

# 70 YEAR MASON

1950 - 2020

Presented to:

Bro.

Initiated 1950



## Commemorating 1950



## National Capitol Sesquicentennial

A set of four U.S. stamps was issued in 1950 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Washington, D.C., as the nation's capitol. The stamps portrayed the three branches of government (Executive, Judicial, Legislative), and concepts of Liberty and Freedom. The Executive branch of government is represented by the **White House** stamp. The White House was planned by architect and Freemason, James Hoban. The **U.S. Supreme Court Building** stamp represents the Judicial branch of government. The building was completed in 1935. Before then, the Supreme Court met in various parts of the U.S. Capitol building. The **U.S. Capitol Building** stamp represents the Legislative branch of government. All of the initial designs were considered too crude, with the most promising coming from French architect Stephen Hallet. However, Hallet's design was heavily influenced by architectural style in France, and the young nation was cautious about mimicking a European power. A late design by William Thornton was submitted and warmly received by Jefferson, George Washington, and the design committee. The design was approved, and as a consolation to Hallet, the committee invited him to review the plans and serve as superintendent of the project. Hallet tried to make major changes to Thornton's design. To resolve the conflict, the commission brought in White House architect and Freemason **James Hoban** to help the two men work together. A compromise was reached, and the project moved forward. The work on the U.S. Capitol was completed by Bro. Benjamin Latrobe who was known as the "father of architecture in America." Latrobe was initiated in the Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, in London 1788, and in the extension of 1851-1865 the architect selected was Bro. Thomas U. Walter, who was a member of Colombia Lodge No. 91, in Philadelphia, PA. Brother George Washington laid the cornerstone of the Capitol and the ceremony is considered the greatest public Masonic occasion in American history. The final stamp in the set honors the concepts of Liberty and Freedom with the **Statue of Freedom** atop the Capitol's dome. The stamp is a symbol of unity and strength, two terms we hear in Freemasonry. We dwell in unity as brethren, and it is to God that we look for wisdom and strength.

## The Manaus Opera House: The Theatre Of The Amazonian Jungle

In the midst of the Amazon Rainforest lies a truly enchanting piece of Renaissance architecture. The Manaus Opera House (also known as The Amazon Theatre) is a working historical landmark that currently accommodates the Amazonas Philharmonic and plays host to the annual Amazonas Opera Festival. Work on the building started in 1884, and took a total of 15 years to complete. Themed in the Renaissance style, many of the materials were brought from all over Europe to create the theatre: the roofing tiles came from France, while furnishings in the style of Louis XV were imported from Paris. From Italy came marble for the stairs, statues, and columns, and the steel walls were ordered from England. Not only materials but also artists were imported for the theatre's creation, with the Italian artist Domenico de Angelis painting the decorative panels that appear on the ceiling of the auditorium and audience chamber. These works of art depict scenes of music, dance, and drama. This beautiful Brazilian piece is filled with 198 chandeliers and the dome of the building is covered with 36,000 decorated ceramic tiles set in a mosaic design depicting the Brazilian flag. The opera house is adorned with numerous columns, pilasters and stunning artwork. It immediately reminds a Freemason of how he should be a lover of the arts and sciences and take every opportunity to improve himself therein, as well as having a knowledge of and for architecture.

## Samuel Gompers

Samuel Gompers (January 27, 1850 – December 13, 1924) was a Jewish immigrant labor union leader and a key figure in American labor history. Gompers founded the American Federation of Labor (AFL), and served as the organization's president from 1886 until his death in 1924. He promoted harmony among the different craft unions that comprised the AFL, trying to minimize jurisdictional battles. He promoted through organization and collective bargaining, to secure shorter hours and higher wages, the first essential steps, he believed, to emancipating labor. He also encouraged the AFL to take political action to "elect their friends" and "defeat their enemies". Gompers was a leading Freemason, having been raised in Dawson Lodge No. 16 in Washington, D.C. and in 1906 a 32° Mason in the Scottish Rite Valley of Washington. In 1920 he wrote, "In my Masonic life, I have visited lodges in many lands, and I have learned that Freemasonry in many countries, particularly in Latin countries, is the principal means whereby freedom of conscience, of thought, and expression is preserved." Gompers was buried at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, New York and is buried only a few yards away from industrialist and Pennsylvania Freemason, Andrew Carnegie.

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

**Bro. Todd E. Heckathorn, Worshipful Master 2020  
Ephrata Lodge No. 665 - Ephrata, Pennsylvania**