



GFN CYBER MASON

www.masonic-network.com

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

Volume 2, Number 8 August 2007

BUMPER EDITION

Editorial

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.

APATHY

Lack of interest or enthusiasm.

From Collins English Dictionary

Here in the GFN we seem to be suffering from apathy. Various schemes have been tried to re-awaken interest. A few years back we tried to have a Forum open to the Public to answer questions about the Craft. Nobody visited, was that due to lack of interest or because our members did not inform their non-Masonic friends?

We did hold a Euro Forum on a Tuesday at 9.0pm UK time. Despite valiant efforts by Fabius our Italian Rep this died the death, due again to apathy.

Recently a lot of hard work was put in by various brothers around the World to promote a forum for non GFN EA's and FC's. This again solicited no response. This again must have been due to GFN members not informing their Lodge members. Why?

The various forums (AP, USA and UK) are struggling to attract attendance. From eighteen to twenty at UK a few years back we are lucky to have six on.

What is the answer? How do we make the GFN a vibrant site?

I hope somebody will take the time and make the effort to reply

Whilst looking through the London Masonic Year book, I noticed the following rituals worked by London Lodges. Main working is Emulation, but also Logic, Taylors, Stability, Universal, Poynters, West End, East End, Eastern Craft, Craft Guide, Schroder, Camden, Calvers, Loyalty, Newman Goldman, Henley, Oxford, Paxton, Wanderers, Unique, Tredegar, Benefactum, Nigerian, Veritas, In addition West Lancashire Lodge and Authors Lodge have their own ritual, all are different

Does any brother belong to a Lodge working a different ritual?

Roster Details

The site is being updated to include details of membership in the member's roster. Until this is complete please update your details when you leave a forum.

Pins, Caps and Car Stickers may be viewed and ordered from the GFN Site

Also available from the Editor.

Editor bwbutler@btinternet.com

We would like to encourage our members and especially Staff Members to have Cards made up such as the one we use. (As Attached) Most Cu's have a Business card program. Pretty easy to make up.

We leave these on the windshields of park cars when we see a Masonic emblem on them. We also leave them when attending another Lodge, at the Secretary's desk, meeting another Brother outside the realm, or the various Bulletin boards relating to Masonic business.

No need to print your name on them. That's an option if you want to do that. Be surprised how many new applications come in by using this way to Advertise the GFN.

FR
R & R



The
Global Fraternal Network

www.masonic-network.com

The Communications Site of Master
Masons throughout the world

Grand Lodge of the State of New York

New Board

This is just to let you know that we have the Public Chat Forums working now. "Friends of the GFN"

They also accept some graphics,
Use in the usual manner.

Can be opened by request to Ran or Rene

Members of the public can use by: -

<http://www.masonic-network.com/cgi-bin/chat/begin2.pl?true=xyz>

Asian Pacific



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 Mc Dowell aka Genisis Asian Pacific sub editor

Asia Pacific 2007 Gathering



What great weekend! With eight members and their partners drifting in and out of weekend activities, it seemed that all had a wonderful time. A "first contact" dinner on Friday night, a gourmet BBQ and walk through the Hunter Valley Gardens on Saturday, a double third degree Saturday night, a guided tour through the murals of Kurri Kurri, a leisurely stroll through the shops of historic Morpeth, and a farewell dinner on Sunday night. For those who could not make it, our sympathy - you missed a great time. For those of our attendees who got misplaced in time and space over the weekend (and you know who you are), we will remind you.

In true Olympic fashion, nominations were asked for the next Gathering in the agreed 18 months time. In a tightly fought contest between Darwin, Western Australia, and Tasmania the winner was

**3rd GFN Asia Pacific Gathering
Northern Tasmania, Australia 2009**

From: MRC (@ 58.166.125.2)

Email: mal2327@bigpond.com

Date: Friday, June 29, 2007 at 02:53:56

Message:

The weekend started on Friday with dinner at Cessnock Leagues Club in the Hunter Valley. Saturday morning was free but they attended the Hunter Valley Gardens for a BBQ lunch and tour around the village shops wine tasting rose gardens etc in the evening the Brethren attend Lodge Morisset for a 3rd Degree whilst the ladies were entertained by a group of singers. Supper (3 course dinner) was appreciated and two of our members won prizes in the raffles. Sunday saw most members on a guided tour of the town of Kurri Kurri to view the murals painted on some 30 buildings and then on to Morpeth an old town on the Hunter River, which has become an historical site. (Bro MRC relatives are the founding fathers of this township) Novelty antique stores and just viewing etc most people had a great time and the wives spend lots I understand then back to Cessnock for an evening meal, which was fabulous. The spirit of camaraderie was more than evident and we can be sure that we will meet again on the square and in a spirit of love fidelity and friendship. Mal



USA Forum
Every day at 9.00pm.

Subject: True Masonry at Work

From: Robert Rosenstein [<mailto:robertlawyer1@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 5:19 AM

Subject: A Good Story that needs to be shared.

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to be able to share a story of what it means to be a Mason and the fraternity that exists. If not for Bro. John (I do not recall his last name) who volunteers his time at the Grand Lodge Building in New York City my daughter might not be alive today.

I am a third generation Master Mason (in California) and former Master Counselor of a De Molay Chapter (in California). I had always told my children that if they were in trouble to go to a Masonic Lodge and tell them about their father and grandfather(s) in order to get help. I had always considered this advice if they were to be stranded in an unknown city and that they would find a friendly place to go.

In April 2006, my oldest daughter who was attending school in NYC, believed that a cult was after her, she was in the beginning of a psychotic breakdown, not due to drugs, but due to a chemical imbalance. She remembered that I had told her if she needed help to seek out a Masonic Lodge, she had seen the Grand Lodge building and went in looking for help. Instead of turning her away and thinking that she was on drugs, Brother John, listened to her, helped her get a hold of me, and I came out to get my daughter. About a month later, she suffered a total breakdown, and if she had not come home, she would not have received the proper medical care, and could of ended up killing herself or just wondering off in a psychotic state.

She is still under medical care, but has been able to return to school part time. I just wanted to share this information with your Grand Lodge and let you know that I will always be grateful for Brother John's help and the fact that what I have always believed to be true as it relates to being a Mason was shown in fact to be the way it is.

Would you please share this story, as good news is sometimes not shared and it should be?

If anyone would like to hear more about this, they can either e mail me or call me at my office, 951-296-3888.

Robert B. Rosenstein



UK Forum Every Sunday at 9.00pm UK Time



OUR PROVINCIAL GRAND FESTIVAL 2007



See the centre pages for a full report

Photo by Kelvin Gane

Held at UGLofE HQ in May 2007

Clockwise from top left

Two walking sticks, one with a secret Masonic message, the other decorated with Masonic symbols in fine pokerwork and carving.

A nautilus shell, with a stand made from another nautilus shell, engraved with Masonic and royalist emblems.

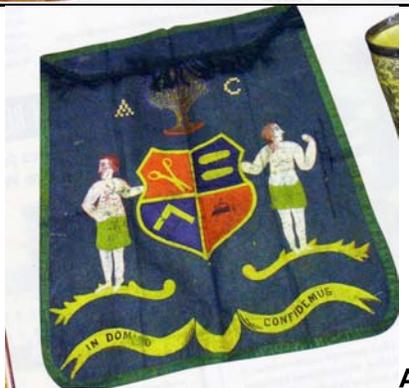
A horn cup with a silver rim showing Chartist symbols engraved on one side and Masonic symbols on the other.

Carved coconut incorporating Masonic symbolism.

A naïve, painted apron, depicting Adam and Eve.

A horn cup with silver rim, engraved with Masonic symbols and rhyme.

An engraved cow's horn showing a ship and a parade of kangaroos and ostriches around the top.



At the UGLofE Museum

The UK Get Together for 2007

Response so far has been poor. We had a meeting online a few weeks back and decided on the venue of Whitley Bay either in Sep or November. Five opted for September. Four for November. In view of small numbers it was felt the attendance would be an embarrassment to both the host Lodge and to the GFN. If you feel you can swell the numbers please contact the Editor

Situations Vacant

A number of vacancy's exist for UK County Reps

Some Euro Reps required

Interested? In the first instance contact the editor.



Hong Kong

I quote the article from last month's newsletter on "Speculative Masonry in China" and especially the extract
Brethren, it is interesting to note that there has been no Masonry on mainland China for very many years, but now, in 1988, a new Lodge is being constituted there under the Irish Constitution. Ref: Lodge of Research No.200 (1993), Grand Lodge of Ireland, and Ashlar Lodge No.247, G.R.C. (May 1993)

To the best of my knowledge this is not the case. There is a very active Irish Province in Hong Kong and they would have been in contact and had regular meetings with this lodge if it in fact exists.

Indeed in the run up to the handover to Chinese rule in 1997 senior brethren from the English, Irish and Scottish constitutions made representation to the Chinese administration and presented our constitutions and rituals to them for their consideration. The response was the we would be permitted to continue to meet in Hong Kong as we had during British rule but that we could not form lodges or conduct ceremonies within mainland China. Should we do so this would affect our status in Hong Kong? As we are enjoined to act in conformity with the laws of the land in which we reside this means if we do try to form a lodge in China then we would be forced to close down our activities in Hong Kong.

I mention this not because I am a nitpicker but because it would mislead brethren around the world that there is active Masonry in China.

Sincerely and fraternally

Andrew Small
PM Foochow Lodge 1912
GFN Rep Hong Kong



EU
From MQ Magazine

Human Rights Court judgment Landmark victory for Masons

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has handed down a landmark judgment under Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights – prohibition of discrimination – in an application involving public appointments brought by the Grand Orient of Italy.

The decision was taken by six votes to one. Under Article 41 of the Convention, the court held, unanimously, that the finding of a violation constituted sufficient just satisfaction for non-pecuniary damage. They awarded the Grand Orient of Italy 5,000 euros (£3,400) costs and expenses.

The Grand Orient of Italy, which is recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, had complained about a law laid down by the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia regarding rules to be followed for nominations to public offices for which the Region was the appointing authority.

In particular, this law, enacted in February 2000, required candidates for such posts to declare whether they were members of a Masonic or, in any event, a secret association. The absence of a declaration constituted a ground for refusing appointment.

In a note of 15 September 2005, the regional council showed that only one of the 237 candidates for a post on the executive board of a company in which the Region was a stakeholder, had declared they were a Mason. This individual eventually got the job.

Regarding the negative effects that the obligation to declare one's membership of a Masonic Lodge might have on the image and associative life of the Grand Orient of Italy, the court held that it could claim to be a 'victim' of a breach of Article 11 of the Convention.

The ECHR added: "That conclusion meant that there had been an interference with its rights to freedom of association. It followed that the facts in question fell within the ambit of Article 11. Article 14 of the Convention was therefore applicable."

The court gave judgment in favour of the Grand Orient of Italy

Furthermore, the court observed that the provision in question distinguished between secret and Masonic associations, membership of which had to be declared, and all other associations.

Members of the latter were exempted from any obligation to make such a declaration when seeking nomination for public office. They could not, therefore, incur the statutory penalty for an omission.

Accordingly, there was a difference of treatment between members of the Grand Orient of Italy and the members of any other non-secret association.

Regarding whether there was an objective and reasonable justification for such a difference, the court reiterated that it had already held that the prohibition on nominating Freemasons to public office, introduced to 'reassure' the public at a time when there had been controversy surrounding their role in the life of the country, had pursued the legitimate aims of protecting national security and preventing disorder. The court considered those requirements remained valid.

On Article 11, the ECHR found that the prohibition on nominating Masons to certain public offices for which the Region was the appointing authority was not "necessary in a democratic society." Penalising someone for their membership of an association was unjustified, since that

fact was not in itself legally reprehensible.

The Grand Orient of Italy had previously complained about another Region, in which the court had delivered a judgment in August 2001. In the present case, being a Freemason did not automatically bar a person from nomination for a public office, because the only candidate for a particular job, declaring himself to be a Mason, had nevertheless been appointed to the post.

However, the ECHR found that those considerations, which might be relevant under Article 11, were not so important where the case was examined – as in this case – from the standpoint of the non-discrimination clause.

In Friuli-Venezia Giulia, only Masons were under an obligation to declare their membership when they sought nomination to certain public offices for which the Region was the appointing authority.

As such "no objective and reasonable justification for this difference in treatment between non-secret associations had been advanced by the government."

Accordingly, the court held that there had been a violation of Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 11 of the Convention. ■

Chamber judgment: *Grande Oriente D'Italia di Palazzo Giustiniani v Italy* (No. 2) (Application No. 26740/02)



Jean-Philippe Klotz/AFP/Getty Images

From

Masonic Buildings.

Let me have Pictures of your Lodge Buildings. Please. Keep them coming.

Ed.



Here is a photograph of our pride and joy in Minnie St Cairns. Queensland
The building immediately to the right is the Heritage Motel, owned by the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria also.
Graeme Haussmann P.Dist. G.M.



Arcadia Masonic Lodge No. 278 F. & A.M.

Meets the First Thursday of Every Month at the

Arcadia Masonic Center

50 West Duarte Road, Arcadia,

California, 91007

Lodge Links

Arcadia Lodge No 278 California <<http://www.calodges.org/no278/>

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

Lodge Windsor No 770 UGLof NSW <http://www.geocities.com/athens/rhodes/8325/>

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

Statesville Lodge No27 USA. <http://www.statesville27.ncmason.org/>

Quote

“Pity may represent little more than the impersonal concern which prompts the posting of a cheque, but true sympathy is the personal concern which demands the giving of one’s soul”

Martin Luther King

Editorial team

Editor: Brian W Crayford: bwbutler@btinternet.com

Asian Pacific Regional Editor: Dennis McDowell: Dennis_19502000@yahoo.co.uk

USA Regional Editor: Corby Christenson: rangercorby@yahoo.com

Assistant editor: Furokh Santoke: fsantoke@hotmail.com

Distribution: Ellis Mills: eteldest@yahoo.com

Leo Scott: leoscott1@peoplepc.com

Correspondents: All GFN Reps

Master Masons are welcome to request free copies. Please send full name, name and number of lodge, and email.

Copies available by e-mail.

Back issues are archived at: http://www.geocities.com/gfn_news

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.