



The Watermark

Canada's Online Masonic Stamp Newsletter

What Holds A Kite Up?

If you were asked, "What holds a kite up?" and you answered the wind, you would be wrong. It's a common mistake for many people to believe that the wind holds a kite up when in fact it is the string not the wind that keeps it aloft. Let go of the string and the kite will plunge to the ground and crash! There was a man who loved life and kites and he just died at the brief age of only 65 after a very short battle with cancer. This man believed that nearly everything good in his life was due to the fact that he became a Freemason and what a mason he was. He loved life, his wife and kites a lot and like his kites there seemed to be no limit to the heights he could soar to. Just like his kites he was colourful and a joy to watch in action for he danced around the clouds and always found the good and the fun in everything he did. And boy did he do things, not huge accomplishments like fixing the economy or building a skyscraper but little things like trusting people and building bridges in Masonry. He once owned a popular restaurant where people came from all over to eat at, his restaurant and some were literally rolled in on their hospital bed!

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The Watermark is published 10 times a year and is available by email for free. Contact the editor to subscribe.

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Building on Local Knowledge



One of the exciting things in philately (yes I said exciting) is identifying unique or minute details in a stamp design that often requires specialized or local knowledge. In Masonic stamps this aspect has been demonstrated by identifying Masonic buildings in the cityscape of the stamp or local members of the craft who are included in or designed stamps that collectors outside that area would not know.

Several examples of local knowledge around the globe have been found in places such as Melbourne Australia, and Port St. Mary on the Isle of Man where Masonic Temples are included in the stamps.

Examples of members of the Craft unknown to others can be found on stamps such as Tanzania. So if you have local knowledge about a stamp or its design, please share that knowledge with the rest of us and take credit for your knowledge.

Canadian Freemason of the Month – John Diefenbaker

John George Diefenbaker (1895-1979) was Canada's 13th Prime Minister and the only Conservative leader to lead the party to power between 1930 and 1979, winning three elections. Affectionately known as the "Chief" he was a colourful man who made some significant decisions in his career. He appointed the first woman to Cabinet, the first aboriginal person to the Senate, and passed the Canadian Bill of Rights into law. He never shied away from controversial issues and took an international stand against apartheid in which ultimately led to South Africa leaving the Commonwealth of Nations. He was an active Freemason throughout his life a member of Wakaw Lodge No. 166, Wakaw Sask., a 33degree Scottish Rite Mason and an active Shriner.



1980 Scott #859

More On Tommy Douglas

By Christopher L. Murphy, BF



In November 2009, a new library in Burnaby, British Columbia was opened and named to honour Thomas “Tommy” Clement Douglas (1904–1986) who is effectively recognized as the founder of Canadian Medicare. Douglas was originally a member of Wayburn Lodge No. 20, Wayburn, Saskatchewan, and later affiliated with Zenith Lodge, No. 104, Burnaby, British Columbia (author’s lodge). He was first honoured as premier of Saskatchewan on a Canadian postage stamp issued in 1998 (Scott #1709d). He was honoured again on another Canadian stamp in 2012 relative to Medicare.



A photograph of Douglas, as seen here, with the following information, is provided inside the library.

The Honourable

Thomas Clement “Tommy” Douglas

1904 October 20 – 1986 February 26

Thomas Clement “Tommy” Douglas was a Scottish born Baptist minister who became the premier of Saskatchewan, a position he held from 1944 – 1961. The most important of his legacies to all Canadians was his advocacy of free, universal medical care, which he introduced to Saskatchewan before the concept was accepted nationally. In 1962, Douglas achieved national prominence through his election as the

Member of Parliament for the Federal riding of Burnaby–Coquitlam and he served in that capacity until 1968. As his daughter Shirley Douglas noted in a letter to Mayor Corrigan dated 2000 October 5, “If you were to name something after my father, nothing would have given him greater pleasure and joy to hear it was a library. A place where he himself spent so much time as a student and where he sent us as children to study, research, and read. A place we all loved.” As a Member of Parliament for Burnaby–Coquitlam, Tommy Douglas was an ardent advocate for Burnaby. His progressive spirit and the care and concern he demonstrated for the people of his riding were part of the reason for his ongoing national political success. To recognize Tommy Douglas through the naming of the library building at Edmonds, celebrates this great Canadian and honours his memory and his important connection to the City of Burnaby.

The second Canadian postage stamp honouring Douglas, released in 2012 (Scott #2557), was issued to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Medicare in Canada. Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) viewers chose Tommy Douglas as “The Greatest Canadian,” in 2004, primarily for his role in creating the country’s public healthcare system.



As can be seen, the photograph displayed in the library was used for the stamp.

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Often patrons would not have enough money to pay for the meal but he would feed them anyway and send them on their way feeling good about themselves because he told them they could pay him later and that he trusted them. It was a very rare occasion when his trust was wasted. He never took advantage of other people and he loved to laugh long and hard. He

love to make a bet on nearly anything just to make you feel good, and he almost always lost his bets and feigned he had been duped. He was a dreamer, and no idea was too small to be considered. When his sister lodge in the United States was on the verge of collapse he and his Canadian sidekicks joined the lodge and literally help build it from the ground up and bring it back to life. He was not a perfect man, and made more than his fair share of mistakes in his early life, but



eventually he found perfection in a special woman who really had the perfect figure in 1967 and is still gorgeous (She was Miss Silhouette in Victoria BC) Together they had fun, enjoyed life and touched everyone they met in a special way. This man was a kite who was enabled to fly high and be gracious because Dawna was his string and made sure that he could dance on the wind but not take too much line and wander into the trees.

No, my friends, the wind does not keep the kite aloft, the person holding the string does, and life like the wind is fleeting. We have no idea how long we can dance, or how colourful our lives will be. The best we can hope for is the right set of hands holding the string.

I will miss you Michael Beaudry, my brother, my friend, and my kite flyer!



More of Tommy Douglas continued...

The new library, a very modern and bright facility, is seen here. A series of carvings related to Burnaby history (the last showing Douglas), decorate the exterior concrete work. For certain, the new library is a fitting tribute to Brother Douglas who will be long remembered as a great Canadian statesman.



New Cachets From Brazil

Bro. Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, president of the Masonic Philatelic Club of Brazil wrote me recently and included five new cachets commemorating; the 90th anniversary of the Grand Orient of San Paulo, the 100 anniversary of Barao do Rio Branco, 125th anniversary of the Lodge “Estrella D’ Oest 418”, 181 years of Scottish Rite Masonry in Brazil, and the 190th anniversary of the Grand Orient of Brazil.

These cachets are available for purchase by contacting:
 Club Filatélica Maconico do Brasil,
 Caixa Postal 3085,
 88010 Florianopolis – SC
 Brazil.



Masonic Stamps of the Month - Jamaica

The former Spanish colony known as Santiago, it became the island of Jamaica in 1655 when it became an English colony. The Commonwealth of Jamaica achieved full independence from Great Britain on August 6, 1962 and the British Monarch is still the head of state while the Jamaican Parliament headed by the Prime Minister holds full legislative power of the country.



Freemasonry in Jamaica dates back to 1789 with the first lodge warranted under the Grand Lodge of England. Several Lodges have existed under different grand Lodges and today are regulated by the Grand Lodge of Scotland through the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica, The Grand Lodge of Ireland through the Provincial Grand Lodge of Jamaica and Bahamas and the largest number of lodges in the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands under the United Grand Lodge of England.

In 1992 four Masonic stamps and a miniature sheet were produce to recognize the 250th anniversary of English Freemasonry in Jamaica.

Support Your Youth Most of us who are passionate about philately got started when we were youngsters. There are lots of ways you can introduce kids to the hobby. I have a supply of used stamps along with tongs and plastic magnifying glasses that I give to any child who shows a fleeting interest in the hobby. If you're fortunate enough to live in an area where there is a annual stamp exposition why not consider volunteering some time in the youth booth. If you don't have time or simply are not interested how about donating some decent stamps to the youth booth so they have something other than junk to give to kids.



If you are already involved in youth stamp clubs and are looking for ideas you should check out the "Topical Tidbits" web page from the American Topical Association at this link for some really inspirational material. <http://americantopicalassn.org/tidbits.shtml>