Provincial Grand Master EC of Jamaica. (The Province became a District in 1866, when all Provinces outside England were similarly renamed.)

The club hold a database of over 1,800 stamps issues that can be included in a Freemasonry collection under one of the sections mentioned.

The club's annual meeting, the only formal gathering of the year, is held in November which, for the last few years, has been in the Refreshment Room at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

In November 2003 the venue was changed to the RMBI Home at Oadby, Leicester. Hopefully this will encourage members from the Midlands and the north of England to attend.

Members living in other parts of the UK also encouraged to hold informal meetings in areas in which they live. Committee members make every effort to attend these meetings.

Up-to-date information of new issues detailing the source of information, the subject matter and stamp details i.e. country of issue, SG number etc., appear every three months in the Club magazine.

The web site is also updated periodically with details of new issues and of forthcoming club meetings, philatelic exhibitions and links to other web sites of interest.

Membership of the Masonic Philatelic Club is open to Freemasons in good standing of the English Constitution and all other Constitutions recognised by that body. The current annual subscription is £7 for members residing in the UK and £8.50 for those residing elsewhere, payable on 1st January each year. Application for membership should be made to the secretary, M. Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4JS. An application form may also be downloaded from the club's web site at.

www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk