

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3

the Watermark

Canada's Online Masonic Philatelic Newsletter

We Survived!

Not that I doubted it for a moment, but if you're reading this, then you too survived the latest "end of the world" prediction and the planet didn't come to an untimely end on December 21st. I find it ironic that so many people were convinced that the Mayan's could predict the end of the world, when they could not predict their society being destroyed by the invasion of the Spanish in search of gold. The good news is that we have much more time to spend on our favourite hobby of researching and collecting stamps related to freemasonry. Happy New Year!



Another Year!

As I prepared to put this issue of the Watermark together, I realized that I am beginning the third year of writing this little newsletter. I am always surprised when I receive an email from people all over the world asking to be added to the mailing list. What began as a club newsletter in Ottawa has grown beyond what I had envisaged. I will continue to keep putting the Watermark out each month as long as readers keep asking for it or I run out of ideas and material to write about. My New Years message to everyone who read the Watermark is a simple "Thank you" for taking time away from your busy day to spend some time with my thoughts and with me.

Some of what is In This Issue:

New Masonic Stamp

Colombia releases its first Masonic Stamp

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Masonic Timepieces

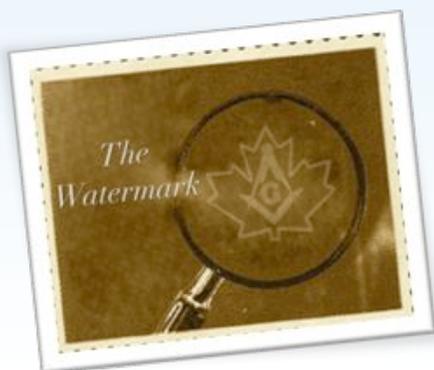
We begin a study of Masonic themed watches, clocks etc.

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Robert Burns

Scotland's Greatest Man.

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Previous editions of the Watermark online at <http://bytown.ottawamasons.ca//Stamp.html>

New Masonic Stamp!

On November 15th, 2012 the National Postal Services of Colombian released a new stamp honouring Freemasons entitled "*Participation of the Masons in the liberation movement and founding of the Republic*" and features General **Francisco José de Paula Santander y Omaña** (1792-1840).

The stamp is a reproduction of the photograph by Philip Eljach. It regalia of a 33rd degree Mason.

Man of the Laws" ("*El Hombre de* portrait piece as one of the most Boyacá and the independence in the development of education in schools. He founded the first lodge The President of National Postal Barragán stated" *we want to pay years to build the nation. This time, the world on a stamp.* Products come in a presentation souvenir sheet with twenty (20) stamps in size 19.5 X



painting by Hernando Sanchez, and depicts Santander dressed in the Santander came to be known as "**The las Leyes**") and was chosen as postcard important Masons during the Battle of movement. Also played a decisive role the country, creating more than 1,500 in Bogotá, Colombia in January 1820. Services SA, Adriana María López tribute to these men who have worked for Masons and history embodied travel the

30 mm in polychrome plus a special fluorescent ink invisible First Day Covers and Maxi Cards.



Let's Get Serious About False Advertising!

I don't know about you but I am getting fed up with eBay™ etc. sellers that offer stamps and other products for sale in the Masonic search category that are not Masonic. Ok I admit that I am a bit of a geek when it comes to collecting authentic material. But it annoys me when less informed collectors are misled by hawkers who only want to sell their merchandise, regardless if their claims are untrue. We, who know something is not accurate, have a responsibility to contact the seller and ask them to remove the offending item from the

Masonic/Freemasonry category. I for one believe we have a duty to other collectors to save them from being ripped off. If we don't we won't have many collecting Masonic Stamps!





It's About Time

Timepieces such as clocks and watches have always fascinated me and I am surprised how few postage stamps feature them. Like most people I feel lost without my trusty watch on my wrist. Watches are more than mere timepieces they are almost part of you and in many cases they speak to how you see yourself and tell the world a little about who you are. I have been professional diver most of my life and guess what type of watch I wear; a divers watch. I also have a couple of Masonic wristwatches and plan to collect more, but I sure wish I had a Dudley Masonic watch. A what, watch you say? A Dudley, arguably the most intriguing Masonic pocket watch that was ever made!

The creator of this masterpiece was brother William Wallace Dudley a horologist who was born and raised in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. He was born in 1851 in and started his career as a ships chronometer apprentice at the age of 13.

Later in life he was hired by the Waltham Watch Factory as a model maker and moved to Waltham, MA. He gained numerous skills as his career moved him through several watch manufacturers before he settled with the Hamilton Watch Co., in Lancaster, PA where he worked from 1906 to 1920.

Dudley was a very active Freemason and belonged to several concordant bodies including the York and Scottish Rites, the Shrine and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. His love and fascination of the Craft naturally led him to designing Masonic symbols into timepieces and he tinkered and experimented for nearly 20 years before creating his first Masonic watch. In 1918, Dudley created a Masonic pocket watch in which the bridge plates of the watch were shaped in the form of Masonic symbols.



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Canadian Mason of the Month

Silas Robert Allen (1888-1958)

Silas Robert Allen was one of the most prominent stamp engravers who worked for the Canadian Bank Note Company in Ottawa. Beginning in 1928 he engraved the first of 78 stamps for Canada (61), the Bahamas and Norway covering every topic imaginable. One of his favorite works was the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, which he engraved for the series of definitive stamps issued in 1954. Born and raised in Ottawa he joined the Canadian Bank Note Company in 1922 and was employed by them for 35 years until he retired in 1955. Brother Allen was also a highly skilled oil painter and photographer. He was a member of Civil Service Lodge No. 148, in Ottawa, Ontario.



It's About Time Cont...

At the age of 69, Brother Dudley teamed up with Lancaster jewelry owners, George W. Adams and John B. Wood, and formed the Dudley Watch Company in 1920. On June 20th 1923 he received a design patent (#62566) on his unique Masonic watch design. Their company produced three variations on the original model and only 3,580 were ever manufactured. The original price range for these watches was quite high for the times, \$150 - \$250 depending on the model and its features.



The Dudley Watch Company struggled for five years, but the advent of the wristwatch brought about the companies demise and it went bankrupt in 1925. 74-year-old Dudley returned to the Hamilton Watch Co. where he worked until he retired in 1931 at the age of 80. He died in 1938 never seeing his dream of producing more watches designed by him fulfilled. Little did he know that over seventy years later his watches would become one of the most sought after Masonic collectables in the world, costing between \$5000 - \$10,000 a piece! The Dudley Masonic watch continued to be produced by the P. W. Baker Co.

from 1925 to 1935, and by the XL Watch Co. of New York from 1935 to 1976. Over the years numerous timepieces including clocks, pocket watches and wristwatches have been produced, and many manufacturers provide them today but few can match the majesty of the Dudley Masonic pocket watch. To learn more about Masonic timepieces checkout the following webpage's:

www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/dudley_masonic_watch.htm or
http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/curiosities/masonic_watches/index.html

What to Say About the Ploughman Poet, Robden of Solway Firth?



How can one write a little article about a man of such stature and legend, whom numerous books and essays have been penned for 200 years and still keep it interesting? A poet, lyricist, a pioneer of the Romantic Movement a source of admiration and inspiration to the designers of both socialism and liberalism and the man who was voted the greatest Scot in Scottish history! Robert Burns (1759 – 1796) was a mere 37 years old when he died at Dumfries Scotland but many of his works are still relevant over two hundred years later, and billions of people sing “Auld Lang Syne” every New Years even though most of them do not know what the words mean.

The eldest of the seven children, Robert Burn's early life was one of hardship, and poverty that resulted in a weakened constitution, and a premature stoop that would haunt him for his entire life. Scotland's greatest poet obtained most of his education at home from his father and later by John Murdoch (1747–1824), from whom he learned Latin, French and mathematics.

Much has been written about the many loves of his life, all of whom he penned poems beginning in 1754 at the age of 15 when he fell madly in love with Nellie Kilpatrick who despite his "O, Once I Lov'd A Bonnie Lass" she never was aware of his fondness for her:

*"O once I lov'd a bonnie lass,
Aye, and I love her still;
And whilst that virtue warms my breast,
I'll love my handsome Nell."*

In 1755 he wrote two songs, "*Now Westlin' Winds*" and "*I Dream'd I Lay*" for a young Peggy Thompson whom he first saw in her garden when he was out at noon measuring the altitude of the sun.

Burns tried to be a success at farming but that was not his lot. At one point he decided to accept and offer of employment in Jamaica but he didn't have the funds to pay for the passage. A friend suggested he publish a book of poems to raise the money. On 31 July 1786 "*Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish dialect*", (also known as the Kilmarnock Volume) and within months he widely known throughout Scotland



He fathered his first child to Elizabeth Paton his mother's servant, while he was courting his first wife Jean Armour who bore him nine children (he had another four by other women) of which only three survived to adulthood the last of which was born on the day of his funeral in July 1796. Armour and Burns reconciled and after a stint at Ellisland Farm they moved to Dumfries in 1791 where they both lived for the rest of their lives. Burn's fame had reached such a point that twenty years after his death his remains were removed from their modest grave in St Michael's Kirkyard in Dumfries, and placed in a specially commissioned mausoleum.



Robert Burns became a Freemason at the age 22 when he was initiated at Lodge St. David Tarbolton on 4 July 1781 and for the rest of his life he was an enthusiastic member of the Craft and concurrent bodies such as the Knights Templar. As much as Freemasonry benefited from this flawed very human man, the man himself receive much inspiration from the fraternity. In Freemasonry he found both fellowship and refuge from the world that both praised him and scorned him, and the Lodges teachings inspired him and nurtured his genius and his belief in the noble spirit and the rights of the common man.

Despite his greatness and fame a postage stamp honoring him wasn't released until 1956 and ironically it was the former Soviet Union that issued two 40-kopek stamps on the 160th anniversary of the poet's death. The USSR released a third stamp in 1959, the 40 kopek brown-and-blue stamp of 1956 that was overprinted "1759 - 1959" in commemoration of the bicentenary of his birth. 1959 saw Romania issue a Burn's stamp as part of a six-stamp release featuring famous poets.



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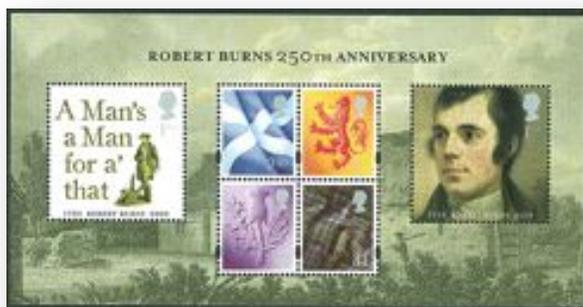
A Tip Of The Hat

On this side of the pond the “go to man” in Masonic philately is Brother Robert A. Domingue of Massachusetts, who has been the driving force behind the American Topical Society “Masonic Research Group” for many years and the man who inspired me to create the Watermark. Bob has written 173 issues of the “The Philatelic Freemason” since he took over in 1984 after the previous editor, Walter Kirby died. In addition to writing 2068 pages of the newsletter that he creates every two months, he has also been a regular contributor to the “Northern Light”, the newsletter of the Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction. His column there is called “The Stamp Act”. Such selfless dedication to both philately and Freemasonry is awe-inspiring and we are indebted to his hard work. My wife and I had the opportunity to meet Bob and his lovely wife two summers ago at their cottage in Maine, we had a great time visiting. Thanks again Bob for all you have done for this great hobby!



Burns ...

Great Britain issued its first two stamps featuring the Bard in 1966 and followed again twenty years later on the 137th anniversary of his birth with a four-value set of stamps. Instead of depicting the poet himself they chose to depict the opening lines of four of his works, along with appropriate imagery. In 2009 the Royal Mail produced a Miniature Sheet with his portrait, another with the opening lines and image for his poem “A man ‘s a man for that” and four stamps depicting symbols of Scotland.



As of 2012 Robert Burns has over 600 living descendants and they along with millions of people around the world who celebrate him and his works with an annual Burns supper held on or around January 25th each year. But alas there is little one can say in such a short article, so I will leave it to the readers to learn more about this fascinating man.