

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia - IV

Anti-Masonic Postage Stamps

On January 1, 1942 Serbia issued four postage stamps to commemorate the Grand Anti-Masonic Exhibition, which opened in Belgrade on October 22, 1941. These stamps depict a strong, victorious Serbia crushing the evil Masonic-Communist-Jewish plot for world domination.

The surtax on this stamp issue was used for the printing and distribution of Anti-Masonic, Anti-Communist, and Anti-Jewish propaganda. Each stamp bears the opening date 22x1941 and was labeled "Anti-Masonic Exhibition" and "Serbia" in Cyrillic letters.

These stamps, with their juxtaposition of Masonic, Communist, Jewish and Serbian symbols (notice that Nazi symbols do not appear in the designs), provide a remarkable window into the Serbian wartime worldview. Even after the Communist takeover of Yugoslavia in May 1945 Masons were regarded with much suspicion and contempt by the Serbian dominated Yugoslav authorities.

The first stamp in the picture below (top, left) shows Masonry, allegorically clad as a hooded figure wearing an apron and Star of David upon its bosom. This hooded figure is shown cringing from a strong ray of light, which emanates from a circular design apparently representing the forces of Anti-Masonry.

Nowhere in Masonry does a hooded figure appear. Also any Mason can readily see the fallacy of "Cringing from Light" because Masons ask for light at least three times as they progress in the degrees of the Blue Lodge. Then too, the attempt to link Jewry with Freemasonry is very evident by the Star of David on the figure's chest.

The second stamp (top, right) in the series shows a hand emanating from a silvery light and grasping the neck of a huge snake whose head rests upon a square and compasses. This reptile is covered with the Stars of David rather than scales. Biblically, the snake represents the perceived forces of evil (Jews and Masons) and here is symbolically being stopped by the hand of Nazism.

The third stamp (bottom, right) shows a sheaf of wheat superimposed upon a cross, which has a pointed lower leg, together with the hammer and cycle, all resting upon and splitting a star that symbolizes Serbia. This attempts to show that the Jew, Mason, and Communist are alike in ideal, if not one and the same.

The last stamp in the series shows a Star of David upon the curved surface of the earth located between two pillars, which are being torn asunder by a zealous 'Sampson', of Serbian descent. These pillars presumably refer to the two brazen pillars within the outer porch of King Solomon's Temple, known as Jachin and Boaz.

Unused sets of these stamps were offered to stamp collectors in the 1950's and 60's by some US stamp companies as an incentive to order other interesting world wide topical stamps. Used copies are very scarce and highly prized by Masonic stamp collectors today.



Masonry remained outlawed in this part of the world from 1945 until the summer of 1995 when Freemasons legally renewed work in Croatia under a charter from the Grand Lodge of Austria. They are registered with the Ministry of Administration as a 'civil association' under name of the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia (RGLS) noting the existence of six lodges within the country. Serbian Freemasonry today is completely new and there is no connection with Freemasonry from the World War II era. The United Grand Lodge of England later approved the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Serbia (Croatia). By summer of 2001, 30 additional Grand Lodges from five continents did the same.

The Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia held its Annual Conference in June of 2008 in Belgrade, and a great number of delegations from foreign Grand Lodges were present. This was the end of yet another very successful year for the Brethren from Serbia, who in spite of quite unstable political and economical situations in Serbia managed to enlarge their numbers, improve their education, and give back to society through particularly strong humanitarian and charity work. Without a permanent Grand Lodge temple, they held their Annual Conference in the Belgrade Convention Center in a room decorated for the occasion.

Excerpted from various sources, including the Encyclopedia Judaica, Keter Publishing.
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