



GFN CYBER MASON

www.masonic-network.com

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

Volume 2, Number 7 July 2007

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.

We are trying.

Dear Brethren,

Are you committed to the principles of brotherly love and fellowship exemplified by the GFN?

Do you enjoy helping other people?

Do you have a few hours you can spend on the computer each week?

Are you a person who is willing to make a commitment and follow it through?

If so, I would like to hear from you.

The GFN administration feel we should be helping new brethren to feel at home and find their way around the GFN site. To this end, we intend to establish a Welcoming Committee to help new members navigate their way around the site, take part in online chats and use the Trestle Boards.

Most of us know how frustrating and difficult it can be to get started, especially those of us with poor internet skills. We need people who will contact recently joined brethren from their state/country, help them to get started and make them feel that we are glad they joined.

If this is something you would like to do and you are willing to follow through and be reliable once you have made a commitment, drop me a line and I will give you more details about the duties involved.

Bob Edwards
Bobedw77@yahoo.com.au

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

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



USA Forum

Every day at 9.00pm.

ADULTERINE GILDS

In the Anglo-Saxon period of English history the majority of gilds ("frith gilds," "crich ten gilds") were religious, military, or social fraternities. In the Twelfth Century a number of "secular gilds" began to arise, and it was these which later came to be called City Companies or (because certain of their members wore a prescribed costume) Livery Companies. The Exchequer Rolls of London show that by 1180 a number of these were legally organized; and because they could enforce laws, enact rules, levy fines and other penalties, etc., they had to have legal sanction for these governmental functions. This sanction was obtained in two ways : first, by having their rules and records approved at certain times by the Court of Aldermen, which was called Prescription ; or, second, by receiving a Charter of Incorporation from the King.

If a company, society, fraternity, or gild undertook to perform gild functions without the required legal authorization it was called an Adulterine (illegal) Gild; and after being tried and found guilty was heavily fined or otherwise punished, or was destroyed.

In 1181 no fewer than 18 such gilds were found in London, and each was heavily fined. The fact is important in Masonic history because it shows why Masons attached so much importance to their Charters, Old Charges, etc.

To act in association or hold assemblies or enforce rules and regulations without legal authorization would have made of them an adulterine Gild. The Masons Company of London became a recognized body not later than 1220, and by prescription. In 1481 it received its "Enfranchisement," or permission to wear Livery. In 1677 it received a Charter (a very expensive luxury) from Charles II. What Prescription, Enfranchisement, and Charter were to a City Company, the Old Charges must have been to Lodges; once such a Lodge set itself up as a permanent society its first thought would be to have a written sanction lest it be condemned as adulterine. By the same token the new Grand Lodge of 1717 began as soon as possible to have a written legal instrument of its own, which took the form of the Book of Constitutions in 1723, and it compelled each new Lodge to have written warrant from it, and later, it began to issue Charters of its own to new Lodges.

A clandestine Lodge of the present time, which is a body without a regular Charter, is nothing other than the modern form of the ancient "adulterine gild."

SPECULATIVE	MASONRY	IN	ANCIENT	CHINA
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There is often debate as to when speculative Masonry began. Some would say that it was when the Grand Lodges were formed in the early 1700s; but research produces interesting evidence which might well change that opinion. Evidence of Masonic truths has been found in ancient Greece, in India, in Egypt and in China; and it is to China that attention is directed in this Article. The books of ancient China contain many Masonic expressions. For example, in a book called "The Great Learning", written in 500 BC, it is stated "A man should abstain from doing unto others what he would not they should do unto him, and this is called the principle of acting on the Square". Confucius, the great Chinese moral teacher, born about 550 BC and Mencius, his pupil, arranged an orderly system of moral teaching. From the sixth volume of the work on philosophy, I quote; "A Master Mason in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the compasses and the square. We who are engaged in the pursuit of Wisdom, must also make use of the compasses and the square". Mencius also wrote; "Men should apply the compass morally to their lives, and the level and marking-line besides, if they would walk in the straight and even path of Wisdom, and keep themselves within the bonds on honour and virtue". In Peking, in China, there is a place called the temple of Heaven, one of the few ancient relics of the Chinese monotheistic faith. It is constructed in the form of a square, with special seats in the east, the west and the south. There is an altar in the very centre. There are three circular platforms of diameters of 90 feet, 150 feet, and 210 feet. Note that these are in the ratio of 3, 5 and 7. The temple was built in 1420, but the altar is considered to be 4000 years old. There was a society called HUNG, or "The Brotherhood of Heaven and earth". This can be traced back to 386 AD. It had a supreme Grand Master, a Senior and Junior Warden, and many subordinate lodges. In the lodge ceremonies, the initiate knelt at the altar, with the Senior and Junior Wardens kneeling at his right and left, each holding a sword overhead to form a right angle over the candidate. The lecture given by the Worshipful Master taught that all are equal, that they must live uprightly and justly, that they must help a brother in distress, preserve his secrets, respect the chastity of his wife, and that they must obey the Worshipful Master. The three great principles of the Hung lodge were Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. 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)* **Editor: While definite historical evidence for the Hung may not go back beyond 1662, Hwui-yin did establish his "White Lotus Society", at Rozan, south of the Yang Tze, c.376 AD. Due to persecutions of worshippers of Amitabha Buddha, the White Lotus went through a quiescent period until Han Shan-tung (1344) revitalised the Society. By the 18th century the Hung and the White Lotus are intermingled until primarily the Hung are only heard of. The White Lotus did rise up after the slaying of Su Hung-u-, and the in the proclamation of 1662.**

Submitted by Steve Grant

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From Freemasonry.com

Lodge: Lincoln Lodge No. 34

Blue Lodge Membership Problem

In a response to the author's comments on Mackey Twenty Five Landmarks, a Past Master sends the author an email stating his disapproval of the "solicitation" of members in the Blue Lodge and implied that the York and

Scottish Rites causes or contributes to the declining membership. The PM stated that if he had been sitting in the East during the "little solicitation speech," he will instruct the speaker to sit down as he (the speaker) is out of order.

The lack of participation in the Blue Lodge is a Blue Lodge problem world-wide. To partly use the PM's words, "how can you do that," How can our Worshipful Brother blame the York Rite or Scottish Rites if his members "never return to the Lodge." Study shows that those who don't showed up in the Blue Lodge also don't show up in York or Scottish Rites. And if the PM pays any attention to the regular attendees of the Blue Lodge, he might notice that most of them are active members of the York or Scottish Rites. The Rites never intended to "lure away" his or anyone members. Case in point is that membership in good standing in the Blue Lodge is a prerequisite for joining the York or Scottish Rites. So blaming the "higher bodies" for the failure of the Blue Lodge is unfair and way "out of order."

There are many reasons for the decline of the Blue Lodge membership. Allow me to elucidate some of those glaring defects and not by the order of significance. *Poor Blue Lodge leadership* as demonstrated by favoritism and politics--we don't have to be rocket scientist to figure that one out. *Poor or amateurish degree conferral*--first impression as always is critical in maintaining the new members--- that goes back to poor leadership. *The tendency to use cheap products or services*--- you got what you pay for. Ask ourselves of why does country clubs have a year-long waiting list for membership? Despite of expensive membership fees, men who can barely play golf lined up to get in? Why? Because they expect quality; be it may in service, using real glass instead of Styrofoam cup, real sit down dinner instead of being catered by amateurs or kids, or even showing up in a meeting in a business clothes than jeans and open neck shirt! Men who understand quality dressed up for important events, they "adorn great and important undertakings."

Men used to flock in our Fraternity because they expect that the Craft were "above" or rather, not like Lions or Rotary Clubs. Masonry is not about community service, business development or some religious support group. While those activities are worthy of their time, they are not the focused of our Craft. We used to attract men who are not "ordinary" people; they may be living better than "ordinary" folks or working in a profession that pays a notch or two higher than "ordinary." The fact was that during the Golden Years of Freemasonry, members of the Fraternity were not your everyday "ordinary" men. This is the cycle that attracts men to join. Men wanted to be with a group that is not "ordinary!" Not everybody can get in, there are requirements to be meet such as ability to meet its financial obligations, mental ability to meet what are needed in the rituals, availability of time for the Craft without concern for "second job," etc. The lowering of standards such as financial requirements to afford those things that are not "cheap," and taking anyone who ask without regard to the issue of "bringing honor to our ancient institution" are some of the reasons why Blue Lodge membership continue to decline.

If the brethren did not show up in the Blue Lodge and prefers to attend the York or Scottish Rite, our Worshipful Brother should be asking himself why, instead of blaming others for his failure. As a Master of the Lodge, what did he offered to in his Lodge that will make them look forward/anticipate the next meeting instead of boring reading of minutes of the meeting or internal politics such as awarding another PM with the "highest honor" for doing his job. There was a time that being elected as the Master of the Lodge is an honor by itself! How about the quality of degree work, was the candidate impressed by giving him a quality ritual which most of the time was the result of regular degree practice and not the last minute shuffle?

Worshipful Brother, "Your Lodge dieth and wasteth away" not because York or Scottish Rites "lured away" your members, but because lack of participation was due to the absence of "their roots" and never knew "whence they came!" You, my Worshipful Brother Sir, should be the one that needs to sit down for "in today's age and the lack of participation already in the Lodge" cannot be blamed to York or Scottish Rite, it may be fashionable but you cannot pass the culpability to the Grand Lodge, Grand Officers or District Inspectors either. You as or was the Master of the Lodge rule and govern your Lodge---you are responsible. And if I maybe permitted to ask, what action did you made after seeing "newly raised Master Masons be lured away from the Lodge toward Scottish Rite or York Rite, and never return to the Lodge." Blaming others especially your brother Masons is very much un-Masonic conduct and to this I regret to see/hear it from a Past Master.

Rudy Olano, IPM
Visalia Council # 43 Cryptic Masons (CA)



UK Forum Every Sunday at 9.00pm UK Time

The UK Get Together for 2007 will be held at Leyland Lancashire on Saturday 22nd September at 2.00.pm. Host Lodge will be Dona Conferentes.
More details to follow

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.

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

Ed.



Fowey Cornwall UK now used as Solicitors Office



Titangel Cornwall UK. Home of King Arthur Lodge and also used by Knights of the Round Table



Quote

If you are not living on the edge you are taking up too much space. Unknown

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