

# 50 YEAR MASON

## 1970 - 2020

Presented to:

Bro.

Initiated 1970



# Commemorating 1970



## Monastery & Architecture from Spain

There were three stamps issued in 1970 by Spain to commemorate the Monastery of Santa Maria of Ripoll. Located in Catalonia Spain, the Monastery of Santa Maria of Ripoll, is a great medieval monastery built in the year 879 by Count Wilfred the Hairy. The magnificent 12th century Romanesque portal is one of the outstanding treasures of European sculpture. It is completely sculpted with scenes and allegories from the Old Testament. This is why it became known as "the Bible of stone". Its monumentality bears witness to Ripoll's years of splendor. Because of its originality, quality and size, the portal is recognized as one of the most important pieces of European Romanesque sculpture. Each one of the scenes in the portal of Ripoll is full of symbolism and meaning, something Freemasons share in common. The three stamps depict the monastery from afar, its magnificent portal, and one of its inner court walkways with what appears to be countless arches which when looked upon instantly makes one appreciate the architecture erected by the stone masons. These stamps remind Freemasons of the significance and symbolism of architecture found in and throughout the fraternity. It's easy to think of the second degree where the initiate is encouraged to study the five principal orders of architecture when looking at these stamps.

## Denmark - 25th Liberation Anniversary

The Denmark postage stamp with a candle sitting in a window is a 25th anniversary stamp of the liberation from the Germans of World War II. Few know of the number of Freemasons who were affected by Germany in World War II. It began as early as March 23, 1933, when the Enabling Act was passed by Germany's parliament. Using the Act, on January 8, 1934, the German Ministry of the Interior ordered the disbandment of Freemasonry, and confiscation of the property of all Lodges; stating that those who had been members of Lodges when Hitler came to power, in January 1933, were prohibited from holding office in the German party or its paramilitary arms, and were ineligible for appointment in public service. Consistently considered an ideological foe of their world perception, special sections of the Security Service and later the Reich Security Main Office were established to deal with Freemasonry. Thousands of Masons were imprisoned in concentration camps. Masonic concentration camp inmates were also graded as political prisoners, and wore an inverted (pointed down) red triangle. The number of Freemasons from German occupied countries who were killed is not accurately known, but it is estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were murdered under the German regime. Therefore, the significance and symbolism of Denmark's candle in a window can be interpreted by Freemasons that through the darkness of times, know that the light of good is never extinguished, will always shine bright, and by its placement in a window shows the world that the light may be seen by all. It is also a constant reminder of the light of knowledge found within Freemasonry.

## Great Britain - Royal Astronomical Society

In 1970, the Royal Astronomical Society celebrated its sesquicentennial (150th), and now 50 years later their bicentennial (200th) anniversary. The **Royal Astronomical Society (RAS)** is a learned society and charity that encourages and promotes the study of astronomy, solar-system science, geophysics and closely related branches of science. Its headquarters are in Burlington House, on Piccadilly in London. The society has over 4,000 members, known as "Fellows", most of them professional researchers or postgraduate students. It is quite interesting to note that a second degree Mason is referred to as a "Fellowcraft" Mason and members of the RAS are referred to as "Fellows". Astronomy is also one of the seven liberal arts mentioned in the second degree that the candidate is recommended to engage himself in the study of. Approximately one mile from the United Grand Lodge of England, one can't help but imagine that there are probably a few Masons as members of the RAS.

## France - Special Olympics

With this postage stamp from 1970, the country of France honored the 50th anniversary of the first European Junior Athletic Championships, now 100 years in 2020. On the right-hand side of this 45¢ face value stamp is printed "1ERS CHAMPIONNATS D'EUROPE D'ATHLETISME DES JUNIORS". In the center is a symbol for French Federation Athletics, founded on November 20, 1920 which is abbreviated as FFA and is surrounded by a triangle. Above the symbol is the word Cinquantenaire (translated as 50th) on the top and 1920-1970 printed below it. Although this particular postage stamp has no Masonic connection, it contains a feature that is fun to notice if you are a Freemason. If you look at the stamp upside-down, it is difficult not to see a square and compass formed by the pole, the cross bar, and the vaulter who is jumping.

## Mexico - Total Eclipse of the Sun

This is another fun stamp issued in 1970. Mexico issued the Total Eclipse of the Sun postage stamp to commemorate the event that occurred on March 7, 1970. What is great about this stamp is that as a Freemason, it is easy to think of the experience when you were first made a Mason. All men who become Masons enter a lodge room for the first time in darkness and once made a Mason, are symbolically brought to true Masonic light. As is illustrated in the lessons of Freemasonry, the darkness caused by the eclipse is eventually replaced by the light.

Brother, may you enjoy this gift for many years to come!

**Bro. Todd E. Heckathorn,  
Worshipful Master 2020**

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