

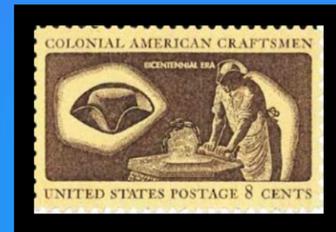
50 YEAR MASON

1972 - 2022

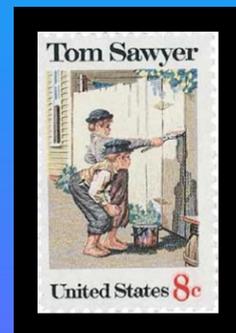
Presented to:

Bro.

Initiated month, day, 1972



Commemorating 1972



Colonial American Craftsman: Hatter

This stamp is part of a group of four se-tenant stamps issued as part of the American Revolution Bicentennial Series and depicts colonial craftsmen working at their trade. In 1660, hatmaking began in Virginia. The hatter on this issue is rolling a beaver hat. In a Masonic lodge only the Worshipful Master wears a hat during a meeting. A top or tall hat is the required hat for Pennsylvania and beaver fur was once the choice of material for a quality hat. In later years silk, wool, cotton, and other fabrics became popular as alternatives. In other jurisdictions it is common to see bowler, cowboy, and fedora hats among other hat styles in use for the Master's hat.

Tom Sawyer

This stamp salutes Tom Sawyer, who "lived" along the Mississippi River around 1845. Created by Mark Twain, Tom represented the typical adventurous American boy. Twain, who settled in Hannibal, Missouri, as a child, also wrote Huckleberry Finn. Mark Twain was the pen name of Samuel L. Clemens, one of the greatest American fiction writers and widely considered America's greatest humorist. He took the name "Mark Twain" from a riverboat term meaning "two fathoms." Samuel L. Clemens was initiated on May 22nd, 1861; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft June 12, 1861; and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason July 10, 1861 in Polar Star Lodge No. 79, located in St. Louis, Missouri. Brother Clemens was called from labor on April 21, 1910, in Redding, Connecticut and is laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira, New York.

Fiorello H. LaGuardia

Fiorello (Italian for "little flower") La Guardia, was born December 11, 1882, in Greenwich Village, New York. La Guardia is best known for being a U.S. congressman and mayor of New York City. From 1907-1910 he was an interpreter at Ellis Island, N.Y. He began law practice in 1910 in New York City. A member of the 65th and 66th U.S. congresses (1917-19) and 68-72nd congresses (1923-33). LaGuardia served three terms as mayor of New York City, from 1934-45. In 1946 he was special U.S. ambassador to Brazil, and director general of the UNRRA the same year. In WWI he was in the U.S. Air Service, achieving the rank of major. He commanded the 8th Centre Aviation School and was attached to night and day bombing squadrons on the Italian front. As a congressman, LaGuardia championed greater immigration and removing U.S. troops from Nicaragua; supported the rights and livelihoods of striking miners, impoverished farmers, oppressed minorities, and struggling families; and fought for progressive income taxes, greater government oversight of Wall Street, and national employment insurance for workers idled by the Great Depression. Historians have recognized LaGuardia as the greatest mayor in New York City history, and perhaps the greatest in the United States. La Guardia was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1913 at Garibaldi Lodge No. 542 in New York City and was also active as a Scottish Rite Freemason.

Benjamin Franklin

Bro. Franklin who played such an important role in the early years of our country was ever mindful of his Masonic teachings when he said: "But that the most acceptable service to God is doing good to man." Franklin was the only person to sign all four of the key documents in United States history: the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Alliance with France, the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain, and the Constitution of the United States. Bro. Franklin was initiated into St. John's Lodge No. 1 in Philadelphia in 1731 and in 1734 was elected and served as Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania - the same year he published Anderson's Constitutions, the first Masonic book printed in America. As evidence of his dedication to our Craft, 15 years later in 1749 when he was asked if he would be willing to serve again, he graciously accepted. Thus he joined a very rare group of Masons who served two non-consecutive terms as our Grand Master.

Stamp Collecting

The final stamp has a face value of 8¢ and was issued in recognition of a hobby that is both educational and fun, stamp collecting - and is in response to numerous requests that collectors have a "stamp of their own." It depicts a picture of the first stamp ever issued by the United States, catalogued as U.S. #1 from 1847 and features a 5¢ stamp of Benjamin Franklin. Franklin served as the first Postmaster General. One of the greatest men of the 18th century, Bro. Franklin once stated, "If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing." Among his countless contributions to the founding of America, Bro. Franklin left a substantial mark on Freemasonry and Pennsylvania. It is the reason why Bro. Franklin was depicted on the first stamp ever issued by the Post Office, which was renamed in 1971 to the USPS (Postal), one year before this stamp was issued.

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

**Bro. Matthew V. Engel
Worshipful Master 2022**

**Ephrata Lodge No. 665
Ephrata, Pennsylvania**