



# GFN CYBER MASON

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

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Forums meet at the East Gate.

UK 2100 BST 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

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



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

**Extract from**

**Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of England. 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**Recognition of more Grand Lodges by UGLofE**

*The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas* was formed on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1875 from five lodges set up in Texas by the Grand Lodge of Kansas between 1872 and 1874. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kansas was recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1999

*The National Grand Lodge of Romania*

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 1993, the National Grand Lodge Romania was formed from three lodges meeting in Romania, by the Grand Orient of Italy, which at that time was still recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England.

*The Grand Lodge of Congo*

The Grand Lodge of Congo was formed on 21 October 2000 from nine lodges established by the Grand Lodge of Senegal, which had in turn been formed by the Grande Loge National Francaise.

*The Grand Lodge of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

The Grand Lodge of Austria consecrated the Grand Lodge of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005 from three lodges it had set up in Ljubljana and Sarajevo.

Having shown that they are descendants of duly recognised Grand Lodges and that they confirm to the Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition, the Board, having no reason to believe that they will not maintain a regular path, recommended that these four Grand Lodges be recognised.

A resolution to this effect was approved.

**Grand Lodge of Russia**

At a meeting of Grand Lodge on 8 March 2006, the President of the Board of General Purposes spoke of rumors and reports received about the manner in which the Grand Lodge of Russia were being conducted and controlled. As a result it was recommended that Brethren should refrain from visiting lodges under the Grand Lodge of Russia, and that lodges under this Constitution should exercise extreme caution before admitting, as visitors Brethren from lodges under the Grand Lodge of Russia.

The Board has been carefully monitoring the situation in Russia and now believes that any such restriction is no longer necessary.



MENU

BEACON  
PIG FINGERS  
YOUNG CHICKEN  
LOVE APPLE  
RED SHAMROCK SEEDS  
FREED SODA  
SPUD BRED  
MINI SHILLEIAGHS



PADDY MASTERS ELECT

W. Paddy Master, Neil Corbett  
W. Paddy Master, Ronnie Russell

Invets yourselves to partake of this feast,  
Get legless and enjoy the musicial talents  
of us & our inveted guests

The paddy masters degree  
Will be Converred by Yer Man  
The Grand leprechaun Himself

GRAND PADDYMASTER  
William J. Moore

Ably helped by the usual suspects

Untill Whale meat again  
Have a safe journey home and Happy  
Xmas

Menu from the Paddy Degree



**USA**

ECMS leveling part of Mason's club foundation **By BRENDA SOMMER [bsommer@leader-news.com](mailto:bsommer@leader-news.com)**

When Masons level the cornerstone at the new El Campo Middle School Saturday, it won't be the only building in the county with such a distinction.

D.D. Hill, master of El Campo Lodge 918, said local Masons have put cornerstones in many important public buildings in El Campo and Wharton County.

"There's one in the high school," Hill said. "First Methodist Church has a cornerstone the Masons put there. We laid the cornerstone about a year ago for the new courthouse. Whenever we're asked to do it, it's the thing to do."

Hill said the symbolism inherent in the cornerstone leveling ceremony fits in with Masons long interest in education as well as the organization's principles.

"Masons were, first, a labor union back in the 15th Century, and they were responsible for a lot of cathedrals and buildings that have lasted a long time in Europe," Hill said. "When they started building, they plumbed it and squared it. They started with one large stone and built away from that, and it was the anchor, so to speak, of the whole building.

"As we changed from actual masons' work, we took the plumb line and square and compasses and developed a fraternity where these instruments have meaning as a fraternity. For instance, the square: We're taught to square our actions by virtue to all people. When masons were a labor union, a square was to square a whole building, but

now we use it esoterically."

He said the local Masonic lodge asked to place the cornerstone at the new school.

"Masons have been interested in education since the beginning of this country, when Masonic lodges were used as school buildings," Hill said. "Masons met at night then they'd leave the lodge open so they could have school during the day. Mirabeau B. Lamar, the second president of the Republic of Texas, was the father of public education in the state. He was the man who had the plan to use public lands for education, which goes to fund the state university system to this day."

Hill is a retired El Campo High School agriculture teacher who in January honored by the El Campo Chamber of Agriculture as Citizen of the Year.

The Hon. Brian Dodson of Missouri City, past grand master of The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M., has been deputized by current Grand Master Thomas Griffin to act as his representative in the leveling of the cornerstone, which takes place Saturday at 11 a.m. at the new, \$17.6-million campus on FM 2765.

The public is invited to attend.

David Broman  
PM&Secy El Campo#918  
Wharton#621  
GL of Texas  
GFN Board Director Only in Jest:)

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## **Russia**

Friday, March 28, 2008.

Today's Freemasons of a More Modest Order

By Nabi Abdullaev

Staff Writer

Aspiring for world supremacy? Then the Russian Freemasons are not the group to join.

"Many walk away disappointed when they don't find buttons to operate the world behind my armchair," Russia's top Freemason, former presidential candidate Andrei Bogdanov, said jokingly in his office in central Moscow.

Freemasonry -- whose obscure origins have been traced to sometime between the building of King Solomon's temple in the 10th century B.C. and the 16th century A.D. -- once boasted an elite following in Russia, including 18th- and 19th-century nobility, poet Alexander Pushkin, architect Vasily Bazhenov and war heroes Alexander Suvorov and Mikhail Kutuzov.

These days, however, it is a more modest order. Indeed, the secret fraternity does not count any billionaires or senior politicians as members, said three Freemasons and two historians.

"There are people close to the ruling circle among us, but they are in the second tier, and you will rarely see them on TV," Bogdanov said, declining to provide any names.

Most members are middle-class intellectuals, retired military officers and small-time businessmen, said Sergei Karpachyov, a historian who has authored several books about Russian Freemasonry.

Bogdanov, the grand master of the Grand Lodge of Russia, as the order calls its governing body, is perhaps Russia's best-known Freemason, after he ran

for president on March 2, placing last with 1.3 percent of the vote. He first took the spotlight in late 2007 when his Democratic Party ran in State Duma elections, winning a miniscule 0.13 percent.

Bogdanov made no secret of his association with Freemasonry during both campaigns; although he said in the interview that his decision to participate was his own and not backed by his Grand Lodge.

"We don't talk politics or religion," he said of Grand Lodge meetings.

"These are the two issues that may strain relations between brothers."

Freemasonry has been viewed with suspicion for centuries, largely because of its reputation as a clandestine, male-only society that uses secret handshakes and passwords to recognize members. To be in good standing, Russian Freemasons, like their counterparts elsewhere, must belong to a "regular" lodge -- one where members are all male, believe in a "supreme being" and do not engage in politics, said Georgy Dergachyov, grand master of the first lodge, Northern Star, to open in post-Soviet Russia.

Members who do not comply attend "irregular" lodges, which are not considered part of the main group.

Bogdanov's decision to dabble in politics, however, has not affected his status. Bogdanov explained that Freemasons did not impose their views on one another and that he had run on his own, not as a Freemason.

There are an estimated 5 million Freemasons worldwide, including 2 million in the United States, but just over 500 people have joined in Russia since the first regular lodge opened in 1992, said Vladimir Nikitin, the grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Russia.

Half of all new Freemasons stop being active members within two years, Nikitin said.

The Grand Lodge oversees 28 regular lodges. The first post-Soviet lodge, Northern Star, was irregular when it opened in 1991, allowing women and atheists as members, said Dergachyov, a university professor. Dergachyov grew interested in Freemasonry in the late 1980s when he, then in his mid-30s, befriended a French Freemason in Russia. The Freemason invited him to France, where he was initiated into Freemasonry by an irregular lodge, the Grand East of France.

To set up a national lodge in any country, seven Freemasons holding the rank of master are needed, said Karpachyov, the historian.

After Dergachyov, six more Russians were initiated in France, and the seventh set up the Northern Star lodge in Moscow. A year later, it became regular.

"Then as I learned more about Freemasonry, I decided that it would be better if Russian Freemasonry became regular," Dergachyov said.

The first Freemasons on Russian soil were British. The earliest documents about Russian Freemasonry date back to 1731, when Captain John Phillips was appointed by the Grand Lodge of England as the provincial grand master of Russia and Germany, said Andrei Serkov, a historian studying Freemasonry at the Russian State Library.

Freemasonry was popular among Europe-oriented Russian nobility until 1822, when Alexander I banned it by an edict that also ordered state bureaucrats to give an oath not to get involved with Freemasons. Freemasonry continued in a semilegal manner, Serkov said.

Unlike the Roman Catholic Church and many other faiths, the Russian Orthodox Church has never openly criticized Freemasons, although it has viewed them with suspicion, Karpachyov said.

Many Freemasons fled after the Revolution and kept lodges abroad. In 1922, Leon Trotsky made a call at the Fourth Congress of Comintern for Communists around the world to abandon Freemason lodges. After that, remaining lodges in Russia were targeted by the Soviet authorities together with all other secret organizations.

Freemasons remain quite secretive today, with Dergachyov, Nikitin and Bogdanov refusing to name fellow members. The Grand Lodge of Russia has had four grandmasters, but Derchachyov and Bogdanov are the only two who have revealed themselves to the world of profanes, as Freemasons call nonmembers.

Lodges convene once a month and have a joint assembly every year. Bogdanov was elected grand master at such an assembly in June 2007, attended by some 100 delegates. Lodge meetings usually begin with presentations dedicated to the arts or science, followed by a discussion and a social talk, which continues during the agape, an informal dinner, Freemasons said.

Nikitin said an informal rule required Freemasons to socialize with other

Freemasons and that this was the only way to be promoted in rank, by demonstrating knowledge and communication skills. The Grand Lodge follows 33 graduses, or steps, from the Scottish Masonic charter.

To become the legitimate Grand Lodge of Russia, it needed to be established by a foreign grand lodge, and this happened in 1995, when the Grand National Lodge of France established the Grand Lodge of Russia. Since then, Bogdanov said, more than 90 foreign grand lodges have recognized the Russian lodge. Bogdanov's presidential bid stirred public interest in Freemasonry, said Nikitin, with the number of visitors to the lodge's web site soaring and the number of e-mails -- some with requests to join -- increasing to several dozen per day.

"Still, we initiate no more than 10 new members per month," he said.

Initiation is preceded by numerous interviews by Freemasons.

The lodges were officially registered with the authorities as public organizations in 1993, and after a new law on nongovernmental organizations went in effect in 2006, they were re-registered as noncommercial partnerships.

Bogdanov said the re-registration went without a hitch. Many NGOs have complained of cumbersome paperwork required for re-registration, and some have had to close.

The lodges are funded by annual fees of around 2,500 rubles, paid by members, Bogdanov said.

"We have also a lodge in Moscow where all communication is in English for the convenience of visiting brothers from abroad," he said.

In the years since its rebirth in the 1990s, Russian Freemasonry has not managed to grow into a phenomenon and probably never will, historians said.

"Freemasonry has no big future in Russia. It belongs to a European culture that is still alien for most Russian," Karpachyov said.

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The article about Cuban lodges by Bro. George Thelwell brought back memories to me. I congratulate him for a fine report of his visit to Cuban lodges.

I have visited Cuba many times and have attended lodges in Havana and Cienfuegos. I have also seen lodge buildings in other towns.

What Br.Thelwell described is typical of Cuban lodge buildings in towns (especially small towns). In Havana, however, it is different because the Grand Lodge building is huge and is located in Central Havana.

The warmth of the Cuban brethren is wonderful. So too the hospitality.

I have many friends there who are Masons, and I keep in touch with them.

Indeed on one occasion, while in hospital in Havana, two Brothers came to see me on the second day I was there, and one Bro. Enrique Lara, brought me a copy of the Bible (in English) telling me:" You may have forgotten to bring yours from your home." And he was correct.

What has struck me over the years was that more young people in Cuba are joining the Craft. The interest and enthusiasm is remarkable.

On one occasion I was accorded the honour of carrying the Cuban flag while entering the temple in procession.

I have written two papers about Masonry in Cuba. One is ***Cuba and the Craft*** and the other is ***Masons and the Cuban Revolution***.

The lodges to which I belong (under the jurisdiction of the G.L. of Scotland and the United G.L. of England) are both in amity with the G.L. of Cuba. As is the G.L. of Ireland and other recognised G.Lodges throughout the world.

Visiting Cuban lodges and meeting the Brethren truly tells us that Freemasonry is universal and that the brotherly love transcends differences - political and otherwise.

We, Masons, can bring about positive changes in the world.

We do not or ought not to discriminate. We are builders not destroyers.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Brother Ainsley Sahai

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**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

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**Masonic Buildings.**



As requested in GFN news.

Picture of Quincy Masonic Building, home of Rural Lodge AF&AM, Quincy, Massachusetts (just south of Boston). The ornate building was built in 1926 on a classical theme, with Egyptian overtones (remember King Tut had been discovered a few years previously!) It is situated downtown on the main street in Quincy.

Rural Lodge extends an invitation to brethren to attend our meetings (first Thursday of the month).

Rural Lodge also publishes an eNewsletter, which contains local, national and international news and articles. Usually running at about 25-30 pages, it is published every Friday morning at <http://www.RuralLodge.org/Newsletter.pdf>  
<<http://www.RuralLodge.org/Newsletter.pdf>>

Anyone may subscribe by sending Name/Lodge/City/email to [graeme0marsden@gmail.com](mailto:graeme0marsden@gmail.com)

Fraternally

**Wor Graeme Marsden**  
District Ambassador  
8th Masonic District  
Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts

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/>

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 great American football coach Vince Lombardie once said:

“If winning isn't everything, then why do they keep score?”

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