



# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

## Taipei Bodies News

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Newsletter #4, March 2013

### A word from the Venerable Master



Fraternal greetings to all!

How exciting! The spring conferral and annual reunion is within one month. I recall the fond memories of our last spring conferral held at Kuala Lumpur: the zealous and selfless devotions of many brethren, the professional delivery of the ritual teams, the sumptuous arrangement of the tea breaks....and most of all, the precious fellowship we have shared together. You just have to be there to feel it!

What makes it even more special in Bangkok this year is that we are joined by 8 candidates from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tahiti, including the Most Worshipful Grand Master and many of his principal officers! Come join us for the inspirational rituals and fun fellowship. Hope to see many of you in Bangkok April 27-30!

In our last communication, I have explained the financial hardship of our fraternity and encouraged brethren to contribute. Several brethren have quickly responded to this call. I'd like to acknowledge them for their generous donations. Your generosity and fraternal love are highly appreciated.

Once again, please make your best effort to join our annual reunion in Bangkok. Even if you can't, you may browse the articles in this issue to know more about our craft. My best regards to all.

Fraternally yours,  
Dennis Liao, 32° KCCH  
Venerable Master

### 2013 Spring Conferral

The 2013 Spring Conferral will be held in Bangkok from April 27th to 30th at the British Club. The program: 27, welcome drinks, 28 and 29 ritual work, 29 evening closing banquet.  
The suggested hotel is Narai Hotel, just next to the British Club.

We have so far registered 17 candidates: 2 from Singapore, 8 from Tahiti, 2 from Shanghai, 1 from Macau, 1 from Malaysia, 3 from India, and many others to come.

Should you know new candidates, contact us as soon as possible if you need for application forms.

### **Change in mail address**

We remind you our new Mail Box:

Taipei Bodies  
P.O. Box 34-154  
Taipei City 10499  
Taiwan

### **The balustrade**

The Constitution of the Supreme Council precises that at least 4 degrees shall be delivered in long form: the 14th, Perfect Elu, the 18th, Knight of Rose-Croix, the 30th, Knight Kadosh and the 32nd, Sublime Prince of the Royal secret. The 4th degree, Secret Master, is only suggested.

The 4th degree however in my humble opinion is of major importance.

First, it represents passing from the square to the compass, from the square to the circle, that is to say from terrestrial to esoteric significances.

Second, it introduces the Kabalah, and the Sephiroth, which are very important tool for reflection.

I think that one of the most important symbol of this degree is the Key of the Mysteries, which is supposed to open the gate in the balustrade in the East, this gate which gives you access to the Holy of the Holies, the Arch of the Covenant, the Tables of the Law.



The Venerable Master tell you: "I invest you with this key of ivory, the jewel of this Degree. The key unlocks the entrance of the shrine

in the East, but as yet you stand merely at its threshold and are not prepared to pass through."

The balustrade represents all the obstacles you have to overcome before reaching your final goal, in the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree, when the Venerable Master tells you: "My Brother, you will recall that in the Fourth Degree, the Candidate was presented with this key and was told that it would, at some future time, admit him through this balustrade, or gate, which barred his way. That time has now come."

You are then admitted to pass through the balustrade and you are welcomed by a representation of the Great Architect of the Universe.

It is important to note at he is the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, the same who gave you the key in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, who attests the progress you have made during all your journey.

Note. The word "balustrade" comes from the latin *balaustium*, the pomegranate flower. That reminds me something.

### **2013 Dues.**

The 2013 dues have not been totally recovered yet. We hope that the Spring Conferral will allow to collect from overseas brethren.

Note however that the online payment remains a very convenient (<https://secure.scottishrite.org/OnlineDuesPayment/DuesPayment1.asp>)

### **Contribute to our letter**

Contribute to the life of our Valley, send your contribution to taipei.bodies@gmail.com

**Dear Brother,  
We are more and more working through email. We would appreciate you acknowledge this Letter by sending us your email address for future communications**

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