



GFN CYBER MASON

www.masonic-network.com

The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE

>

Volume 3, Number 4 April 2008

Forums meet at the East Gate.

UK 2100 GMT Sunday only

AP 0930 GMT

USA 0300 GMT

Time Conversion <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>

“The views expressed here (by Members of the GFN) are of those individuals who contribute them and are not of any Masonic Lodge, Grand Lodge nor of the Editors, Officers or Personnel of the Newsletter”.

Editorial

I have not received very much input for this edition. If you wish this News Letter to prosper please make the effort to submit. The events of your Lodge are of International interest.

Comments or suggestions regarding the News Letter may be entered onto the GFN Comment Board

If any brother would submit their Lodge Web Site to be included as a link in this News Letter please forward Lodge Name, No. And URL

Ed

THE MASONIC LINKS
BOARD

The Masonic Links Board is PASSWORD PROTECTED and is comprised of interesting sites related to freemasonry. In order to gain access to this Board you will have to contact its Director, Brother Lee Katz. His email address is Click On it here. leekatz07@gmail.com
PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Brother Lee will be most happy to give you the password to review it and explain the parameters of either how to create a link or will be most happy to assist you in doing it. This Board is not to be used

for any other purpose other than to the linking of interesting sites that our members will enjoy. This Board has no expiration date of postings.



Prague, 8th March 2008

UNIFICATION OF CZECH FREEMASONRY Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic

During an impressive festive Grand Lodge meeting which took place on 8 th March 2008 at the historical site of the Strahov monastery, attended by the Grand Masters of Germany, Austria and Poland and eleven official delegations from foreign Grand Lodges, the Brethren and Lodges previously under the Czech Grand Orient (Veliký Orient Ěeský) were formally integrated into the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic. Lodge Humanizmus, in Bratislava until now directly under the Grand Orient of France was also included.

A District Grand Lodge of Slovakia was constituted during the same meeting, being the final step before the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Slovakia

Freemasonry in the Czech and Slovak Republics counts now about 450 members spread over 20 lodges.

The Masonic Order was first introduced in Bohemia during the mid 18th century, but remained prohibited during the entire 19th century under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. After World War I and the creation of the Czechoslovak state, Freemasonry developed rapidly during the 1st Republic period counting prominent members such as the painter A. Mucha, President Edward Benes and Minister Jan Masaryk.

Freemasonry was again banned and its members persecuted under the Nazi and Communist regimes.

The 1989 Velvet Revolution was the beginning of a new era of freedom and development.

This date coincides with the rebirth of Freemasonry in Czechoslovakia.

The Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic is in amity with 155 masonic Grand Lodges worldwide.

Cuban Lodges

A Visit by George Thelwell



R.W. Bro. William Bain and I travelled to Varadero Cuba from January 10, 2008 to January 20, 2008. I had only ever taken the escorted bus tours. This time we rented a car and did some exploring. We stayed at the Corallio Resort about halfway along the peninsula.

After we had been at the resort for a few days, one of the bartenders found out that we were masons. He was happy to find out as he had been accepted as a candidate for a lodge in his home town. We told him that we would be interested in seeing a Cuban Lodge Room and he

introduced us to Luis, one of the gardeners at the resort. Luis was a member of a small lodge in Matanzas a town of about 500,000 approximately 50 kilometers from Varadero.



Luis guided us to Matanzas and took us to his lodge. (The one pictured top left) This was the smallest lodge room I have ever seen. We were shown around by the master, secretary and several other brethren who had been playing dominoes when we arrived.

I wasn't sure when we entered how one could actually do any work in this lodge room because of its size, but I was assured that the 50 or so members managed quite well. There was no banquet room but the courtyard was where the members gathered to have a few drinks and light

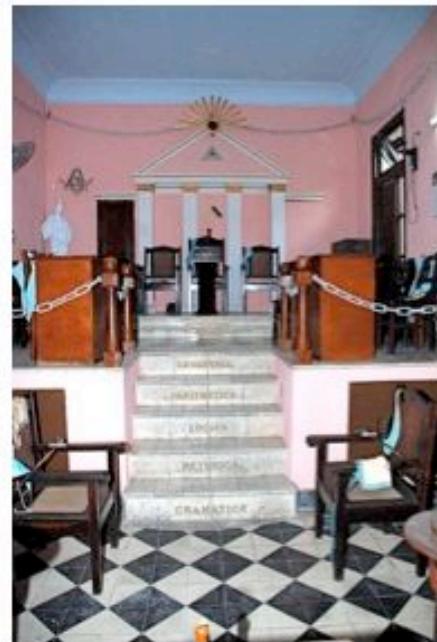
refreshments after lodge. These refreshments were provided by the members or the newly admitted candidates. There was a kitchen at one end of the courtyard and the washrooms. In the foreground of the picture at the right is the ante room and area for the secretary and "domino players."



Their regalia is a little different as you can see from the floral border and the lack of tassels or buttons.



From this lodge the master took us to see another lodge, Lodge Sol, just a few kilometers away. This was a much larger lodge room and it was quite impressive. The first thing that I noticed when I entered this lodge room was the





past master of a lodge, was understandably concerned that we might be cowans. I showed him my tattoo and we went through a board of trial. The board of trial was more difficult than it is here in Ontario, since neither Bill or I speak Spanish and Jose spoke no English. We managed however to come to a meeting of minds through demonstration of some signs tokens and words that are, thankfully, universal.



marble steps to the WM and SW chairs. The pictures on the walls were hand done frescos and done to perfection. Jose also showed us another building further south in Cardenas which was a concordant body.



After a terrific meal we went to visit his lodge and it was a second floor lodge room with marble steps from the ground floor entrance. The room was spacious and it had the same lettering on the





UK Forum. DO WE NEED IT? If you think we do come and join us
Every Sunday at 9.0pm UK Time

From the Mail on Sunday 9th March

Freemasons open a new branch ... at Buckingham Palace

A BRANCH of the secretive society of Freemasons is being formed by members of the Royal Household and police who protect the Royal Family.

And their decision to call it The Royal Household Lodge has put them on a collision course with Buckingham Palace - as has their plan to co-opt the Royal cipher - EIIR - for their regalia, to underline their connection to the Queen.

The Palace has no power to halt the formation of the lodge, but it is determined to stop it adopting its chosen name and block it from hijacking the Queen's EIIR. Use of the Royal Household title and any related symbols requires official permission.

Angry officials clearly feel the new lodge's proposed name is the last thing the Palace needs at a time when it is trying to be seen as more modern and open.

Ironically, the Queen's cousin, the Duke of Kent, is head of the organisation as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Last night, a spokesman for the Queen said: 'Buckingham Palace has not, and would not, endorse this sort of arrangement. No permission has been given by the Palace for a Buckingham Palace lodge or anything similar.'

The founding of the lodge has also

By Sarah Oliver

alarmed Royal staff who do not wish to be associated with the fraternity famed for bizarre initiation rites, mystical regalia and mysterious codes of conduct. It is also likely to cause consternation among career women in the Palace, as it is a men-only organisation.

Masons are widely believed to further the business and professional interests of brother Masons, although they would deny this and claim it is a harmless social and charitable organisation.

The lodge, which will not meet at the Palace but will be based in a Masonic hall elsewhere, will be open to all members of the Royal Household, from armed police protection officers to below-stairs staff such as pages and footmen.

A Palace insider said: 'People fear a lot of business will now be conducted behind closed doors so those who don't sign up to Freemasonry can't have an effect on it.'

The United Grand Lodge of England issued the Royal Household Lodge with a warrant last June although it will not formally exist until the consecration ceremony on May 19 at the Freemasons' Hall in London.

On March 17th some members of Crayford Lodge visited William Shannon Lodge No 373 in Belfast for St Patrick's Day



Before the Paddy Degree



After the Paddy Degree



USA Forum



Solar Lodge Temple, Dayton, Ohio



Steubenville Lodge No 45

Situations Vacant

A number of vacancy's exist for GFN Reps

Assistant Editor required for British Bytes Web site. Preferably on a Mac.

Interested? Contact John Nicholas plump45@yahoo.com

?

Masonic Buildings.



Napier New Zealand and Bournemouth UK

Please let me have Pictures of your Lodge Buildings. Keep them coming.
Ed

Lodge Links

Arcadia Lodge No 278 California <<http://www.calodges.org/no278/>>

Collinwood Lodge #582, Ohio www.collinwood582.org

21st Masonic District of Ohio, <http://masonicoh21.net/>

Solar Lodge No. 730 Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A. <http://solarlodgeno730.googlepages.com>

Steubenville Lodge No 45 Ohio <http://www.steubenvillelodge45.org/>

Alba lodge No 315 USA <<http://www.albalodge315.org/>>

Statesville Lodge No27 USA. <http://www.statesville27.ncmason.org/>

Triangle Lodge No 708 Georgia USA www.trianglelodge.org

Triangle Lodge Maine http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site_main.aspx?lodgeid=10

Solomon's Lodge No. 3, F. & A.M. Philadelphia, PA

www.solomons3.org <http://www.solomons3.org>

Lynnhaven Lodge No 220 Virginia <http://www.vamason.org/no220>

Freedom Military Lodge No 1775 Washington DC <http://www.freedomlodge.org>

Freedom Lodge No. 118, Lovettsville, VA, USA <http://www.freedom118.org/>

Crayford Lodge No 6336 England <http://www.crayfordlodge.org.uk>

Prov of Shropshire <http://www.pglshropshire.org.uk/>

Lodge Duyfken which is in the District of Carpentaria, in Queensland,

Australia. <http://www.tNewinyurl.com/omr8a>

Quote

"A man who has nothing which he is willing to fight for, nothing which he cares more about than he does about his personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

-John Stuart Mill "

Editorial Team

Editor: Brian W Crayford: bwbutler@btinternet.com

Asian Pacific Regional Editor: Dennis McDowell: Dennis_19502000@yahoo.co.uk

USA Regional Editor: Corby Christenson: rangercorby@yahoo.com

Assistant editor: Furokh Santoke: fsantoke@hotmail.com

Distribution Team: Ellis Mills: eteldest@yahoo.com

Leo Scott: leo_scott@att.net

Paul Schoffstall pauls@clearwire.net

John McDevitt Nelson 41_baird@tiscali.co.uk

Correspondents

: All GFN Reps

Master Masons are welcome to request free copies. Please send full name, name and number of lodge, and email.

Copies available by e-mail.

Back issues are archived at: http://www.geocities.com/gfn_news

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.