



# GFN CYBER MASON

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

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Volume 3, Number 3 March 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/>

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**Editorial**

**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

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Brothers

Over the last few months the Hospitality committee has been up and running contacting new members as they join the GFN the response from new and rejoining members has been especially pleasing with quite a few members writing to one of the committee members to thank

them for the Welcome Letter and the interest shown in there enjoying our site .This is not only satisfying for the committee and the GFN administration but also bodes well for the site as a whole with new and old active members joining our ranks .It may be that you know a Ex member of the GFN that you feel would welcome being contacted with the view to rejoining our site if so then please contact myself or one of the committee members to assist in sending out a News Letter to this brother as a introduction .

When a Welcome letter is sent out to a new member a copy also goes to the representative in the area so that they can contact them and introduce themselves. Again this helps to break the ice and creates we hope a feeling of being made welcome similar to going to visit a new Lodge .

One question comes to mind and that is how we can do more for our new and existing members and the Hospitality committee believes that given support from the members we can become a vital part of our GFN which we hope will be a benefit to all our members .If you have any thoughts on this please contact me with your ideas my email address is [dennis\\_19502000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dennis_19502000@yahoo.co.uk)

regards

Dennis Mc Dowell aka Genisis

Chairman Hospitality committee



### **Asian Pacific**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Wor Bro John Webster on his forthcoming appointment as Past Grand Director of Ceremonies by the Grand Master of Tasmania. This is recognition of his work on the Grand Lodge Web Site

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Firstly, my apologies for missing our topic night February 10th and for not sending out the usual reminder flyer .... and thanks for the emails asking if all was okay. Yes, everything was and is okay but occasionally we have those sort of weeks where Freemasonry needs to take a back seat. Hopefully not too often though. Our rejuvenated topics night started out with a flurry of suggestions, but now seem to have gone quite for the want of topics. Any suggestions would be appreciated. I would also remind you that these are not the only nights the forums are open - we are open 24 hours a day every day of the year. Sometimes it is like fishing - you just need to enter a forum room, hit the chat button every so often, and see who passes by. Keep well, and I hope to see you in the forums soon, ..... *Andrew.J Bradley*



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

**Congratulations** to Bro. Stan Forster who has just completed his 60th year in Freemasonry

## **DUKE OF KENT FOLLOWS FAMILY TRADITION INTO THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE**

The Duke of Kent followed in the masonic footsteps of his father and great-grandfather when he had the 33° conferred on him by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales.

In a nice family touch, the Duke was invested with the regalia which had previously been worn by his father and by his great-grandfather, Edward VII.

All nine members of the Supreme Council were present for the ceremony at the Order's London headquarters, as well as two former Sovereign Grand Commanders, Canon Richard Tydeman OSM and Richard Sandbach OSM. The Duke was also elected an Honorary Member of Supreme Council.

In addition, there were

three other former members of Supreme Council present as well as the Craft Pro Grand Master Lord Northampton, and Assistant Grand Master David Williamson, both members of the 33°.



*The Duke of Kent with the Sovereign Grand Commander, Gerald Tedder, in his 33° regalia. Visible on his sash are the Prince of Wales feathers of Edward VII and the late Duke of Kent's cipher*

*From Freemasonry Today Winter edition 07/08*

# SCRAP OF PARCHMENT MAY ABSOLVE THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FROM THEIR 'CRIMES' AFTER 700 YEARS

At dawn, Friday 13 October, 1307, the Knights Templar in France were all arrested by order of the French King, Philip IV. They protested their innocence to the charges and the Pope eventually was persuaded to become involved.

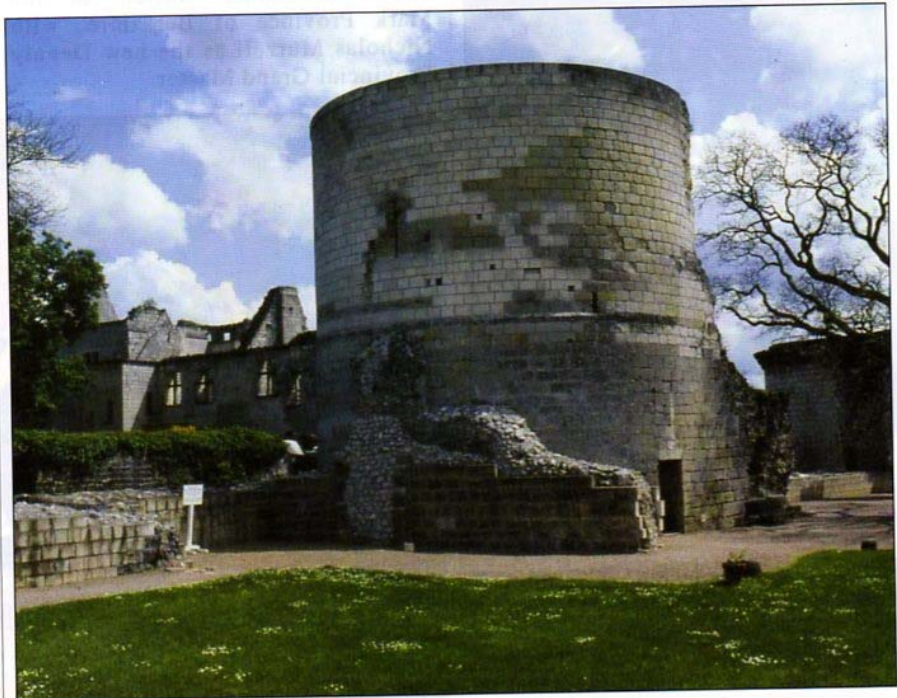
Sixty Templar high officials, including the Grand Master, were taken to Chinon Castle for interrogation by three Cardinals. The interrogations took place from 17-20 August 1308.

But there was a curiosity, while such interrogations were recorded in minute detail nothing had remained of the records of this. All that historians had to work with was a single letter from the Cardinals to the King of France.

But in 2001, in the Vatican archives, the lost trial records were discovered by Professor Barbara Frale. This extraordinary tale has just been revealed in her book *Processus Contra Templarios*, recently published by the Vatican's Secret Archive.

Desperately short of money, Philip IV arrested and tortured the Templars, and after being forced under torture to confess to various sins, the Templars' leader, Jacques de Molay, was burnt at the stake.

Pope Clement V dissolved the Order and issued arrest warrants for all the Templars, and from this the view that they were heretics began. The newly discovered document, known as the



*Tower of the Prisoners at the castle of Chinon, where the Templars were held and interrogated*

Chinon Parchment, revealed that the Templars had an initiation ceremony which included 'spitting on the Cross', 'denying Jesus' and kissing the lower back, navel and mouth of the person proposing them.

However, the Templars argued that the ceremony explained the humiliation they

faced if captured by the Saracens, and that the kissing ceremony showed their obedience.

The Pope decided that the ritual was not blasphemous, but he nevertheless dissolved the Templars to keep the peace with France. The Chinon Parchment ends with Papal absolution from all heresies.



**USA Forum**

## **9<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges**

**May 7 - 10, 2008**

**Welcome from the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC**

Dear Brethren,

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, DC is indeed honored to host the World Conference of Grand Lodges, for the first time ever, in the capital of the United States of America.

Today, we live in a world that is truly global and finds itself at a major crossroads with change happening at lightening speed, insecurity rising across the globe and fanaticism on a deadly rampage. The world today needs Freemasonry more than ever. Given the universality of its character, its existence in so many places around the world, and the values and principles it espouses, the Society of the Freemasons is uniquely positioned to contribute to the global flow of enlightened ideas and help people of good will work together for the betterment of humanity. Can we rise to the challenge, answer the call, and fulfill our destiny as a beacon of universal light?

To help us think through this fundamental question, we have designed a conference under the theme of "Universal Fraternity in Action" that we trust you will find to be instructive and enjoyable. The emphasis will be on the "actions" that our fraternity can and should be taking. How can we encourage Freemasons to be more engaged in today's world while faithfully preserving the Tradition of our Society? What actionable proposals and recommendations can speakers offer to that end? We have identified three topics of discussion addressing a number of issues varying from promoting ethical behavior in civil society to establishing a network of exchanges among Masons worldwide.

Immediately following the conference, which will be held May 7 – 9, 2008, the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC will hold its Universal Brotherhood Celebration on Saturday, May 10, 2008. The day will feature special tours of The White House and U.S. Capitol, a public wreath laying ceremony at the WWII Memorial, and a grand black tie (Tuxedo) banquet featuring Washington National Opera artists.

In order to guarantee your hotel reservation at the reduced rate, we urge you to make your hotel reservation as soon as possible and prior to February 29, 2008. We also encourage you to stay through the weekend, arriving on Wednesday, May 7th and departing on Sunday morning, May 11th. Please encourage as many members of your Grand Lodge to register for this conference, which promises to be enlightening and truly memorable.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Akram R. Elias □ Grand Master

## **Welcome from the Executive Secretary of the World Conference**

My brothers, it is a great privilege for me as Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges to extend a most sincere invitation to you to attend the IX World Conference to be held in Washington, DC. It is only the second time that the conference has been held in North America, the other being the III World Conference held in New York City in 1998 when our Constitution was drafted.

As you know, Washington, DC is the capital of the United States of America and carries with it much of the symbolism of the free world. It also, however, carries much Masonic symbolism as well and I hope that you will take the opportunity, to be with us and to learn more of the significance that Freemasonry has made in the erection of this great city and the development of our democratic society.

I have been very much impressed with the amount of effort and energy that the committee has been putting into the structuring of this conference. They contacted me immediately following the close of the VIII World Conference held in Paris and have been working diligently to make this conference an outstanding one. It is always the intent when structuring the World Conference to make it not only informative and worthwhile for its Masonic purpose but to make it enjoyable and memorable as well and this, the committee has been doing. You will be pleasantly impressed

with some of the programs being developed.

Several themes have been selected for this conference, which notes the need for the philosophy of the craft to expose its relevancy in today's society while at the same time reminding us of our need of self-examination.

Because of exposure of Freemasonry in the present day worldwide media as well as an increase in historical publications there has been a renewed interest in the philosophical purpose of our organization. Young men are approaching our doors with inquisitiveness into the esoteric aspects as to what we are. However, ignorance of purpose by our own membership has tended to dull our appreciation of the impact that Freemasonry has had on the evolution of our civil societies and its potential for the future. If we are to take advantage of this renewed interest it becomes vital for us to more fully understand ourselves.

The World Conference has provided an environment wherein the leadership of Craft Masonry can gather together and discuss these universal needs while at the same time comprehending the variables that distinguishes Freemasonry in different parts of the world. The conference has consistently impressed the need for a total commitment to the support of Regular Freemasonry while at the same time emphasizing the need for universal cooperation.

My brothers, Freemasons imbued with the philosophical beliefs of our craft have been in the forefront, leading the way for the development of worldwide civilization for centuries. It has survived ongoing changes in societal structure while remaining relevant when most other organizations, many modeled after our craft, have become extinct. We have remained because our philosophical purpose remained relevant to all societies and to all generations. Technological change is requiring that we more than ever must understand one another and work together to remain relevant to future societal structure. Thus, the themes of the Conference.

I look forward with great anticipation to greeting you as friends and brothers in Washington, DC where we will renew our commitments of making this world a better place to live through the philosophical purpose of Freemasonry.

Sincere Fraternal Regards, Thomas W. Jackson. □Executive Secretary

## One Day Classes

**From:** Timothy Harrington (@ 203.205.126.223)

**Email:** [masonry4life@yahoo.com](mailto:masonry4life@yahoo.com)

**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2008 at 04:10:34

**Message:**

Dear Brethren,

This topic has come to bother me over time, the one day classes that some states GL's conduct. Note: I was raised in the one day class under the GLoM in 2005, which I am very grateful for this because I am never home in my home state for more than 3 weeks for the reason of serving our county. I had been interested in Masonry for about 6 or 7 years; which the whole time I was on active duty in foreign countries. So the one day class was perfect for me, though I wish I had went through it the real way, or original way.

Let me get back to my problem with this ODC and Masonry. If a future Brother does not have the time to invest in taking the degrees and learning the ciphers to become a mason or master mason, what kind of brother will he become over time? I have no doubt in my mind that some good men have become good Brethren through a one day class. But over the past few years I have read many books on the craft, seeing how it was less than 10 years ago to how is now; I just feel that we are making the Fraternity more like the other ones out there. Not that these clubs are bad or anything. But The Masons have always been the most selective; Masons are the brightest, most successful group of men around, not looked at as any old boy's club. We were the ones everyone wanted to join,

but only a few made it through the strict investigation. Now we are pretty much allowing anyone into the lodge that shows up with the money. When is the last time you saw a real serious investigation of a petitioner? One last thing I have visited lodges for degree work in Ireland, Italy, Scotland, England, France, Germany, and Japan. Most of these countries said it is almost unheard of doing ODC, and in England don't even dare say you went through a ODC or they may give you problems, I know it happened to me... Who knows maybe is just in my head, and this is the way the world is now, granted I am only 29 years old, and fairly new to the craft. But I really feel the craft is only going to be hurt by the One day classes over time. I look forward to hearing other's views on this.

Fraternally, Bro. Tim

□

### **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](mailto:plump45@yahoo.com)

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### **Masonic Buildings.**



Keachi, LA



Grand Lodge of Denmark



Bettendorf Masonic Temple in Bettendorf, Iowa USA

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](http://www.collinwood582.org)

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

**New** 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](http://www.trianglelodge.org)

Triangle Lodge Maine [http://www.bluelodges.com/blweb/site\\_main.aspx?lodgeid=10](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) <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**

“The biggest mistake you can make is to believe that you work for someone else”.

*Author Unidentified*

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