



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.

AP 1030 GMT

UK 2100 GMT Sunday only

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

Are you making full use of your membership?

Where are we now? The GFN has many very interesting services to offer. Active chat forums, passive communication through the Boards, and interesting articles in the Treasure Chest. An even greater treasure chest can be found in the Archives. But as the saying goes, "you can lead a horse to the water but you can't force him to drink". We have all those wonderful services but many Members do not make use of them. We have the Hospitality Committee that contacts wavering Members and greets new members. There are no doubts that the Hospitality Committee has had an energizing effect of the membership. And, of course, there is the Newsletter.

The Newsletter is the medium through which we contact every member that has registered his address on the Roster. Next to the Hospitality Committee it is the only one that actively contacts Members.

This is the last edition of GFN Cyber Mason available to the Public. In future the publication will only be available to members of the GFN. To join go to www.masonic-network.com

Volunteers required

Dear Brethren,

As you know, we had planned to have a **24-HOUR CHAT FESTIVAL** on 16th August 2008

But due to the untimely passing of our dear Brother Dennis [aka Genisis] (24 hour Chat Festival Coordinator), the Event had to be rescheduled to the 25th October 2008.

We believe the 24 CHAT FESTIVAL will be GREAT for the Members of the GFN because it will be inspiring to get together again and be able to chat with fellow Masons from around the World.

Brother Alan Sanford has volunteered to organize the MEMORIAL 24 CHAT FESTIVAL In honour of the Vision and Dedication of Brother Dennis.

If you can participate and pledge to be TWO HOURS on the Chat Site on 25 October, AT ANY TIME CONVENIENT FOR YOU, please advise Alan Sandford <ea31997@hotmail.com> and he will then be able to fill each of the 24 hours with attending Brethren and get things moving.



Asian Pacific

3rd GFN Asia Pacific Forum Gathering

The next event will be hosted by Bob & Anne Edwards in Northern Tasmania on the second weekend in May 2009.

At this stage it is envisaged that we will be visiting Lodge Army & Navy.

More details as soon as they become available.



Brethren,

The current GFN Newsletter (Sept) has a list of English Rituals. How come 'Exeter' is left out? It is a fairly popular ritual, used by quite a few English Lodges. I am sure there are a few more that can be added to the list. Particularly since UGLE does not have an "Official" ritual.

I may also add McBride Ritual in the Scottish list if there is such a list??? I believe there are only 3 or 4 Scottish Lodges in the world who work this Ritual. Furokh knows better. ;-)
Is there a Standard "official" ritual for Scottish? Lodges?

And thanks for giving the list of rituals.

! ! _!

Tofique Fatehi
Mumbai, INDIA

The list given was taken from the London Metropolitan Year Book.
Ed



Great Britain

The Masters Song

The Master's Song ("Here's to his health in a Song") sung at Installations was written by Richard Rome Bealey, and it first appeared

In print in his "Field Flowers and City Chimes". A volume of verse printed by John Heywood of Manchester in 1866.

Bealey was born in Rochdale on the 7th February 1828, and was for many years in business in Manchester. He was one of the

Founders of the Manchester Literary Club when he was living at Crumpsall, and its Secretary from 1865 to 1870.

As originally printed, the song was entitled "The Man who is kind to another", and included a fourth verse which had not been reproduced for singing. It was set to music by Dr. John Morgan Bentley, a well-known Manchester musician of repute in his days, and appears to have first been sung in the Alexandra Lodge No 993, Manchester, about 1875

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Thailand

Are You a Masonic Tourist?

When you go on a business trip or on vacation, do you find yourself packing your dinner jacket, apron and assorted regalia? If so, you may be a Masonic Tourist.

Most of the lodges in the kingdom welcome Masonic Tourists. But each lodge has its own particular rules and requirements concerning visitations. Therefore, please check with the [Lodge Secretary](#) of the lodge you would like to visit well in advance of your trip.

In general though, most of the lodges in Thailand follow these basic rules:

Recognition. Visitors must be from a constitution in amity with the lodge you wish to visit. Please check with your Grand Lodge or Lodge Secretary to confirm prior to visiting. You can also usually find this information on your Grand Lodge's web site.

Legal Information. Visitors are required to provide legal information that they are members in good standing in a recognized lodge. This may be provided in the form of a diploma, letter of good standing or dues card.

Testing. A senior member of the host lodge will test all visitors in the usual manner known to Masons. Please allow a little extra time before the meeting to allow for that. Even though Masonry is universal, modes of recognition may differ slightly between the different constitutions. Be patient and work with your host.

Dress. The members of most lodges dress in black tie and dinner jacket (tuxedo for my American friends). Visitors may visit in dark business suit, white shirt and dark tie.

Cost. There is no cost to join a meeting. However each lodge takes a collection for charity (200 to 500 baht is a fine donation). Most lodges will offer a cash bar prior to the meeting and a harmony (or dinner) after. Visitors may be requested to pay a dining fee. Costs vary with each lodge so please check with the host Lodge Secretary.

Greetings. Visitors are encouraged to stand at the end of the meeting and give a greeting from their lodge. The Director of Ceremonies will usually prompt you when it's your turn.

Visitors Response. The harmony (or dinner) following the meeting will include a number of toasts. One toast will be for the visitors. A lodge officer may ask you to respond to the toast. So, think up a few clever things to say about the city; compliment that evening's work; and commend the candidate for his great bravery. Don't worry if you've never done this before. You will be better than I was in my first visitor's response. Anyone would be!

To me, one of the best parts of being a Mason is the ability to travel and see the rituals of my beloved Craft performed in new and interesting ways. Masonry opens new worlds enabling the "Masonic Tourist" to meet and befriend people from every level of society. By all means, grab every opportunity you have while you're in Thailand to visit the wide variety of lodges here.

And as always, if you have any other questions about visiting please drop me a line at Jim@ThaiFreemason.co



Germany

Dear Brother:

I was interested to see that you are looking for information regarding membership of the Craft of General Blucher. I can, indeed, confirm that he was an important member of the Lodge Zu den Drey Balkan that still meets in Munster in Germany. I would refer you to an article on the website www.thefreemason.com

<<http://www.thefreemason.com>> of which I have a copy dated 06/07/2001. If you are unable to unearth this article entitled "A Well Kept Secret" by T. Hargreaves I will try to e-mail it to you. It deals largely with the treatment of a portrait of Blucher, which hangs in the Lodge Room of Zu den Drey Balkan during the Nazi years.

I also wrote a letter to the editor of the Freemasonry Magazine, which was published in the winter 1998 edition on this subject, which I could also e-mail to you if you wish - it refers to the Chair of King Solomon, which Blucher presented to his Lodge when he was Master.

The Lodge Zu den Drey Balkan also very kindly shares its Lodge Rooms with the Keys of Munster Lodge #881 (GC) which is one of the Lodges under the banner of the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany. I am proud to be a Past Master of the Keys of Munster and to have occupied the Chair presented by Blucher.

Please let me know if you would like copies of these documents.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

W.Bro. Wm. Smith P.M. Keys of Munster Lodge 881 (GC); P.G.Std.B.

A Well Kept Secret

Hjalmer Schacht, a genius in financial affairs during the Hitler war years, was generally disliked by the Nazis because he was a Freemason.

After the war years he was acquitted as a war criminal at the Nuremburg Trials. Schacht was a member of "Zur Freundchaft" Lodge and as early as World War 1 had published articles on the obligation of a Mason in his heart and spirit, to the people with whom he lived. General Werner Von Blomberg was minister of war in the Hitler Cabinet from 1933 to 1938 and Schacht wished to honor him on one of his birthdays.

In 1933 Freemasonry was dissolved in Germany, and Lodges taken over and their contents confiscated. Among these articles was a very fine painting of Gebhard Lebrecht von Bluecher, General Field Marshall in the Prussian Army.

Bluecher was a very ardent Mason and after the battle of Katzbech in 1813 he declared, "Masonry is holy to me and it will be so until I am called to the Eternal East and any Brother is near and dear to my heart." The oil painting of Blucher was made during the years 1802-1806, at the time he was the Master of his Lodge "Zu den 3 Balke 3n" in Muenster, Germany.

The painting depicts the Marshall in uniform with all of his military orders and decorations, and you can also see around his neck a large blue ribbon with a square of the end. He is standing before an Alter on which is a book with a sword lying thereon. He holds a gavel in his right hand.

One can distinctly see the Masonic insignia. Schacht found that this painting was available for a very low price and bought it. It would have been extremely dangerous to give Von Blomberg this painting since he was a strong Nazi so Schacht found an artist who painted over parts of the picture so that it would be impossible to see the Masonic paraphernalia.

But the artist was unaware that the jewel around his neck also indicated Freemasonry and left that part untouched. On one of his birthdays Von Blomberg received the painting from Bro Schacht and felt very honored that Schacht had compared him to the famous Marshall Bluecher and placed it in one of the largest rooms of his villa for all to see.

It has to be said to the honor of all Masons that they recognized the picture belonging to a Lodge in Muenster but not one gave the secret away. To the end of the Hitler regime it remained a well kept secret, and at the same time became a source of hearty laughter in the circle of our Brothers.

A Tyler's Toast:

The Craftsmen's work of day is done, the Brethren now must part.
"A Tyler's Toast" our Master cries, "to warm each faithful heart."
For though we go our separate ways, our bond is ever strong.
The magic of the mystic tie will draw us back ere long.
Until then, think, each time you meet a Brother down on luck,
Whose life is marked by poverty, perhaps by illness struck.
That "If not for the Grace of God, I might walk in his shoes,
I wonder how much I can spare, to help him meet his dues."
And spare a wish for Brethren, who through no fault, their own,
May find themselves in foreign lands, and labouring alone.
That once the day shall come when they no longer need to roam,
May each enjoy a swift and happy voyage to his home?
Long may our Lodges welcome Craftsmen, traveling to the East?
And may our secrets guide good hearts, until each soul's release
To wing its own way Heav'nward, these heartfelt words ingrain,
We're happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.
To our next merry meeting.

Lodge Links are now on the Links Board new links will be posted here as they are submitted

Wharton Lodge. Texas <http://masonsoftexas.com/album>

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