

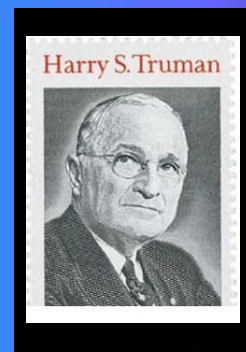
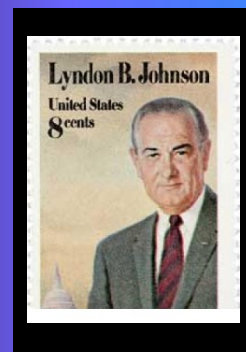
50 Year Mason

1973 - 2023

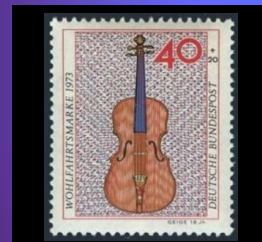
Presented to:

Bro. John Smith

Initiated February 28, 1973



Commemorating 1973



Bro. Lyndon B. Johnson

Issued in memory of our 36th President, who was elected Vice President on the Kennedy/Johnson ticket in 1960 and became President following the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. He served as the 36th President from 1963 to 1969, and also served as a U.S. representative, U.S. senator and the Senate's majority leader. He holds the distinction of being one of the few presidents who served in all elected offices at the federal level. Historians and scholars rank Johnson in the upper tier because of his accomplishments regarding domestic policy. His administration passed many major laws that made substantial advancements in civil rights, health care, welfare, and education. Conversely, Johnson is strongly criticized for his foreign policy, namely escalating American involvement in the Vietnam War. On January 22, 1973, Johnson suffered a heart attack and died. Johnson was a Brother of Johnson City Lodge No. 561, in Texas but only received his Entered Apprentice degree.

Bro. Harry S. Truman

In 1973 the USPS honored the 33rd President, Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) with an enlarged 8¢ stamp. Truman was raised a Master Mason in 1909 at Belton Lodge No. 450, in Grandview, Missouri. In 1911, Truman became the first Master of Grandview Lodge No. 618, a newly constituted lodge, and served a second term in 1916. He later served as the Grand Master of Missouri, 1940-1941. He was an enthusiastic masonic ritualist and served as a District Lecturer and Deputy Grand Master for several years. While he was President of the U.S., he wrote, "The greatest honor that has ever come to me, and that can ever come to me in my life, is to be Grand Master of Masons in Missouri." Brother Truman was buried with Masonic rites in Independence, MO, in a televised ceremony.

Copernicus

The stamp featuring Copernicus, the astronomer, celebrates the 500th anniversary of his birth, with a design based on an 18th century engraving. Copernicus (1473-1543) was born in the Kingdom of Poland. His theory that the sun - not the Earth - was the central position in the solar system replaced a theory that had been accepted for several hundred years. The youngest of four children, Copernicus attended the University of Krakow where he studied math, philosophy, and astronomy. Copernicus left the school in 1495 at his uncle's request, the Prince-Bishop of Warmia, and wanted his nephew to study canon law in Italy. In 1496 he began his studies but was more interested in astronomy than the priesthood. He soon made observations verifying previous studies of the Moon's motion, witnessing a lunar eclipse, and studying the planets. He completed his doctorate on canon law and then studied medicine. By 30, Copernicus had completed all of his studies in Italy and returned home. Copernicus began working on his heliocentric theory that the planets revolved around the sun. At the time, it was believed the Earth was the center of the universe and all other heavenly bodies moved around it. One of the major problems with this belief was that the planets would occasionally travel backward across the sky. Astronomers called this retrograde motion and followed Ptolemy's model. According to this model, the planets traveled on epicycles - circles within circles - but that seemed too complicated to be a natural occurrence. Copernicus secretly questioned this belief and developed a new theory around 1508. Around 1514, he distributed a handwritten book called "Little Commentary" to his friends. The book described his theory that the sun was the center of the universe, and all the planets revolve around it. He also thought the Earth rotated daily on an axis, rather than remaining motionless. His book, "On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres", was finally published two months before his death on May 24, 1543. Copernicus' story reminds a Mason that he should be a lover of arts and sciences, one of them being astronomy which is mentioned in the second degree.

Germany Musical Set of Instruments

Music is the most common of the liberal arts. In 1973 a set of four German semi-postal instrument stamps were issued to support welfare and feature a French Horn, a Pedal Piano, Violin, and a Pedal Harp. A semi-postal stamp is also known as a charity stamp. It is a postage stamp issued to raise money for a particular purpose and sold at a premium over the postal value. The stamp shows two denominations separated by a plus sign. The French Horn has a +10, the Pedal Piano +15, the Violin +20, and the Pedal Harp +35. The instruments remind a Mason of the liberal arts (music being one of them) of which he is earnestly recommended to study.

Grand Orient of France Bicentenary

In 1973 the French Postal Service, "La Poste" issued a Masonic stamp celebrating the bicentenary of the Grand Orient Lodge of France. The stamp design features an 18th century image of the world upon a blue background with a right triangle and its shadow on top, symbolizing the significance of Geometry in Freemasonry and throughout the world. Across the top and going down the right side appears to be a cable-knot with several knots in it. The cable-knot makes a 90° angle in the top right corner which is the well-known angle for a right square. Along the bottom of the world are the words "Liberte Egalite Fraternite" which translates to Freedom Equality Fraternity.

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

Bro. Jason A. Martin - Columbia Lodge No. 286

Worshipful Master 2023 - Columbia, Pennsylvania