



# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

## Taipei Bodies News

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*Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets*

Newsletter #5, May 2013

### A word from the Venerable Master



Dear brethren,

Congratulations to all! Once again we have completed a successful spring conferral and reunion. This time with 49 candidates, the largest size of class ever! I am most grateful to the event organizer and all who are involved, for making the best arrangement out of all constraints. Thank you all for making it happen.

I sincerely congratulate and welcome the new brethren of the 2013 Class of Theola. The impressive rituals and the wonderful fellowship mark a good start of your Scottish Rite membership. We will continue to give educational lectures at our monthly stated meetings and through our newsletters. Please join us with enthusiasm on our search for further light in Masonry.



A conferral is always the best occasion to renew our memory on the valuable teachings of various degrees. Here below I am pleased to share with all of you a beautiful poem: "If Your Scottish Rite Ring Could Speak". May it light up your day and may you wear your ring with pride.

See you all soon again!

Fraternally yours,  
Dennis Liao, 32°KCH  
Venerable Master

## If Your Scottish Rite Ring Could Speak

SUPPOSE BY SOME MAGIC YOUR SCOTTISH RITE RING COULD SPEAK. WHAT WOULD IT SAY?

"I SYMBOLIZE the Scottish Rite and, as such, like Aladdin's lamp, I am possessed of miraculous powers, for...

"I BRING YOU the grandeur and the splendor of a Scottish Rite Ritual: That portrayal from antiquity through the golden pen in poetry and the sacred fire in drama that inculcates lofty patriotic sentiments, high moral values, and noble spiritual aspirations...

"I BRING YOU the magnetism of a Scottish Rite Mission: That never-ending fight for human rights and resources – freedom of the body, freedom of the mind, freedom of the soul...

"I BRING YOU the beauty of a Scottish Rite Vision: That revelation of truth and of greatness dimly seen in the mystic light that follows purification, initiation, and moral perfection...

"I BRING YOU the insight of a Scottish Rite Philosophy: That progress in human development which transforms natural ignorance into sublime wisdom, self-discovery, self-awareness, and self-enrichment...

"I BRING YOU the confidence of Scottish Rite Courage: That self-reliance in daily living born of an abiding faith in the guidance of Him Who holds the whole wide world in His hands...

"THESE ARE some of the things I bring to you, a true Freemason of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry."

*From FORMS AND TRADITIONS OF THE SCOTTISH RITE published by the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., U.S.A.*

## The Origins of the Scottish Rite

*From time to time, it is useful to remember where we are coming from. Here after a summarized version of the history of the Scottish Rite. Should you wish more detail, we recommend the Scottish Rite Ritual, Monitor and Guide, edited by the Supreme Council.*

No long after the "official" birth of the Freemasonry, in the early 1700, the need came to go further than the 3 degrees conferred in the Blue Lodges.

The origin of the so called “high grades” can be traced in England from the early 18th century. From the beginning they were referring to Scottish. In 1733, reference was made to a “Scotch Masons’ Lodge”, although not related to Scotland. There was however a high density of Scottish nobles in France at that period.

The “high grades” flourished further in France, particularly in Bordeaux and Paris, still with reference to Scottish freemasonry, and a Council of the Emperors of the East and West, Sovereign Ecossais Mother Lodge was created by the French Grand Lodge to cover these high grades.

In 1761, the Council issued a patent to Stephen Morin “authorizing and empowering him to establish perfect and sublime Masonry in all parts of the world.”

Around 1763, Morin created a Rite of 25 degrees the “Order of the Royal Secret”, and exported it to Jamaica, and then to New Orleans in 1764 (remember that Louisiana was French up to that date).

Morin empowered then a Dutch Mason Henry Andrew Francken to establish Masonic Bodies in the New World. He and his successors in turn delegated authority to several Deputy Inspectors General, probably too many for a good organization.

Then on May 31, 1801, one of them, John Mitchell, living in Charleston, with a motto of “Ordo ab Chao” (Order from Chaos) announced the birth of first Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree. He announced a new 33-degree system of high degrees that incorporated all 25 of the Order of the Royal Secret, and added eight more, including that of 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General. This new organization declared control of high-degree Masonry in America.

Through all these events, the Supreme Council derived its authority from the Grand Constitutions of 1786, promulgated in Europe under the auspices of Frederick II the Great, King of Prussia, a great Mason, whose influence can be felt in various degrees (the motto “Deus Meumque Jus”, of the 33rd degree, although borrowed from England, comes from him).

The Supreme Council see was established and is still mentioned in Charleston, the hometown of Mitchell, but moved to Washington around 1870.

In 1804, a French member of the Supreme Council, organized a Supreme Council for France, and the wording Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was used for the first time.

In 1815, a Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction of the USA was created.

Several Supreme Councils were created in the world, justifying that Southern Jurisdiction of the AASR is qualified the "Mother Council of the World".

We cannot conclude this short summary without mentioning Ill. Albert G. Mackey and Ill. Albert Pike, who strongly involved in shaping the Scottish Rite, but this another story.

## **Celebrating the Craft**

On May 19, Taipei Bodies participated in the celebration organized by Supreme Council on its website. Our Venerable Master placed a call for congratulation and offered a donation of 2,000 US\$, which was made possible by the generosity of some brothers.

## **Dues.**

We are sorry to insist that the 2013 dues have not been totally recovered yet, while the Supreme Council is now preparing the 2014 Dues Cards!!

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](mailto:taipei.bodies@gmail.com)

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