



# GFN CYBER MASON

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

Volume 2, Number 10 October 2007

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## Editorial



**Circulation of this News Letter is now over two thousand.**  
**Paul Schoffstall has now joined the circulation team**  
**If each recipient recruits one member we would double our membership**

Any comments or articles to me please on [bwbutler@btinternet.com](mailto: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**



**UK Forum**  
**Every Sunday at 9.0pm UK Time**

**GRAND MASTERS TO MEET IN LONDON**

The Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of regular Grand Lodges in Europe have been invited to a special meeting in London on 5th – 6th November 2007. Since the political changes in Europe in the early 1990s there has been an unparalleled growth in the number of Grand Lodges in Europe. Whilst greatly welcomed, that growth has brought with it a number of problems and tensions, particularly in the areas of regularity, sovereignty, recognition and territorial jurisdiction, which will be the main topics of discussion at this special meeting.

The meeting will consist of a number of short formal presentations followed by open discussion of the topics raised. The presentations and a summary of the discussions will be printed for circulation amongst those attending. As each Grand Lodge is sovereign and independent no binding decisions can be made, but this will be a major opportunity for the leaders of regular European Freemasonry to meet and to share information, experiences and views to strengthen the fraternal bonds, which unite them.

Because of the importance of the topics under discussion and as no ritual work will be included in the meeting, in addition to representatives of the Grand Lodges in Europe recognized by the UGLE invitations have been extended to the Grand Masters of a small number of Grand Lodges which are regular in origin and practice but are not at present formally recognized by England.



**USA Forum**  
**Every day at 9.00pm.**

Dear Brother Brian,

We waited so long for something like "The German Letter" to come along. Finally, it seems (at this stage, it only "seems") that a cracker went off under the wheelchairs. It might encourage other Brothers to follow up on the comments from Brothers Ted Harrison and Peter Hochreither and submit their views and opinions. If you don't mind, could we use this and any other subsequent comments in the next Newsletter? A thread on an important subject such as this is invaluable in "developing a spark" as Brother Harrison suggests.

The Hospitality Committee should also be aware of some active GFN Members' opinions as that may help them in their communications with the new members which is why Brother Dennis, as Chairman, has been involved in this email.

There is still so much to be done...

Fraternally,

Rene & RAN

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**Subject: GFN**

Really impressed with the dialogue between the German Mason and the GFN. I wish more brothers would stand up and express their opinions. From this we could develop that spark that our German Brother seems to feel is missing. Good luck and keep up the good work. Best regards.

Cordially,

Ted Harrison

GFN Rep for NY



**Germany**

Dear Bro.Ellis,

it was, as usual, a great pleasure to read the newsletter, especially the information or input from that German brother. I, also being one by birth, have to agree on certain points, on others-of course-not.

- 1.) It is quite true, that the Germans take masonry quite different to other countries and are more on the philosophic side than on the BBQ and fun side.
- 2.) I am a mason since 27 years, initiated in Nigeria, traveling throughout the world, mainly Africa and Asia business wise and henceforth have seen many jurisdictions and ways of practicing masonry. I am a Past-honorary master of my lodge here in Germany and currently in the chair again. Knight Templar, Past Illustrious Master and 32 o in the AASR and GFN rep for Czechia, where I travel to often. Also member of Lodge St.Georges in Nicosia/Cyprus.
- 3.) Compared to the German practice, there is already more fun with the EC in Europe. The ritual there says-"amongst other differences" that the JW has to call the Brother. From labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour", i.e. the ritual has a break. This has been deleted in German rituals completely, for instance and our UGL has the monopoly to represent all German Brothers. Towards foreign UGLs. This explains the hierarchy already.
- 4.) Brethren here in Germany are asked to work on philosophic or Masonic subjects and e a c h working has a speech!!!

The expectations are very high and the selection is also very tied. To become MM it takes at least 3 years and has, to my opinion, the advantage, that a.) Only fun seeking people leave by their own, as it is a long time during which they have to proof their know how gained and b.) After 3 years they k n o w something about masonry.

5.) To get to 32 o in AASR it will take at least 5 years, whereas our American Brothers do that in one or two days. Who can understand all the complexity after two days? And who is sitting down and reads all about it?

These were just a few thoughts and comments. And besides, the Germans always were a bit more serious about everything, in the past, now and they will be in the future. To serious sometimes, sort of depressed, sometimes negative thinking and not really fun people. On the other hand, FM should not be all about fun only but building up your personality, your way of life, conduct and increasing your know-how. This cannot be done through BBQ's only or mainly.

I feel like a world citizen and when I travel, I see so many Brothers. Of different origin, that the seriousness of my German Brothers. Make me grin sometimes but I respect their efforts and their seriousness about their way in Freemasonry

Fraternal greetings

Peter Hochreither

WM TdB Nr.135 i.O.Worms

**Masonic Calling cards collecting, page 1 of 3.**

Dear Brethren,

I saw the call for GFN articles and I have a passion for collecting Masonic things and wish to share it with you. This particular passion I'm writing about is in the field of ephemera. To be specific: Masonic Calling Cards. Not a lot of Brothers even know of their existence.

Masonic Calling cards were/are much like business cards in size and intent. They helped Masons remember whom they met at various social, Masonic and even business functions. They were saved, usually in scrapbooks, and if one were to travel to a particular city or state or country, Freemasonry being international, you would consult your scrapbook to find a "Brother" there for any assistance you may require.

The cards measure around 2" X 4". They were quite decorative and would contain many Masonic symbols, some obvious and some not so obvious. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and some of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century calling cards, Masonic and otherwise were the standard of social grace. If you visited a person at their home and they were not accepting visitors, you would leave your card and they would know of your visit.

Most Masons acquired their cards at a Commandery Convention known as a Triennial Convention. They were held in different cities around North America and were quite the time. Parades and sightseeing were highlights of these conventions.

I've scanned and included a few of the local Massachusetts cards in my collection, which numbers around one thousand. Some of these names may be familiar to Massachusetts Masons.



Samuel C. Lawrence  
Rufus W. Wheelock  
E.W. Austin

Caleb Saunders  
Harry M. Eames  
George V. Gregg

**Masonic Calling cards collecting, page 2 of 3.**

The following cards show just some of the variations that can be found. Mr. Marston has his picture on his card, Mr. Hilton has his name as Hieroglyphic like drawings, Mr. Pierson has a raised Gold Knights

Templar emblem on his card and although women are not members of the Commandery, they will many times accompany their husbands to conventions and they may carry calling cards too.



Charles W. Marston  
C.C. Pierson

William Hilton  
Edith Mabel Bridges

Masonic Calling cards collecting, page 3 of 3.

Some of the modern cards in my collection show a John Hancock Lodge Service Committee Representative card from the 1950's, the late Harry Holman's card and Edward Condon's card has all the modern information of today. Loren Sandler has, from the 1980's, an Eastern Star card, a Masonic organization open to both men and women.



John Hancock Lodge  
Edward A. Condon

Harry Call Holman  
Loren J. Sandler

If you wish more information about this collecting interest, feel free to contact me via e-mail at [wayne@modelersjunction.com](mailto:wayne@modelersjunction.com).

Thanks for letting me share this with you.

Wayne Gebhardt  
6 Wendell St.  
Lawrence, MA 01841.

Greetings Fellow Global Fraternal Network Brother,

I am Travis Collins, "GFN Ambassador at Large", By Special permission from the GFN Founders, I have designed and built a Bolo Tie and a Buckle with handmade medallions to commemorate the GFN. These Bolos and Buckles are now posted on my newly developed website: [www.masonicbucklesandbolos.com](http://www.masonicbucklesandbolos.com)  
<<http://www.masonicbucklesandbolos.com/>> : along with many other Masonic Items, The site was only recently published, and is now ready to accept orders.

I am 'Native American' of Cherokee heritage and I have built these items in the fashion of the Native Headdress, which is uniquely American, and with the pride of workmanship deserving of my ancestors.

I am 65, disabled and practically homebound with severe COPD and an inoperative detached lung. Paulette and I build these Buckles and Bolos for our only occupation

Please visit the site, see what there, and if I can be of service to you, it will be my honor and privilege. Please sign the Guest Book, to mark your passing to others. Also, please pass this website along to the Masonic Brothers near you.

A portion of these sales will go to the Global Fraternal Network's regular operating fund.

Thank you for your support,

'Forever The Dreamer'  
Travis Collins  
"The Cherokee Cowboy"

#### **SUPPORTING YOUR LODGE**

**MARTIN J. GROSSMAN, P.M.**

**SOLOMON'S LODGE NO. 3, F. & A.M.**

**JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA**

This is an article that I have meant to write and never got around to it before I semi-retired this year. It is a support article. When I say support, I am referring to support for the Worshipful Master of a Lodge, support for the seasoned members, and support for our new members.

The work required to be Worshipful Master is a multi-task job. He is a Manager, Accountant, Chaplain, Organizer, etc. Supporting the Worshipful Master is very easy. He simply needs you to attend Instruction Meetings and Stated Meetings.

Of course, he will also need volunteers to represent various committees. These, unfortunately, are usually filled by Brothers who year-after-year volunteer their time to support the Worshipful Master. It would be refreshing to see new names and faces filling these positions; new Brothers SUPPORTING the Master and each other.

Supporting a new member is a special gift. It has to do with Instruction Meetings. Although it is suggested that every Lodge Brother attend, it is every officers (elected and appointed) responsibility to attend. Only in this way can degree work be accomplished in a truly ritualistic manner. Many times I have sat painfully and watched a degree team unnecessarily fumbling with their words during a degree. Of course, the candidate is not aware of it but good work is something we owe him as he takes his first steps to join our fraternity; the pride in doing good work is something we owe ourselves. We also owe ourselves, as well as the candidate, the pride of appearing at his entering, passing, and raising. After all, we are Brothers, and as such, should begin support for our newly made Brother Masons right from the beginning. This sets the example for him to support his Brothers throughout the future. As he sees us do, he will do!

As you have gathered, the main thrust of SUPPORT is attendance at the meetings. It is only twice a month that we are asked to attend meetings; the Stated Meeting and the Instruction Meeting. The Stated Meetings are for

Fellowship. The Instruction Meetings are meant just for that reason, Instruction. Degree work is an ongoing process of learning. Only by repetition can one fully master the work. Whether it is Tyler or Worshipful Master, attending instruction meetings is the only form of learning the work. Consistent good work is accomplished only by mastering the work of the individual chair, and that is only accomplished by attendance.

## **OUR SECRET STRENGTH**

**BENJAMIN G. TRAINA**

**SOLOMON'S LODGE NO. 3, F. & A.M.**

**JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA**

When I was first raised in Solomon's Lodge No. 114 (1982) I was very impressed with the archaic beauty of the language used in the degree work. I took extremely seriously the admonition that in doing a degree every single word should be exactly like its ancient origin. There is a strength and comfort that comes from stability and continuity of language.

Naively, I assumed the language used in the various rituals of degree work and lodge business was exactly the same throughout the world. Vaguely, I realized this could not be in non-English speaking countries but surely it was the case in the U.S. and the U.K. A few years after my raising I had the privilege of sitting with several New Jersey lodges when they were giving degrees. Imagine my surprise when I discovered the words were quite different! And in a bordering state! A few years after that I saw the Royal Canadian Mounted Police exemplify a degree and it was even much more different! In the past few weeks, in my comfortable retirement locale in Florida I have seen local lodges do degree work. Now I am amused by my original naiveté in thinking all words had to be exactly the same. Those of you who have had the privilege these past few years of traveling abroad with Solomon's Lodge No. 3 visiting lodges in Scotland, England, Italy and Scandinavia have experienced, no doubt, even more differences between our highly regarded Pennsylvania work and that of other jurisdictions.

However, you also must have noticed, as I have even with my relatively limited experience, the basic, core similarities bonding all the lodges, U.S. and foreign, near and far. They all stress the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of the Almighty. They all impress on us that we have a responsibility for the welfare of our brothers, their families and indeed, our nation. Our Masonic duties do not lie in merely repeating word for word sterile oaths from ancient times but in fulfilling, here and now, duties and responsibilities to each other. This is the true strength of Freemasonry.

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### **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.



## Wilmington, Dartford, UK.

Lodges meeting here are

Beauchamp 1422, Lullingstone 1837, Walsingham 2148, Pickwick 5448, Old Bexley 7129, Helios 8311, Richard of Bordeaux 8333, Harmony and Unity 8451, Englantine 8462, Eynsford Castle 8684, White Horse of Kent 8784, Highcroft Crockenhill 8885.



## Beamish 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/>>

**New** Collinwood Lodge #582, Ohio [www.collinwood582.org](http://www.collinwood582.org)

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

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)

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

[www.solomons3.org](http://www.solomons3.org) <<http://www.solomons3.org>>

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

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

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

## Quote

When you reach a certain age. You attend more Funerals than Weddings

Unknown

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: All GFN Reps

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