



DGGL NEWS

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

Volume III Issue 1

MAY 2009



Greetings Brethren,

Bro. Tommy Hair, Wor. DDGM, is selling a very palatable "Temple Roslin Red" wine which is a blend of Cabernet and Merlot at the very reasonable price of R 25.00 each. Should you wish to order, please call him on 083-2323599 or contact District Grand Lodge.

To print this document without colour, select 'File' then click 'Select all' then click on the 'colours toolbar' and click on 'automatic'.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to rhoda@absamail.co.za [Rhoda is my sister/secretary] with your request in the subject line, and that will do the trick.

Once again, here goes and enjoy reading!

Bro. Neville Boner PM, DGStd Br.

Nevilleb@ispr.co.za

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Bro. Neville,

Would you please print this in the next District Newsletter.

Brethren, on behalf of myself, my son (and brother) Byron and Lodge Herodom I would like to thank most sincerely the 116 brethren who were in the Boksburg North Temple on the evening of April the 14th to share with me the joy of initiating my son into Freemasonry.

It really was a wonderful occasion that was made even more special by the presence of so many of the friends I have made over the years.

I had so many phone calls from Brethren who could not be there that evening but took time to phone and give their best wishes—that truly touched my heart. That evening will remain in my memory and my son's for the rest of our lives.

This is truly what Freemasonry is all about.

Fraternal Regards

Bro. Dave Kennedy P.M. Lodge Herodom

THE ALL-SEEING EYE SYMBOL AND FREEMASONRY

Contrary to popular belief, the All-seeing Eye is not an exclusively Masonic symbol. That is not to say that Freemasons do not use it or do not like it. They do. Both. But the All-seeing Eye has its origins independent of Freemasonry, and its applications are many and varied. Before we continue, however, it should be noted that the Square and Compasses with the letter G in the centre, is about the only universally accepted, exclusively Masonic, symbol.

The All-Seeing Eye is a single human eye surrounded by radiating beams of light. It is found in many eras and cultures. It is generally a symbol of the watchful and protective power of the Supreme Being, especially when that entity is considered in a solar or heavenly context. It appears on the Great Seal of the United States, and can sometimes be found among the many beautiful symbols of Freemasonry, where it represents the Great Architect of the Universe. It is also known as the Eye of God, or the Eye of Providence.

In regions where the evil eye belief occurs, the All-Seeing Eye is one of many forms of reflective eye-charm used as apotropaic (protecting against evil) talismans. In its specifically protective role, the All-Seeing Eye appears on at least

one North American Good Luck Coin to guard the bearer from evil. The Mexican ojo de venado charm, an ancient shamanic amulet made from a psychedelic legume seed is given an eye-related name: ojo de venado means Deer Eye.

In Medieval and Renaissance European iconography, the Eye (often with the addition of an enclosing triangle) was an explicit image of the Christian Trinity. Seventeenth-century depictions of the Eye of Providence sometimes show it surrounded by clouds or sun bursts.

Nowadays it generally appears on many of the bloodline controlled institutions and companies such as the media, financial, technological, academic, and governmental institutions, and more popularly on the US Dollar Bill. The eye also appears on the old British Intelligence agency, MI (Military Intelligence) 5 logo (as part of the 'pyramid capstone'). The currency of Estonia (50 Krooni) also contains the All Seeing Eye inside a pyramid capstone, as does the Ukrainian 500 Hryvnia bill.

The All-seeing Eye appears on the front cover of Michael Jackson's 'Dangerous' album alongside many other esoteric symbols. The "Eye" is also the logo of CBS television station, and can be seen on the emblem of the Ford Motor Company. Imagery of an all-seeing eye can be traced back to Egyptian mythology and the Eye of Horus. It also appears in Buddhism, where Buddha is also regularly referred to as the "Eye of the World" throughout Buddhist scriptures (e.g. Mahaparinibbana Sutta) and is represented as a trinity in the shape of a triangle known as the Tiratna, or Triple Gem. It is featured in the 2004 Disney film, National Treasure, and in J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy as the Eye of Sauron.

In the Rigveda, one of oldest of the sacred books of Hinduism, and composed in an ancient form of Sanskrit about 1500 bce, there is a hymn addressed to "Surya," the Sun, which says:

"Behold, the rays of dawn, like heralds, lead on high.

The Sun, that men may see the great all knowing God.

The Stars slink off like thieves, in company with Night,

Before the All-Seeing Eye, whose beams reveal his presence,

Gleaming like brilliant flames, to nation after nation."

The all-seeing eye concept therefore, not only predates Freemasonry, it predates Christianity also. On these grounds, it must be said that to condemn the All-seeing Eye as a Satanic symbol will tell you more about the hysterical bigot who breathes hellfire and damnation on all and sundry of God's creatures, than it does about the symbol itself. A symbol is a symbol. Nothing more, nothing less. It says exactly what YOU want it to say, and it will expose your ignorance as well as your tolerance. Take, for example the "evil" Nazi symbol the Swastika.

The word Swastika comes from the Sanskrit words su, meaning "well," and asti, meaning "to be." In other words, "wellbeing."

The swastika is an equilateral cross with its arms bent at right angles either clockwise or anticlockwise. It is traditionally oriented so that a main line is horizontal, though it is occasionally rotated at forty-five degrees, and the Hindu version often has a dot in each quadrant.

The swastika has not always been used as a symbol of Nazism and was in fact borrowed from Eastern cultures. It seems to have first been used by early inhabitants of Eurasia. It is an important symbol in Eastern religions, notably Hinduism and Buddhism, among others, and was also used in Native American faiths before World War II. By the early twentieth century it was regarded worldwide as a symbol of good luck and auspiciousness. Swastikas appeared on the spines of books by the Anglo-Indian writer Rudyard Kipling, and the symbol was used by Robert Baden-Powell's Boy Scout movement.

The swastika appears in art and design from pre-history symbolising, in various contexts: luck, the sun, Brahma, or the Hindu concept of samsara. In antiquity, the swastika was used extensively by Hittites, Celts and Greeks, among others. It occurs in other Asian, European, African and Native American cultures – sometimes as a geometrical motif, sometimes as a religious symbol. Today, the swastika is a common symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, among others. And then there is the cross, often deemed to be an exclusively "Christian" symbol.

The use of the cross as a symbol was condemned by at least one church father of the 3rd century AD because of its Pagan origins. The first appearance of a cross in Christian art is on a Vatican sarcophagus from the mid-5th Century. It was a Greek cross with equal-length arms. Jesus' body was not shown. The first crucifixion scenes didn't appear in Christian art until the 7th century CE. The original cross symbol was in the form of a Tau Cross. It was so named because it looked like the letter "tau," or our letter "T." One author speculates that the Church may have copied the symbol from the Pagan Druids who made crosses in this form to represent the Thau (god). They joined two limbs from oak trees. The Tau cross became associated with St. Philip who was allegedly crucified on such a cross in Phrygia. May Day, a major Druidic seasonal day of celebration, became St. Philip's Day. Later in Christian history, the Tau Cross became the Roman Cross that we are familiar with today.

In Scandinavia the Tau cross symbolised the hammer of the god Thor. The Babylonian moon god was symbolically represented by a cross with a crescent moon. In Hinduism, the vertical shaft of a cross represents the higher, celestial states of being; the horizontal bar represents the lower, earthly states. In Assyria, the corners of a cross represented the four directions in which the sun shines, and in Egypt the ankh cross – a Tau cross topped by an inverted tear shape – is associated with Maat, the Egyptian goddess of Truth. It also represents the sexual union of Isis and Osiris.

One thing is true of all symbols and symbolism – you will read in it whatever you WANT to read in it. And, in the words of Shakespeare, "...for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so..." Hamlet Act 2, scene 2, 239–251

By Bro. Zak Theron P.M. Unity Lodge, 1006

ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORY

*“Those whom we love and lose are not gone
They are with us wherever we are.”
- St. John Chrysostum*

**Bro Colin Rose PM Lodge Scotia No 1323, Zimbabwe and affiliated member of Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655
Bro. Roley Warrender PM Lodge Golden Thistle No. 744, WSW of Century Lodge of Research No.1745 and a DG**

POEM

THE LITTLE LODGE OF LONG AGO

The little Lodge of long ago --
It wasn't very much for show:
Men met above the village store,
And cotton more than satin wore,
And sometimes stumbled on a word,
But no one cared, or no one heard.
The tin reflectors threw the light
Of kerosene across the night
And down the highway served to call
The faithful to Masonic Hall.
The little Lodge of long ago.

But, men who meet in finer halls,
Forgive me if the mind recalls
With love, not laughter, doors of pine
And smoky lamps that dimly shine,
Regalia tarnished, garments frayed,
Or cheaply bought or simply made,
And floors uncarpeted, and men
Whose grammar falters now and then --
For Craft, or Creed, or God Himself,
Is not a book upon a shelf:
They have a splendor that will touch,
A Lodge that isn't very much.

It wasn't very much -- and yet
This made it great: there Masons met,
And, if a handful or a host,
That always matters, matters most.
The beauty of the meeting hour
Is not a thing of robe or flow'r,
However beautiful they seem:
The greatest beauty is the gleam
Of sympathy in honest eyes.
A Lodge is not a thing of size,
It is a thing of Brotherhood,
And that alone can make it good
By Douglas Malloch

POINTS TO PONDER

It is not what we eat, but what we digest ... that makes us strong.
It is not what we earn, but what we save ... that makes us rich.
It is not what we read, but what we remember ... that makes us learned.
It is not what we profess, but what we practice ... that makes us Masons!

By Bro. Pete Rasmussen

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

The block of granite which is an obstacle in the pathway of the weak becomes a stepping-stone in the pathway of the strong.—*Thomas Carlyle*

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.—*Thomas A. Edison*

"There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life -- happiness, freedom, and peace of mind -- are always attained by giving them to someone else." ~ *Peyton March*

BLOGSPOT

<http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com>

PS Quarterly Newsletter - Special update

TRAVELLING LIGHT - Special Project 2009

PS Review of Freemasonry meets the Australian and New Zealand Masonic Research Council.
Ten Research Papers published by the ANZMRC now for the first time available online:

- A Separate Reality-Archaeology, Ritual and Today's Mason by Roel van Leeuwen
- The Degrees of the Practical Masons by Neil Wynes Morse
- An Exile from Canada to Van Diemen's Land by Wallace McLeod
- The Mason Mark by Ken Brindal
- The Masonic Approach to Self-Development by Phillip Hellier
- Lord Carnarvon in Australia by James Daniel
- Mysticism, Masculinity and Masonry by David Slater
- The Hung Society and Freemasonry the Chinese Way by Graham Stead
- Science, Freemasonry and the Third Millennium by Robert Collins Barnes
- greenMASONRY: Nature and Freemasonry by Geoffrey Ludowyk

Plus an illustrated account of the formation and activities of the ANZMRC:

MASONIC RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND by W.Bro. Tony Pope, Editor of the ANZMRC's publications.

<http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/freemasonry.html>

S&F, Bruno Gazzo, editor

PS Review of Freemasonry

<http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com>

Serving Freemasons First

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.kena.org/Hirams/> - Over 9,000 Masonic files for Freemasons.

<http://www.masonicpictures.org/> - The world's largest private collection of Masonic and Shrine related pictures.

<<http://www.lewis-masonic.us/> - Lewis Masonic is the world's oldest Masonic publishing company, founded in 1886 in London England.



AN INTRODUCTION TO ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

What has attracted so many Brethren to seek further light in Royal Arch Masonry?? The Royal Arch Degrees was considered most important in the early years of Freemasonry and so dogmatic was the Mother Grand Lodge - from which all Speculative Masonry derives - that in 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union to guide Masons throughout the world forever on this matter: "Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, viz., that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." The landmark has never been changed and to this day no other degree has been officially recognized by the Mother Grand Lodge and every rite, system or additional degree in Freemasonry cannot confer its degree on a Master Mason until he has received the Royal Arch Degree. Naturally, this is as it should be, because a man is not a Master Mason until he receives the Master's Word and he can only receive it in the Royal Arch.

The Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry consists of Three degrees, Mark Master, Excellent Master, and Royal Arch M a s o n .

THE MARK MASTER DEGREE -The Mark Master Degree is believed to have originated as a ceremony of registering a craftsman's mark in those years distinguished by operative craft masons and their temple building. It was later developed into a full-fledged degree by the Masonic fraternity as we know it today, Some scholars say it was the earliest degree and may predate all others by many years. It is highly regarded by students in all Masonry, teaching lessons that have proven of value in all walks of life. Some Grand Lodges place so high an eminence on the Mark Master Degree, that they confine it to the jurisdiction of a separate grand body, the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters.

THE EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE -The Excellent Master Degree is a product of American innovation. It was conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter as early as 1783 in Middletown, Conn. It is by far the most spectacular degree in all Freemasonry. It is the only degree that brings forcibly to our attention the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The very idea upon which all Masonic symbolism has been based.

THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE -The Royal Arch Degree is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry and Masonic Symbolism. It is described as "the root and marrow of Freemasonry." It is the complete story of Jewish History during some of its darkest hours. Jerusalem and the Holy temple are destroyed, The people are being held captive as slaves in Babylon. Here you will join with some slaves as they are set free to return home and engage in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the city and the Temple of God. It is during this rebuilding that they make a discovery that brings to light the greatest treasure of a Mason - the long lost Master's Word. Many historians have traced the earliest origins of the Royal Arch Degree to Ireland, late in the 17th century and in England in 1738, In 1752, ambulatory or military warrants for Lodges were introduced. This was instrumental in placing the Royal Arch Degree on a par with the Master Mason Degree. Military lodges were greatly responsible for planting Freemasonry in the Colonies and also gave birth to the use of the Marl and Royal Arch degrees in the "New World." Lodge records show that the Royal Arch Degree was conferred at Fredericksburg No. 4 on December 12, 1753. George Washington was raised in this lodge a few months p r i o r t o t h i s d a t e .

The value of Royal Arch Masonry will be appreciated by all who are exalted to that most sublime degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education. It reveals the full light of Ancient Craft Masonry, presents it as a complete system in accordance with the original plan and justly entitles you to claim the noble name of Master Mason.

Copyright District Grand Royal Arch Chapter Central South Africa SC

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MASONS AT WORK

SCIMITAR SHRINERS MINI CLINIC

www.scimitarshrine.com <<http://www.scimitarshrine.com/>>
www.shriners.com <<http://www.shriners.com/>>

Scimitar Shriners will be hosting a FREE Hospital Mini Clinic for anyone under 18 years of age to determine if children are eligible for treatment at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Shriners Hospitals USA for Children is a one-of-a-kind health care system dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Every year, the 22 hospitals provide care for thousands of kids with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, in a family-centered environment at no charge. It's how Shriners Hospitals has been helping kids defy the odds since 1922.

Nineteen Shriners Hospitals provide care for congenital and acquired orthopedic conditions, four hospitals provide acute and rehabilitative care for burn injuries, three hospitals provide rehabilitative care for children with spinal cord injuries, and the cleft lip and palate program is expanding to multiple Shriners Hospitals. Some Shriners Hospitals offer care in more than one care specialty.

Shriners Hospitals for Children has been a leader in pediatric orthopedic care since 1922. The hospitals specializing in orthopedics are dedicated to providing medical and rehabilitative services to children with congenital deformities, problems resulting from orthopedic injuries and diseases of the musculoskeletal system.

The Shriners Hospitals specializing in burns have been leaders in burn care and research since opening in the mid-1960s. Treatment is provided for burn injuries and related scarring, along with physical and emotional rehabilitation. In the early 1980s, Shriners Hospitals for Children opened the nation's first spinal cord injury rehabilitation centers specifically designed for kids. There, patients find a complete range of services needed in order to recover to the fullest extent possible.

Cleft lip and palate was added to the health care system's treatment disciplines in 2005. Services available at Shriners Hospitals fill the need for coordinated, comprehensive multidisciplinary care for children with this condition.

Recognizing that the family plays a vital role in a child's ability to overcome an illness or injury, Shriners Hospitals for Children helps the family provide the support the child needs by involving the family in all aspects of the child's care and recovery.

The purpose of all Shriners Hospitals is to provide care to children with orthopedic problems and burn injuries to help them lead fuller, more productive lives. By promoting the importance of the family and helping it become a stronger support system for the child, Shriners Hospitals can accomplish its purpose more effectively.

By Michael S. Rushin, Jr. Potentate, Scimitar Shriners

BOOK REVIEW

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE MIDDLE EAST : THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE ORIGINS OF FREEMASONRY -HRH Prince Michael of Albany and Walid Amine Salhab. – San Francisco: Weiser, 2006.

Found: hardcover, House of Isis, R400.00

This was one of those books that flattered to deceive. Firstly, it is one of the worst editing jobs I have ever had inflicted on me. There were long passages with typos and poor grammar in every paragraph – very off-putting after a while.

Secondly, I have issues with price. The American retail price was \$24.95, meaning a realistic SA retail price of around R250-R300; not R400. I repeat my call to brethren to use Praesidium Books – who promise a markup of only 30% on cost price to bookseller.

The book itself seemed highly promising, and having previously found HRH Prince Michael's work very readable, I had to blow the budget to find out about Freemasonry's Islamic origins. There wasn't much substance there. Prince Michael, as an official of the Celtic Church, has an axe to grind against historic Catholicism (yawn, yawn), and his co-author has an agenda: that of showing that Islam has had a raw deal from Christendom.

Here and there are tantalizing factoids: Prince Michael's forte is genealogy, and he provides one for Hugues de Payens – directly to Mohammed. He refers to freedom of religion in Templar-ruled Jerusalem, and the fact that on some Templar seals, the background consists of the Dome of the Rock. What a pity he didn't elaborate further.

The subtitle is misleading, too. I really wanted to know more about the Islamic thread within Freemasonry, but the authors didn't even elaborate sufficiently on the Templar-Masonic link. And then they left off with a tirade against UGLE and the destruction of Scottish pre-1717 ritual by Alexander Deuchar. Again, there are tantalizing hints, but nothing of substance to hold on to.

I don't regret buying the book, but it was a let-down. Tim Wallace-Murphy gave it a rave review, so if you're

tempted, don't go to House of Isis; order through another reputable book supplier.

By Bro. Dai McClymont PM, Lodge Alberton No. 1651

UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS

Law 82

Property, Finance and Accounts

The whole property of the Lodge, heritable and moveable of whatever description except cash in Bank shall be vested in Trustees in trust for and subject to the direction and control of the Lodge. The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund shall be defined in Law 193. The Trustees of all other property of the Lodge shall be the following Office-bearers *ex officio*, namely, the Master, Wardens and Secretary, and their successors from time to time in these offices: but it shall be competent for the Lodge to resolve that investments other than heritable property may be placed in the name of a Bank approved by Grand Committee or such Bank's nominees in trust for and subject to the control of the Lodge.

The funds of a Lodge are the direct responsibility of the Lodge but the Bye-laws may provide for supervision by a Committee appointed in terms of Law 94 or Law 149.

The Trustees shall ensure all heritable and moveable property of the Lodge against all appropriate risks [including fire] and for adequate sums which shall be reviewed annually.



DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

RACE DAY

The District Grand Lodge of Central South Africa are hosting a fund raising Race Day at Turffontein Race Course, Johannesburg, on **Saturday the 11th July 2009**. The event will consist of 9 races, 8 of which are sponsored.

A ticket entitles you to a magnificent Buffet Dinner set in the elegant surroundings of the Aquanaut Room.

There will be various **Table Prizes** throughout the day and a special prize for the **best dressed** couple.

Tables consisting of 10 (ten) persons are priced at R3000-00, which includes two free bottles of delicious Temple Roslin Red wine.

Sponsor Tables at R8000-00, including a Luxury Hamper plus two bottles of wine

Dress: Smart

To book tables, contact:

Tommy Hair 083 232 3599
Gary Talbot 083 653 2654
District Office 011 683 8314

MASONIC DIARY

MAY 2009			
1	Scotia	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
4	Towerby	2nd Degree	Rewlatch
5	Jakaranda		The Willows
6	Turffontein	Open Evening	Rewlatch
6	Ophirton	1st Degree	Boksburg North
6	Cosmos		Witbank
6	Eenheid	Installation	Boksburg South
7	Caledonian		Germiston
7	Balmoral	Discussion	Olifantsfontein
7	Randfontein	1st Degree	Randfontein
7	Athol	Installation	Boksburg
8	Northern Province	1st Degree	Orange Grove
11	Sound Memory	1st Degree	Orange Grove
11	Alberton	Installation	Germiston
11	Discoverers	3rd Degree	Roodepoort
12	Heredom	2nd Degree	Boksburg North
12	King Solomon	Lecture	Germiston
12	Unison	2nd Degree	Carletonville
13	Piet Retief	3rd Degree	Vereeniging
13	Douglas		Germiston
13	Alpha Crucis	3 Tracing Boards	Rewlatch
13	North West Bedford		Orange Grove
14	Kempton		Kempton Park
14	Peglerae		Rustenburg
14	Roodepoort Caledon	Lecture	Roodepoort
14	Brakpan		Brakpan
14	Golden Thistle	In Memorium	Park Lane
15	Tvl Volunteer	1st Degree	Park Lane
16	Sabie	Installation	Nelspruit
16	Laeveld		Nelspruit
18	Florida	Open Evening	Roodepoort
18	Zion	Lecture	Orange Grove
18	Liberty	Installation	The Willows
19	St Andrew	Lecture	Kensington
19	Cairngorm Republic		Orange Grove
20	Caxton	Installation	Orange Grove
21	Unity		The Willows
21	Western Star	2nd Degree	Roodepoort
21	Far East Caledon		Springs
21	Pythagoras		Park Lane
21	Virginia		Riebeeckstad
22	Robbie Burns Mem		Germiston
25	Pretoria Celtic		The Willows
25	Braemar		Rewlatch
26	Orpheus		The Willows
27	Somah Herber	2nd Degree	Park Lane
27	Argyll	Lecture	Roodepoort
28	Brixton	2nd Degree	Norwood
28	Glen Douglas		Rewlatch
28	East Rand Scots		Boksburg North