



# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

## Taipei Bodies News

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

Newsletter #12, October 2014

### A word from the Venerable Master



Dear brethren,

Fraternal greetings to all!

The Fall Reunion held on September 26-27 closed with a great success. I want to thank all brethren who have put in their hearts and souls in this grand task, especially brethren from Sabah and brethren of Fæderis Arca lodge who have helped to deliver the impressive degree works. The closing banquet with 7 tables puts a beautiful finish to the great fellowship we have exchanged during the two-day program. We are all delighted to see that the fall reunions held in Taipei have grown in scale over the years. We look forward to more participation at our next reunion. Please browse the recap of the Fall Reunion in this issue for more details.

I also want to sincerely congratulate and welcome the new brethren of the Class of the Horses 2014. Conferral of the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree is by no means an end but a beginning of everything! I have included an overview of Taipei Bodies and information on the Master Craftsman Program in this issue as a beginning of your quest for more Masonic mysteries. At the same time, we will continue the education through lectures at our monthly stated meetings and newsletters. Please join us with enthusiasm on our search for further light in Masonry.

Be proud of being a member of the Taipei Bodies!

Fraternally yours,  
Dennis Liao, 32° KCCH  
Venerable Master

### 2014 Fall Reunion and Conferral

Friday, September 26- Saturday, 27, 2014

After weeks of preparation and rehearsal, the big day came finally. Brethren gradually gathered for check-in after lunch. In total we reached

50 people with brethren flying in from Malaysia, Thailand, Shanghai, Hong Kong and even Europe.

At 2pm, KCCH Coronation Ceremony was conducted to honor Brother George Wong. The ceremony went well with playing of solemn music. By 3:30pm, after seating all the Illustrious brethren in the East, Venerable Master Sir Knight Dennis Liao opened the Lodge of Perfection, received the 14 members of the Class of the Horses 2014, and welcomed all for attending this important reunion. The conferral ritual began at 4pm and ended at around 10:30pm. We finished the 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> degrees in long form and other degrees in short form up to the 29<sup>th</sup> degree for the first day. All were done according to the ritual, with beautiful music arranged by Illustrious C.T. Sun.

The zealous working team gathered again early at 8am the next morning for set up of the 30<sup>th</sup> degree long form ritual. At 8:30am all were in order to perform the impressive ritual. By 1:15 pm all degrees were completed, and all gathered happily for group photos.



All were exhausted yet excited about the successful conferral of the rituals. For the newly raised brethren, it was some incredible experience, and the beginning of a wonderful journey to more Masonic mysteries. The working team held a debriefing right afterwards to discuss what can be improved to do an even better job next time. Within the half an hour meeting, many valuable points were raised regarding better management of costumes, editing of stage notes for better ritual performance, better scheduling of the conferral program, etc. All these were noted for improvement next year.



The closing banquet opened at 6:30pm with cocktail reception. At 7:15pm, Brother Robert Parker led all for the opening prayer, followed by toasts to the President of Taiwan (by Ill. David Shen), to the Sovereign Grand Commander (by Ill. Siew-Moon Chiu), to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Grand Lodge of China (by Sir Knight George Wong), and to the Craft (by Sir Knight Claude Soucaille). Venerable Master welcomed all brethren and their spouses, and introduced all the Illustrious brethren and Sir Knights. Brethren enjoyed good fellowship with sumptuous buffet and free-flowing wine.

At 8:30pm, the President of the Class of the Horses 2014 made a speech to thank the ritual team for the impressive conferral. The class member went on to introduce themselves one by one. It is amazing that the nationalities of the class members range from Taiwan, Malaysia, France, the Philippines, and the USA. There is a magic affinity which binds us all and makes us gather again year after year. The class secretary announced the Almoner's collection within these two days and dedicated the total NT\$ 20,000 (US\$ 670) to Rite Care Foundation.

Venerable Master then presented the Scottish Rite lapel pin to each class member, followed by his closing note of appreciation and a toast to our ladies who supported all the brethren out of faith without knowing details of the Craft. Sir Knight William Lai raised the Tyler's Toast to wish all distressed brethren a safe recovery. Brother Ray Thomas led all for the closing prayer. Everyone has enjoyed the two-day ritual and the good fellowship of the banquet, and all are looking forward to our next reunion.



After a short recess, the Craft will resume work again, for the quest of more Masonic mysteries and for preparation of the 2015 Spring Reunion!

## **Overview of Taipei Bodies**

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA

Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA

Valley of Taipei, Orient of Taiwan

Under the authority of Ill. Norman Pin, 33<sup>rd</sup>, Deputy Grand Commander, the four Bodies are represented:

- the Lodge of Perfection (4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> degrees): by the Venerable Master Sir Knight Dennis Liao, meets monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays,

- the Chapter of Rose-Croix (15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> degrees): by the Wise Master Sir Knight Zeus Chen, meets bimonthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of January, March, May and November,

- the Council of Kadosh (19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> degrees): by the Commander WBro Pi-Song Tsai, 32°, meets bimonthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of February, April, June, October and December,

- the Consistory (31<sup>st</sup> to 32<sup>nd</sup> degrees): by the Master of Kadosh Sir Knight T.Y. (Captain) Chang, meets quarterly on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of March, June, and December.

We meet at the China Masonic Temple every month at 18:30 hours on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, except in July, August and September, and all visiting brethren are welcome.

Our Valley has presently 648 active members located mainly in India, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and USA.

The degrees are conferred every year during two Reunions, in Spring, generally last weekend of April (in Thailand or Malaysia), and in Fall, generally last weekend of September (in Taipei).

The Master Craftsman Program: A study group on details of Scottish Rite degrees. Participants will receive material and quiz for study, and will get a pin and certificate when completing the whole program. More information on <http://scottishrite.org/about/masonic-education/srmc/>.

## **The Elus, ninth, ten and eleventh degrees**

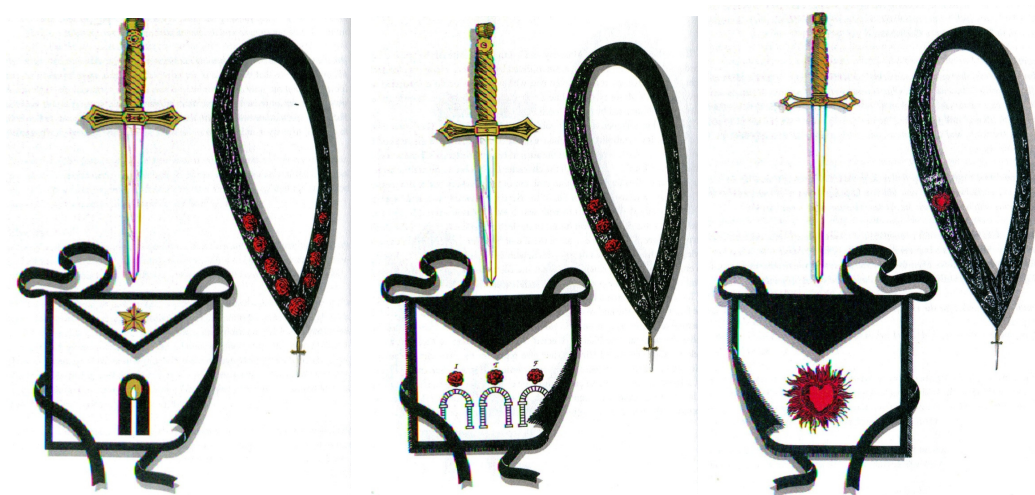
The mottos of these three degrees are very political:

*Free thought, Free Speech, Free Conscience,  
Liberty, Equality, Fraternity,*

although such societal references are more present in Moral and Dogma than in the degrees rituals.

These degrees break the chronology of the Lodge of Perfection and bring us back to the 3rd degree and described the search, capture, trial and punishment of the three ruffians who assassinated the Grand Master Hiram Abbif .

"Elus" is a French Word, meaning elected, chosen. The nine Elus have been chosen by King Solomon to search the three ruffians (*note that in the third degree, York Rite, 12 fellowcrafts were chosen for this search*). They have discovered and killed the murderer Jubellum in the 9th degree, and six more have been appointed in the 10th degree to catch the two others who escaped to the kingdom of Gath.



The common symbol of these three degrees is the dagger, the two-edged sword of truth (maybe by reference to St John, Book of Revelation 1.16), the legitimate weapon of the Elus to fight ignorance, ambition, and fanaticism.

The Eleventh Degree on the same trial issue of the ruffians raises the issue of the way to render justice (*... no judge in Israel should assume to sit alone in judgement upon his fellow man,...*), and if the denomination of Elus of the Twelve is linked to the 12 tribes of Israel, it also reflects the 12 jurors in modern times.

## Dues

The 2015 Dues Stickers have now been available for long, but there are still many undelivered. These Dues have to be paid before December 31st, 2015. We also remind you that these stickers are intended to be

affixed to the plastic Dues Cards for the Dues 2014. If you don't have paid 2014 yet, you have to do it to receive this card.

Payment can be made

- in cash
- online in US\$ on <http://scottishrite.org/> (the best way),
- by check in US\$ worded to Taipei Bodies A&ASRSJ,
- by TT in convertible currency to the Secretary account (the most expensive for every party):

Mega International Commercial Bank  
Account holder: Claude Robert Soucaille  
Account number: 021-10-42184-9  
Swift code: ICBCTWTP0201

We remind you that 2 years Unpaid Dues may involve Suspension.

### **Contribute to our letter**

Contribute to the life of our Valley, send your contribution to  
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