



The Chariot Effect

So much of what we do and think today is hampered by the past and no matter how hard we try to improve we are restricted by Roman Chariots! How can that be I've never seen a Roman Chariot, let alone have a clue what your talking about, is probably what you are thinking about now? You may have never had a ride in a chariot, but every day your life is influence by one and you probably didn't realize it, but trust me its true. The accepted fact is that 2000 years after the height and power of the Roman Empire, our fundamental approach to ground transportation is still being hampered by the width of a chariot or any other horse drawn vehicle. Roman roads many of which can still be found today in Britain were built to accommodate the standard width of a wagon axel. With the advent of trains the standard gauge was based on, you guessed it the width of a horse drawn carriage. As our technology developed further automobiles, etc. undercarriages were based on the same standard width, 4 feet 8.5 inches. It's not that engineers and designers couldn't build a bigger more efficient width, they simply couldn't afford to change existing structures such as roads, bridge, tunnels etc. The end result being that in a world of seemingly limitless technological advance we are often restricted in improving because underpinnings of the past. When you consider the fact that the

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Chariot Effect continued...

NASA space shuttle size was restricted because its components had to be transported on a standard gauge rail system (of only 4' 8.5") that was designed in part by the needs of the horse and cart, maybe we should ask ourselves how much of our, beliefs, prejudices, attitudes and behaviors are restrained by the pathways of the past. If our personal road to change has been restricted by things we have not considered, it has to make you wonder what we can do if we allow our own cable tow to be expanded.

Military Lodges and the Spread of Freemasonry

I recently read a very good essay entitled "The Rifle & The Apron" by Brother Lieutenant Joseph F. Curry a member of The Beaches Lodge No. 473 in the East Toronto District. His 12-page presentation explored the role of Military Lodges and their part in spreading Freemasonry around the world and here in Canada. (If you would like a copy of the article, send me an email and I will forward it to you) Beginning with the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1732, when it issued a Warrant for a "movable Lodge" to the 1st British Foot Regiment, other warrants were issued to military units and as a result Freemasonry spread around the empire and many members of the Craft ended up participating in pivotal events that shaped world history.

The oldest record of Freemasonry in Canada dates back to 1721-23 in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. In 1738 Major Erasmus James Phillips arrived there in 1738 and not only reestablished a Lodge (#5 on the roll of St. John's Grand Lodge of Massachusetts), he was named the Grand Master of Nova Scotia. As a result of British military Lodges, Masonry spread from southern Nova Scotia to, Cape Breton Island, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The 46th Regiment had an Irish Warrant as well and prior to their "Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No. 227" arrival in Canada it had already brought the Craft to what is now Sydney Australia (formerly Botany Bay). That resulted in the initiation of local residents and the establishment of the first lodge in the land of OZ and still operates to this day as the "Lodge of Antiquity No.1" on the register of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

When the 46th Regiment arrived in Canada they continued to work but soon after many men were transferred back to England, but several decided to stay in Quebec and as a result the Warrant was transferred to Montreal as "Antiquity Lodge No.1" on the registry of the Grand Lodge of Quebec and is still active to this day.



Canada Scott #100

One of the most defining events in Canadian history occurred at Quebec City in 1759, when the war with France was decided in favour of England, whose troops were led by 32-year old Major General James Wolfe (1727-1759) a Freemason. Both he and his adversary General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm (1712-1759) were killed in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. As soon as possible several military lodges including the 15th (Amherst's), 28th (Braggs), 43rd (Kennedys'), 47th (Lascelles'), 48th (Webbs), Regiments and the Royal Artillery celebrated St. Johns Day on December 27th 1759 at the garrison.

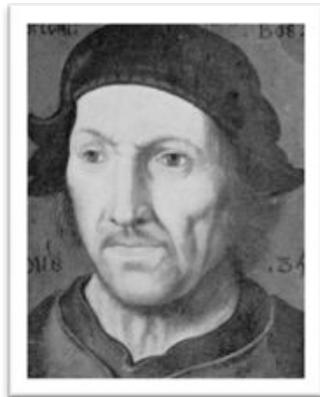
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MASONIC SYMBOLISM IN RENAISSANCE ART

Is it possible that symbolic Masonry existed hundreds of years before the creation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717? There exists over 150 Masonic writings that include manuscripts and minutes that date back as far as 1390 but is there anything else that establishes the fact that the symbolic aspect of the Craft existed? It only stands to reason that if a society based on allegory and veiled in symbolism existed in the middle ages we would be able to find examples of those concepts in the works of art of that period.

Some believe that there is some very convincing evidence within the work of the artists such as **Hieronymus Bosch** (1450 -1516) and **Albrecht Dürer** (1471- 1528) that suggests they may have been Freemasons.

Very little is known about the Dutch painter who was born **Jheronimus van Aken** and lived all his entire life in and near "s Hertogenbosch" because he left no letters or diaries. He joined an arch-conservative religious group, the Brotherhood of Our Lady in 1488 that comprised 40 influential citizens of 's-Hertogenbosch, along with 7,000 members from across Europe. Bosch was best known for his use of fantastic imagery to illustrate moral and religious concepts and narratives and were usually painted in triptychs (*painted or carved panels that are divided into three sections*) His work is believed to be greatly influenced by the Brotherhood of Our Lady which though loyal to the Pope their members saw it as their duty to denounce the abuses and scandalous behavior of many priests of the day. When you review his works such as "*The*



"Garden of Earthly Delights" or *"Death of the Reprobate"* you are greeted with a cacophony of fantasy, strange creatures and symbolism. His painting that is rife with Masonic symbolism is "*The Wayfarer*" and when analyzed it is hard to argue that Bosch was not an adept of the Fraternity. One of the best reviews of this Painting comes from the book *"A Pilgrim's Path"* Freemasonry and the Religious Right by John J. Robinson author of *"Born In Blood"*. He notes that unlike many Bosch paintings there are no hideous demons of fantastical creatures. Instead we are presented an ordinary looking man hiking by a farmhouse. But when you look closer you will see that the man has one foot a shoe the other shod in a slipper and his left pant leg is pulled up. Instead of wearing his cap that he has in his hand, which bears a plum bob instead of a feather, he wears a hood upon his head. The strap from his pack is around his chest instead of his shoulders, so as both the strap and hood could represent a

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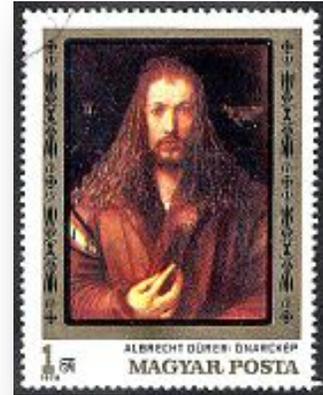
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hoodwink and cable tow. Incorporated into the swinging gate is an odd design, the brace does not go from corner to corner but continues above the gate to form a square.

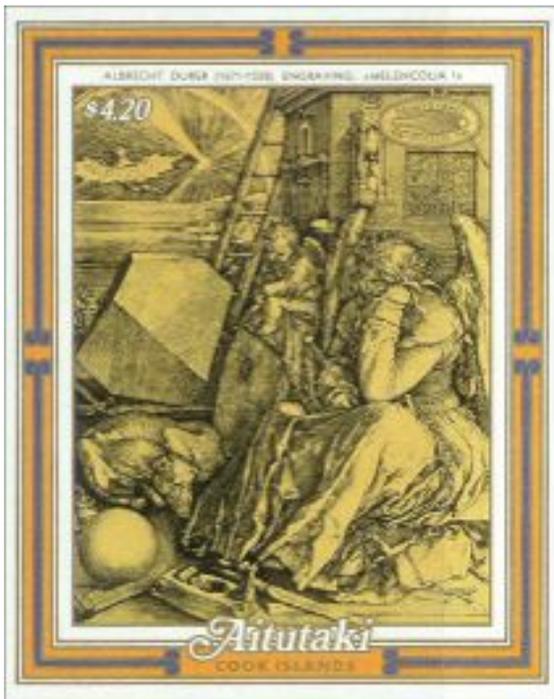
Albrecht Dürer was born in Nuremberg, Germany and not only became an accomplished artist by his mid twenties he was also a famous printmaker, mathematician and theorist.



In the world of art on postage stamps the work of **Albrecht Dürer** is one of the most popular in the world. To many the most famous of his works is the praying hands.



The work that has fascinated historians' and philosophers' for hundreds of years is his 1514 engraving "*Melencolia I*". This is the only engraving by Dürer to have a title in the plate and it is full of symbolism that can be interpreted as Masonic.



The tools of architecture and geometry surround the angel who is deep in thought. She has a Book on her lap and she is holding a set of compasses. Below the image of a rainbow and a blazing star, there is a large stone-truncated rhombohedron with a faint human skull on it. (A rhombohedron is better known to freemasons as parallelepipedon and referred to in our ritual) A ladder, (Jacobs?) is leaning against the building that supports the scales of justice, the hourglass of time and a bell. Some may claim it's a stretch, but three stylized Square and Compasses can clearly be seen on the top rim of the hourglass. In addition and most puzzling to historians is the "magic square below the bell. (Wikipedia a *magic square* of order n is an arrangement of n^2 numbers, usually distinct integers, in a square, such that the n numbers in all rows, all columns, and both diagonals sum to the same constant.) In addition to having the traditional magic square rules, **Dürer's** magic square's four quadrants,

corners and centers equaled the same number (34), linking it another mathematical sequence the Fibonacci Numbers. **Albrecht Dürer** was 43, the year he created the *Melencolia* the reverse of 34.

It is doubtful that anyone will be able to prove a Masonic connection to some of the Art masters from the Renaissance period but if we start looking beyond the obvious and open our eyes to what is clearly hidden in plain view we will likely find many more works of art the suggest a Masonic connection to the artist.

Military Lodges & Freemasonry continued...

In 1760 gunnery officer Thomas Dunkerley, the illegitimate son of King George II, who with the authority granted him from the Premier Grand Lodge of England, installed Lt. John Price Guinnett a member of Lodge No. 182 (I.C) of the 47th Regiment as the 1st Provincial Grand Master of Upper Canada (Quebec).



Freemasonry was brought to the Niagara region in 1773 by the Kings 8th Regiment. Though the lodge did not initiate civilians it was instrumental in the establishment of what would become the Province of Ontario's first civilian lodge, "St. John's Lodge of Friendship No. 2".

One of Canada's greatest heroines of the war of 1812 was Laura Secord, the daughter and wife of Freemasons. Her father Thomas Ingersoll a tavern owner at Queenstown, introduced her to her husband, James Secord after being his initiation. He was a sergeant in the Queenstown Militia and was wounded in the battle of Queenstown Heights. Laura found



1992 Scott #1434

her place in history by thwarting an American surprise attack by walking a cow past the American sentries and then rushing 20 miles through swamp and bush to warn another Freemason Lieutenant James

Fitz Gibbon who was able to mount a counter surprise attack and obtain the full surrender of the American

forces.

As Canada grew as a nation and absorbed more land, first from the purchase of Rupert's Land (most of western Canada) from the Hudson's Bay Company, Freemasonry spread with the aid of the military and paramilitary (Militia and the Mounted Police). Winnipeg saw the establishment of "Prince Rupert's Lodge in 1870 (formerly the military lodge "Winnipeg Lodge")

The installing officer for the first lodge in British Columbia in 1860 was Captain Henry Aguilar the commanding officer of H.M. Gunboat "Grappler". He was a past master of Good Report Lodge No. 158 and at the time his vessel was stationed at Esquimalt.

Several accounts exist in the annals of military history where Masonic kindness occurred between opposing military forces in around the world. Lives were spared, prisoners returned and homes spared from the torch. In WWI special cards were issued to soldiers who were members of the Craft appealing to the enemy to provide Masonic treatment should the individual be captured. The cards were printed in several languages including French, English, German, and even Arabic.

These are but a few of the examples of the role the military has played and continues to this day with the advent of the advent most recent military lodge in Afghanistan. "Canada Lodge" is the only moveable military Masonic Lodge in the world today and holds a dispensation the Charter of Trent Lodge No. 38 from the Grand jurisdiction of Ontario.

There is far more than can be said about this interesting topic than can be covered in this article, but it is suffice to say that the Masonic world as we know it today would not exist if it had not been for the efforts of movable Masonic Lodges.

New Issue - Brazil



Brazil the country that has produced more Masonic stamps free of overprints than any other country released a new Masonic stamp on December 13, 2012 in honour of Luiz Gonzaga do Nascimento, Sr. (1912-1989).

He was a prominent Brazilian folk singer, songwriter, poet and master of the accordion. Gonzaga was known for dressing in traditional costumes of his native northeastern state of Pernambuco and singing folk songs and performing traditional music of that region. To the people of Brazil known as the "king of baião" and "Gonzagão".

After leaving the army in 1939 he moved to Rio de Janeiro with a used accordion and played on the street before participating in Ary Barroso's talent show. After he won the competition he went on to carve out a niche in the music industry and become a Brazilian national treasure. In the 1960's the public's taste in Brazilian music shifted from baião to "bosa nova" which resulted in his style waning in the cities, so he took his talents to the rural areas of Brazil where his popularity continued to grow.

He was prominent Brazilian Freemason and even composed a song called "Acacia Amarela" (Yellow Acacia). Brother Gonzaga died of natural causes at the age of 76 but his name and accomplishments live on in musical history. In a case of tragic irony and in an effort to thwart the world condemnation of the Itaparica Dam, that displaced over 40,000 inhabitants of his home state, the owners renamed it the Luiz Gonzaga Dam.

Joe Oliveira designed the stamp and he included the image of "Gonzagão" dressed in traditional costume wearing a northeastern cowboy leather hat, holding an accordion singing the one of his greatest hits "Asa Branca". Over his arm, a white bird flies into the clouds, symbolizing harmony musical singer. The top right corner depicts a crown, symbolic of the fact that his fans dubbed him the "King of baião", capped off with the Masonic Square & Compasses, in recognition of his membership in Freemasonry.

The stamp is produced in gummed, offset paned of 24, and are currently available from the Brazilian Postal Authority for approximately \$29 per sheet.

Out and About

I recently discovered a very helpful website for stamp collectors, called "[The World Stamp News](http://www.worldstampnews.com)" at: <http://www.worldstampnews.com> The website is part of the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau Ltd with the aim is to be an impartial online philatelic news resource to collectors worldwide. They provide up to date information of new releases from around the world along with full colour photographs of new stamps. They have a handy link page to most of the postal agencies around the world There is no charge to subscribe and should be in every collectors bookmark list.

Stay tuned for more information on an upcoming auction of Masonic collection. The collection is being offered because the collector's health is such that he can no longer participate in the hobby.