



GFN NEWS

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The Newsletter of the Global Fraternal Network -- VIRTUAL INTERNET LODGE NO. 1
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Editorial

I have not received any input regarding the vote for the name of News Letter, so until I do, the title will remain. I hope you like the new format, which has been designed by Bro Furokh. Also nobody seems interested from Asian Pacific regarding a Logo for the area. Previous News Letters have now been archived and can be found on http://www.geocities.com/gfn_news. Cut off date for June News Letter is Wednesday 24th May

Spotlight

ANTE' ROOM

Called from Labor to Refreshment

This is a good place to introduce yourself to your Brethren. Sign in Please. You can leave general messages here. If you want to remind someone of something. This is the place to do it. Remember: for easier scanning of messages: "when posting a message try to make the topic the headline-subject so that the reader will immediately recognize a topic of possible interest". By the way, all Boards accept HTML. So, if you like to post a favorite picture...please go ahead. Have fun! Messages over 20 days old will be purged. Brother Geoff Fox is the Director of this Board. Brother Geoff hails from Tasmania, Australia, and is willing to help you in anyway that he can. There is also an Education Board that you can use for in depth.

At the moment we have a discussion regarding the number of Boards. Are there too many? If so which should go?

Brian Editor



The United States

USA Forum

Every night at 9.0pm 3.0am GMT

I know this is April News but thought it may be of interest.
Ed

Bridgeport Masonic Lodge #181 will sponsor the dedication of the cornerstone at the new Bridgeport School Complex, on Sat. April 22nd, at 10:00 am.

The state officers of Ohio's Masonic Fraternity and local members of Bridgeport Lodge #181, Bridgeport, Ohio, will symbolically lay the cornerstone. Randall Gallagher, of Randall Gallagher Monuments, as well as the inscription, donated the cornerstone.

The cornerstone ceremony is an ancient tradition popular in the United States since the colonial days. The Freemasons, whose origins are the medieval stonemasons, continue this tradition as a public service. The cornerstone laying ceremony symbolically uses the tools of the operative Mason to bring a special message of faith in the craftsmanship of a new building. This is a wonderful way to begin the life of a new building.

Bridgeport Masonic Lodge, located at 502 S. Lincoln & Whitely St. has been a member of the community since 1849, (157 years). It has 160 members, and is 1 of 11 Lodges in Belmont County.

There are currently 540 local Masonic Lodges in Ohio with a combined membership of 121,000. Annually, Ohio Freemasons contribute \$15 million to charities that include Special Olympics Ohio, college scholarships and elderly care. General information is available at www.freemason.com

CAMP TURK SUMMER 2006 ... STILL TIME TO ENROLL

Spring has sprung and summer is not that far behind. There are still openings for campers to enroll for three glorious weeks of summer fun in the cool, refreshing Adirondack Park in our own Masonic Youth Camp. The time to act is now, before we are booked.

You can give a kid a vacation of a lifetime ... for your children and grandchildren it will be a summer they will thank you for. Log onto the Camp Turk web page for more details:

www.nymasons.org <<http://www.nymasons.org/>>

There is a link on the Home Page.



United Kingdom

Forum Sunday at 9.0pm BST

I am looking for an 1861 sword to give to my lodge in the UK. The lodge (Isaac Newton University Lodge of Cambridge no.859) is about to celebrate its 150th anniversary and I would like to find them a special sword to replace the Tyler's sword that went missing. It should be high quality and have the date on the sword. Any ideas would be helpful. I am new to sword collecting so any help would be greatly appreciated.

Fraternally Yours,
Marc Sardy
Marcjsardy@aol.com



ASIAN PACIFIC

AP Forum

Every day at 7.00 pm Perth Time 11.00 am GMT

Dear Brothers,

I am pleased to be able to announce that I have been appointed to the position of Regional Editor for the GFN News Letter for the Asian/Pacific Region my email address is dennis_19502000@yahoo.co.uk . Brian Butler remains the Editor and my role is to support him and look after news from the Asian/Pacific Region. It can be seen Brothers that the GFN News team has every intention of becoming part of your GFN experience and we look forward to the challenge of bringing you the latest news.

With that in mind we do **NEED YOUR HELP!** --- **How??**

By your being active and writing to us about the activities that are happening in your area
Such as, up and coming events,
GFN members get together,
Your promotions within the craft
How your Lodge is trying to promote Freemasonry in your area
Our intention with your help is to create interest in our GFN site and one of the best ways of doing so is by communication between ourselves.

The Asian/Pacific Leader Brother John Webster advises that forums are open every evening for meeting people, you are invited to join in our forums which are open from 1030 hrs. GMT (8.30 pm East Australian Standard time). On Sundays we normally hold a Topic subject. We are always looking for subjects for these Forums, your suggestions and input are very desirable. It is also open to any one who proposes a subject if desired, to lead the subject for the evening. Please feel free to send in your Topics ideas to Brother John, at brotaz@bordnet.com.au Please come and join in, you will be made welcome.

Brothers I look forward to hearing from you and if you have any articles you would like to share about your Lodge in the Asian Pacific region please send them to me.

regards

Dennis Mc Dowell [aka genesis]
Asian Pacific Regional Editor

Freemasonry in Queensland

When Freemasonry came to Queensland in 1859, it started off with an English constituted Lodge and then in 1864 a Scottish constituted lodge was formed and then we had some Irish constituted lodges formed c 1872. Freemasonry remained like this until 1921 when the English and Irish Constitutions combined to form the Grand Lodge of Queensland. In 1925 the United Grand Lodge of Queensland was formed with the addition of the Scottish lodges. With what was allowed to remain in practice within the various lodges has bought about a very unique form of freemasonry. While most lodges here practice the Ritual of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland we still have Scottish lodges that practice the Scottish ritual in many different variations. We have lodges here that practice the Queensland and Scottish ritual combined where one or two degrees is worked in the other is worked in the Scottish, or they work with Queensland ritual with Scottish Ritual inclusions which is interesting to see. We do have lodges around where I live that do that and it makes for an interesting meeting. We still do have Irish ritual lodge and

they do practice the Irish ritual however it is not talked about much and I think that is more for demonstrations than for practice. We have lodges that work the Queensland Ritual with the English Ritual inclusions and variations and that is interesting to see also there is a lodge few lodges like that not far from here and it is always interesting to go and see them when they are working degrees.

There are still lodges that are under the Grand Lodge of England located in Queensland.

We still do have other orders here still under Scotland; Royal arch, knights templar, 30th and 18th degree and with the Queensland and Australian ritual orders it makes of an interesting mix.

Tiger Tim



India

Dear Brother,

I shall appreciate if you could include following news item in next GFN News Letter:

THE RESEARCH LODGE No. 3184 E.C. constituted on October 31, 1906 will be celebrating its Centenary w.e.f. October 31, 2006. The MW the Grand Master of UGLE has been pleased to grant the Centenary Warrant to the Lodge w.e.f. October 31, 2006.

Perhaps this is the only abstinence Lodge in Western India where members have to sign a pledge to the effect that they will NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL under the banner of the Lodge. So, at all our festive boards after the lodge meetings we raise our glasses filled with SOFT drinks! Centenary celebrations will be held in November 2006 at Freemasons Hall, Ravelin Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001. A commemorative Souvenir is proposed to be released on the occasion. GFN brethren may send their messages for inclusion in the Souvenir to nsporwal@hotmail.com or nsporwal@yahoo.com or s_hindes@hotmail.com.

With fraternal greetings and regards,

S & F,

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Germany

Concealed but Not Secret

The first Freemasons lodge in the city was founded 160 years ago. The group is not as mysterious as many believe. The great secrecy is past.

Moenchengladbach. Louis Armstrong was one. Alfred Brehm also. Gottfried August Bürger exactly the same, as was Marc Chagall, Winston Churchill or Charles Dickens. Arthur Conan Doyle joins the list. Likewise Henry Ford, Benjamin Franklin, Frederick II., Heinrich Heine and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

They all were Freemasons. Nevertheless, a mysterious breath blows around these names. An idea of meetings behind locked doors. Of sworn communities or even conspiratorial societies. Best-sellers like "Sacrilege", "Illuminati" or "Assassins" all play with the fascination with secret federations and somehow mix Opus Dei, Rosicrucian's, and Freemasons all in a literary pot. The main thing: It is exciting.

Perhaps that explains the somewhat increasing interest in the Freemasons, which has been noted by the Moenchengladbach lodge "Forward" in recent times. Ever more frequent inquiries come, about whether and how one can become a member. Those, who took their conception of a lodge from a Dan Brown thriller, however, might be disappointed.

"We are not a secret society, only a discreet community, that is a significant difference", stresses Alexander Berens (34), who is the Master of the lodge "Forward", which actually is just another name for the chairman. The lodges are completely normal associations - legally organized: with members of the board, statutes, and entry in the register of associations.

In addition, yet today, "discretion is the first virtue", stresses Wolfgang Ruske, specialized technician of architecture and member of the executive committee of the Gladbacher Freemasons, "it is mystic, however, not mysterious". What is discussed in lodge meetings or educational conferences is not always for the public. "Nothing that is discussed among us penetrates outward, that is simply a matter of confidence", says the 58-year-old. It is like a circle of friends, an intimate round, in which the men discuss and philosophize.

The fact that all Freemasons do not openly profess their membership has to do with the somewhat fantastic conceptions which some have. Thus, not all employers today accept affiliation to a lodge. So, in order to meet prejudices, Berens and Ruske state, "Forward" offers guest nights, among other things.

And the lodge encourages its members to identify themselves publicly.

It was not always like that. Historically, the discretion was even more critical, because the social conditions at the time of the first foundations were completely different. In totalitarian and absolutist systems men in the closed circles of the lodges looked for the possibility of open discussions. From that time the traditional rites of admission were passed on from generation to generation. "We still are secret", smiles Berens, "even in the age of the Internet we are still secret."

Ruske found his way into the community through guest evenings. Four years ago he joined, because he met there "humans, who are also on the search". In his old circle of friends there was no one with whom he could talk about such things. "It was always only about pleasures and possessions." Berens, who works with scientific coworkers in a museum, joined eight years ago for similar reasons and adds: "At one

point in my life I was searching for a deeper sense of meaning in my world."

Both are united, that the worldwide brotherhood is special: "Beyond all world-views, political, national and social borders, it interconnects humans, who otherwise would not meet because of their origins and interests, for whom humanity, tolerance and fraternity lie at the heart."

While it includes those of different convictions, it helps mutual understanding and respect to grow. And that is perhaps the actual secret of the Freemason



Canada

FOUR DIFFERENT RITUALS AUTHORIZED AND PRACTICED IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF B.C.

Masonic visitors from other jurisdictions are usually intrigued by the fact that British Columbia has four different rituals authorized for use in our lodges; the English or Emulation, the American or British Columbia Ancient Work, the Canadian and the Australian. This is particularly surprising to brethren from the United States where it is usual for each State to have one authorized ritual only which is to be practiced with little or no deviation by all lodges.

How then does British Columbia have four rituals? It came about in the following manner. In 1858 a number of Freemasons, most of them from England, who had come to the new Colony of Vancouver Island and had settled in Victoria, wanted to have a Lodge there and made application to the Grand Lodge of England. After some delay they finally received authorization to form Victoria Lodge, No. 1085 E.R., now Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, G.R.B.C., practicing the English or Emulation work.

By 1860 many Freemasons had arrived in Victoria along with those in search of gold. They found the English work very strange and desired to obtain a charter to perform the American rite familiar to them. A charter to do this would not be granted by the Grand Lodge of England, but they were advised by Dr. Israel Wood Powell, later to become the first Grand Master of British Columbia, that a charter could be obtained from the Grand Lodge of Scotland allowing them to practice their American work as that grand lodge had not adopted any standard ritual. In 1862 a charter was received for Vancouver Lodge, No. 421, S.R., now Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2, G.R.B.C.

In this manner British Columbia acquired the Scottish or American ritual, now known as the British Columbia Ancient Work. While it was long known as the Scotch or Scottish work it seems that the only real claim to that title was the fact that the original charters were granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland but as the ritual was an American rite it later became better known as the American Work.

In 1887 Vancouver had only one lodge, Mount Herman No. 7 on the register of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and it was an American work lodge. A number of brethren from Ontario who came to British Columbia with the C.P. Railway were used to the Canadian Work of that province which had evolved from the English work. They made application to Grand Lodge for a dispensation to form a lodge to practice this ritual. Their request was granted and Cascade Lodge No. 12 was born. Thus we acquired the work now known as the Canadian Working of British Columbia as distinct from the English and Emulation ritual.

In Vancouver in 1906 a number of Freemasons who had come from Australia decided to seek permission to form a lodge to practice the Australian work which had been so pleasing to them in their former homeland. This ritual was originated by the Grand Lodge of New South Wales when it was formed in 1888 by combining what they considered to be the best features of the English, Irish and Scottish rituals then in use in Australia, as it had been decided that a ritual common to all the lodges was desirable. The Grand Lodge granted a dispensation for the formation of the lodge, which became Southern Cross No. 44 and British Columbia acquired its fourth ritual. It should be noted here that while it was not difficult for the Grand Lodge of New South Wales to establish a common ritual for all its lodges as the English, Irish and Scottish rituals were all basically English. Any attempt to achieve a single ritual for British Columbia would probably never gain approval because the American or Ancient work differs too much from the other three rituals practiced here.

In 1893 the Grand Lodge decided that all new lodges formed after that date should select and follow one of the three rituals authorized at that time: the English as practiced by Victoria-Columbia No. 1, the American as practiced by Ashlar Lodge No. 3 at Nanaimo, or the Canadian as practiced by Cascade Lodge No. 12. This does not seem to have been followed very closely as regards the American work because the lodges formed around Vancouver have rituals similar to Mount Hermon No. 7 and, in the absence of any published ritual authorized, some of them may have used Lester's book, "Look to the East" as a guide. This work differs considerably from the work of Ashlar Lodge No. 3 and its daughter lodges on Vancouver Island. This situation is probably due to the fact that in earlier years the brethren of Ashlar Lodge believed that ritual should be communicated by word of mouth and not put on paper. With no printed ritual to follow differences inevitably crept in and now no two of these Island lodges have rituals with procedures and working exactly the same. Another rather odd difference is that the majority of American work lodges on Vancouver Island use the form of Installation of Officers designated as English or Canadian in our Book of Forms and ceremonies while mainland lodges use the American or British Columbia Ancient Work form.

Percy Aga

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