



GFN CYBER MASON

www.masonic-network.com

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

Volume 2, Number 11 November 2007

Editorial

A special meeting to discuss the decline of the GFN will be held on the USA, Asian Pacific and United Kingdom Forums on Sunday 4th November at usual times. Please try to attend to give your opinion

I feature this article from the AP Board regarding APATHY

Ed

A great response that shows a genuine interest and commitment to GFN perhaps a better subject heading might be Let's all be leaders and lead by example. If I can pick up on what has been said. Brother Ken spoke about 'example' being the greatest teacher. Brother Colin speaks of current difficulties in maintaining interest. Brother Dennis speaks about the lack of participation on the Chat Forum and input with regard to the GFN Newsletter. In identifying a problem or a number of problems you are generally on the way to solving them. There is absolutely no doubt that 'example is the best teacher' so Brethren if we start at that point then we can begin to deal with some of the problems that have been raised. Maintaining Interest on both the Chat Forum and the Trestle Board is important I would suggest they need to be more structured than they are at the present time. We need subject matter that is meaningful and worth discussing to be posted on a regular basis. The GFN Newsletter was introduced to create a greater awareness of the GFN site amongst our wider membership. Brother Dennis is quite right in chastising us for our lack of input into the Newsletter. Perhaps some articles based on what is being discussed on the various Trestle Boards and/or Chat Forums might be a good idea. Let's support Brother Dennis with the good stories and news that we have that might encourage others. Let's all be leaders and lead by example.

Ron Cameron, GFN Asian Pacific Convention Master.

Any comments or articles to me please on bwbutler@btinternet.com

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.

Asian Pacific



AP Forum

Every day 11.00 am BST

Brothers in the Asian Pacific area please make sure that if you have any worthy articles for the News Letter that you forward them onto me this includes what is happening in your Lodges and up and coming events in your area .We look forward to hearing from you.

Dennis MacDowell

Next Asia Pacific Gathering

In acknowledgement of several postings from our members, we are going to revisit the hosting of the next Gathering. If you are interested in being the host for the next meeting, which is tentatively put down for January 2009, please send me an email at ajbradley@hotmail.net.au outlining your interest. Basically all that is involved is to organise a programme of activities (which would hopefully include a Masonic meeting) for those attending and their partners, and to be available to assist in organising accommodation and transport. I will leave this invitation open until the end of November. As we receive nominations I will post them on this board and we will then have a period where all members can vote. Of course, the location with the most votes will win.

3rd GFN Asia Pacific Gathering
You name the place and time!

Brothers - I have for the last few weeks followed with interest the comments posted on the AP board and would also like to make my thoughts known and also to ask you as fellow GFN member's questions.

- 1] The AP chat forum is quiet anyone that bothers to come on line can see that --- the question is WHY?
- 2] We have a monthly News Letter that has gone out to our members BUT the amount of articles I have received from our A P members is to say the least pathetic! .
- 3] To say that we need to find a way to get our members to "WANT" to come on line is true but it is up to "ALL" of us to help this to happen not just say it is someone's else's problem and walk away!
- 4] Maybe we need a plan of action that will lead to a desired outcome for the site that is driven by the members after all WE ARE THE SITE!!
- 5] The one thing we have got and that is some very committed members that strive very hard to keep this site going they need your support as much as you are able.

Conclusion. We need to start to look at what we are going to do to help our site and how we are going to do it. We have still the potential to have a vibrant site BUT we have to work to make it one! I look forward to your constructive comments and ideas!

Regards Dennis aka Genisis



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

Topics for UK Forums

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4 th November | The decline of the GFN |
| 11 th | Follow up |
| 18 th | Is Freemasonry perceived as elitist or exclusive? |
| 25 th | What do you do with redundant Past Masters? |
| 1 st December | Should Lodges be put under pressure to reach Charity targets? |

8th The Side Degrees
15th What are YOU doing to encourage use of the GFN?
22nd Should we support organisations that do not accept us

Total world domination starts here, doesn't it?

By Adam Lusher, Sunday Telegraph Last Updated: 12:30am GMT 14/01/2007

Adam Lusher wants power. He wants plots. He wants secret handshakes. He's even prepared to roll up his trousers. Is he right for the masons?

This was all wrong. The chap in the Grand Lodge blazer wasn't even trying to be obstructive. "Straight up the staircase, sir, drinks are by the Grand Temple. You don't need your ticket." Could this really be the way into the freemasons? Could centuries of the finest obsessive secrecy end like this?

My preliminary research, some of it internet-based, suggested that this was an organisation linked to the "Illuminati", the vaults of Parliament, and "CORRUPTION" writ large, in green ink, and The Da Vinci Code. But now, I was being allowed to enter the art deco splendor of London's Freemasons' Hall, home of the United Grand Lodge of England, the national governing body, without a ticket, without a rolled-up trouser leg and without anyone checking whether I really was a civil servant called Ian.

Admittedly, this was a new departure for the freemasons: a drinks reception for the under-35s to "discover more about freemasonry", and perhaps resolve one worshipful brother's complaint that "some lodges look like God's waiting room". So at £15 a head, who was I to resist an entree to an organisation with 270,000 members in 8,322 English and Welsh lodges?

And isn't it rumored that the masons offer "fraternal support"? No women, lots of men, especially policemen. Get the "fraternal" handshake right and who knows what benefits might ensue.

This lot had history: organised freemasonry dated from the formation of the world's first Grand Lodge in London 1717, but the idea supposedly started among the men building King Solomon's temple. That handshake was apparently a secret sign for medieval stonemasons to show each other they had been properly trained. And if you believe all the conspiracy theories, masons were also secretly responsible for every war, assassination and political plot since the temple job.

They also have funny costumes: the rolled-up trouser leg for a start, which was part of the ancient initiation ceremony to prove that you were not carrying a weapon. As you progressed through the ranks you got to wear funny aprons, and become involved in ancient, secret ceremonies ... before going to nice dinners. You got to wear regalia. It seemed perfect.

Now, though, no one had the decency to stop me taking a little detour, into a room full of portraits of men in ermine. There I found, well, not quite proof of "the quest for world domination", but a revealing Freemasons' Hall shop catalogue. Those "master mason teddy bears, £7" look harmless, but imagine a vulnerable chief constable getting one for Christmas, what tricks it might play with his fragile mind.

I hurried to the Grand Temple's antechamber, and was shocked: there were women present; there were no funny aprons; my fellow guests were mainly students. They didn't seem to be the world-dominating type.

"Have you seen Spooks [the television spy series]?" asked Chris, excitedly. "They did a walk-through of this building in the first episode." I really should have been less furtive about which branch of the "Civil Service" I "worked" for.

Russell Race, the deputy metropolitan grand master, promised that freemasonry offered "friendship, intellectual development, an oasis of calm, making good men better". Nothing about world domination.

Then we entered the Grand Temple itself, a cavernous chamber adorned with Masonic symbols: the all-seeing eye, the square and compasses. We saw the gilt throne used by the Duke of Kent, the grand master of the United Grand Lodge. The United Grand Lodge's (disappointingly accessible) website revealed that monarchs from King George IV (1762-1830) to George VI (1895-1952) were masons.

So were Churchill and Jim Davidson. Who could fail to be inspired? Especially by Richard Knox-Johnston, the metropolitan deputy grand director of ceremonies, brother of the yachtsman Sir Robin. The deputy grand director calmed our fears: "Women have other orders affiliated with the United Grand Lodge, but our meetings are a boys' night out. It's a male preserve."

David, 57, a master of three lodges in 27 years as a mason, joined me. Who would have thought it? David was a former commander in the Metropolitan Police. "I quit masonry for five years, because the bloody Home Office was asking: 'Are you a mason?' I told them to eff off."

He wasn't alone. When the Government tried a voluntary register of Masonic police officers in 1999, only 36.6 per cent responded. Of those, only 1.1 per cent said they were freemasons. The Home Office estimated the true figure was 10 times higher. It had instigated the register after a Home Affairs Select Committee report, which cleared freemasonry of being a "primary cause" of 1970s miscarriages of justice by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad but noted: "We cannot entirely exclude the possibility that it may have been a contributory factor."

The Government had to abandon the notion of compulsory registration plans after fears of a Human Rights Act challenge were raised. Judges and magistrates were more co-operative, with about five per cent admitting they were masons.

David reassured me about the initiation ceremony, with its rumored threats of a slashed throat for divulging Masonic secrets. "We have modified that." Now they just put a noose around your neck.

"Only loosely," smiled David.

He was similarly disappointing about "world domination", giving me a conventional handshake. "Forget myths about climbing the greasy pole. If that's what you want, we don't want you."

His son Greg insisted, though: "That doesn't mean networking doesn't happen. I have met all sorts of people ..."

"Dad" offered more hope, invoking freemasonry's links with the ancient past, the Bible, Da Vinci Code stuff. "Once you are a master mason, you can join the Knights Templar. It's a subdivision of the masons, based on the original 12th-century knights."

Then he ruined it. "My wife loves my Masonic charity work. Ladies come to some socials. The wine-tasting trip to Rheims was wonderful."

This was not right. Freemasonry couldn't be just about men who liked showing other men their finely turned ankles and going to Rheims. Or could it?

David seemed to read my thoughts. The former policeman smiled, offered a parting handshake. "We need people like you." His hand grasped mine, and twisted slightly. "If you want to join ..."

[MQ Magazine](#)

30/09/07 21:23

Freemasonry Today and MQ Magazine are merging.

From January 2008 issue, the new magazine will be sent free of charge to all UGLE members in UK



USA Forum
Every day at 9.00pm.

THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA
MARTIN J. GROSSMAN, P.M.
SOLOMON'S LODGE NO. 3, F. & A.M.
JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

This is an excerpt of an article written for the Website of Solomon's Lodge No. 3, F.&A.M.
www.solomons3.org

It is a Mason's Blue Lodge that creates true and honorable Freemasons! It is the Blue Lodge, which nurtures, develops, teaches, and sustains Freemasons. And it is the Blue Lodge, which is home; it is the alpha and it is the omega of Freemasonry.

The agreement between a Master Mason and an accepted Masonic candidate runs deep. It is more than a lodge meeting for dinner and even more than ritual. It carries life-long responsibilities and life-long rewards.

When a true Master Mason (a man who lives by Masonry's high but fair ideals) honors a candidate by accepting him into the Fraternity, he agrees to stand by that man for as long as he lives. He agrees to nurture him and influence his development by teaching, listening, and sustaining his fraternal needs.

When a Candidate (a man who has the desire to join Freemasonry and has shown to be worthy of the honor) accepts the offer of Freemasonry, he agrees to stand by his fraternal Brother for as long as he lives. He agrees to accept the responsibility to learn, practice, and pass on the ideals of Freemasonry. This joint agreement is born and fulfilled in the Blue Lodge. It is every Mason's primary responsibility to see that the agreement to support and sustain its members is fulfilled. Attending Lodge meetings, leading or joining committees, participating in special Lodge events, and simply being there for your fellow Members define support. Sustaining is defined as being current on your dues, bringing in new candidates, and learning all that you can about the Fraternity outside of the Lodge as well as within it.

Strong Freemasonry needs a strong foundation. This foundation is best built in the first Masonic year in Blue Lodge. After that, many Masons expand their experience by joining other Masonic appendant bodies. But only with a strong Blue Lodge foundation to count on can Freemasons make worthy members of these other organizations. A scheduling conflict between the Blue Lodge and another appendant body must be resolved by choosing to attend the Blue Lodge. Without Blue Lodge, there can be no Chapter, Council, Commandery, Consistory or Shrine.

So with this in mind, my Brother, ask yourself, "Have I fulfilled my responsibilities to my Blue Lodge? Have I cared enough for my brethren to wear the square and compass with honor and pride? Have I done what I have sworn to do when I received my third degree?" Only you can sincerely answer these questions, my Brother... and only you can decide to do what it takes to be a true and sincere Brother of the Craft!



Dear Brother:

We always knew, that the origins of Freemasonry was planted in Europe.

It started with the "Guilds" in England, France, Germany, Scotland and Ireland. Possibly in other European countries as well.

In view of this origin, it always puzzled our Historians where then did the "Universality" that we are now so proud to proclaim, come from?

I came across the following explanation.

HINDUS IN FREEMASONRY.

When Freemasonry was carried into India early in the Nineteenth Century the bearers of it in the majority of instances were military Lodges; and as they gave way to permanent, local Lodges the latter were composed almost wholly of English, Scottish, and Irish Brethren for in that period the so-called "color line" was strictly drawn; but after many years one Indian after another was admitted, some of them of the Hindu religion, some of them Mohammedans, with a sprinkling from any one of the other numerous Indian faiths. Masons from America, Britain, and Europe watched this experiment with an abiding interest; when the Fraternity of Anglo-Saxondom, which long had kept the Holy Bible on the altar, became admixed with Hindus, Brahmins, Mohammedans, Jains, Parsees, with believers in the Vedas, the Gita, the Tripitaka, etc., what would be the amalgam thus formed? Would Oriental Freemasonry become transformed out of recognition? Would it preserve its forms but lose its original substance? Not all the returns are in as yet, but after a half-century of the experiment there are a sufficient number of them to make clear at least one verdict: that Freemasonry is capable of becoming universal in the most literal sense without being altered in Landmarks or purposes. An ever-growing Masonic literature out of India attests that fact.

A representative of that literature which already is outdated in India but would be new if it could be widely read in America is an extraordinary book: The K. 1V. Cama Masonic Jubilee Volume, Containing Papers on Masonic Subjects Written by Various Freemasons in Honor of Bro. Kharshedji Rustaniji Cama on his completing 50 years of Masonic Life in the year 1904, edited by Jivanji Jamshedji Modi (Fellow of the University of Bombay); 1907; Bombay.

Bro. Cama was Made a Mason in Rising Star of Western India, No. 342, S. C., August 24, 1856, and to honor his many years of service in Craft work and to recognize his fame as an authority on Indian literature and also in Iranian literature, the Lodge proposed a banquet, but he demurred, and in lieu of it his Brethren prepared this volume in his honor. The volume consists of eighteen contributions, along with two or three poems. Among the authors are such names as Mills, Harley, Dover, co-mingled with such names as Wadia, Ghose, Dass; the concluding contribution is a paper on "Zoroaster and Euclid," by Bro. Jivanji Jamshedji Modi. American readers will be pleased to discover one of our own Brothers in this symposium, R.'W.' William C. Prime, of the Grand Lodge of New York. (The translator has him a resident of the city of Tonkers instead of Yonkers. Yonkers is a large industrial city and Masonic center, which would be known the world over, were it not smothered by New York City.)

And NOW you know the rest of the story, as the saying goes.

Our MASONRY became thus enriched.

I am proud to add:

So mote it be.

Fraternally Always,

Steven S. Grant

Humanitas Lodge #1123

----- Original Message -----

From: "Harpreet Singh"

To:

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2007 9:30 AM

Subject: Re: Global Fraternal Network Oct 2007 Newsletter (NLTr)-7

- > Many thanks Bro Leo for the Oct GFN Newsletter - it
- > appears that there are various forms of Fmy as indeed
- > one should expect in our cultural diversity. In India
- > there is a very old Lodge in Hyderabad where the
- > ritual working is in Urdu and members can wear the
- > oriental sherwani(long coat) and tight pyjamas. I
- > understand that Lord Kitchener had initiated, passed
- > and raised a King of Afghanistan at Calcutta in a
- > single day with special dispensation!
- > My wife and I are in Stamford, Connecticut, USA these
- > days and will be here until end-Oct - it will be nice
- > to attend a meeting or meet fellow Masons in our area.
- > With fraternal good wishes,
- > Harpreet Singh
- > Lodge Emerald Isle, No. XIX (Irish)

Situations Vacant

A number of vacancy's exist for UK County Reps

Some Euro Reps required

Interested? In the first instance contact the editor

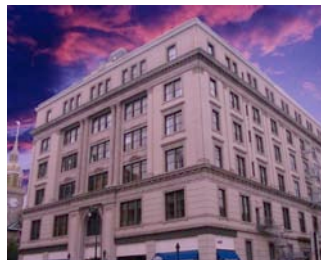
Masonic Buildings.



Westwood MA Prospect Lodge USA



Liverpool Masonic Hall UK



Maine 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

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

New <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

New 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>>

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

New 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

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!
-Pericles (430 B.C.)

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