



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #21 August 2016

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear Brethren,

Happy summer!

We mourn for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks and tragic confrontations/killings around the world. It is sad that despite the same good nature of human, some go to extreme to make their points with violence and result in tragedies. In our Craft, we are reminded of the characters of a good man, the fair dealings with our fellowmen, and the makings of a good government. Had the whole world heeded the same lessons, there would have been less disputes and more harmony. In Masonry we don't discuss personal preference of politics and religions, but please bear the precepts we are taught and spread out the goods to overcome the hatred and evil!

Then it comes to our next big event to instill more good men with our good precepts: the Fall Reunion is only less than two months away! The dates are Friday, 23 and Saturday, 24 September, 2016 in Taipei. It is our fun event to catch up with old acquaintance and greet newcomers into our Craft. Invite your blue lodge brethren to join the Scottish Rite Masonry, volunteer to help with our rituals, or simply attend to show your support!

Looking forward to greeting many of you again in Taipei!

Best regards to you and your love ones.

Fraternally yours,
Dennis Liao, 33°
Venerable Master

2016 Fall Reunion in Taipei

The Fall Reunion will take place in Taipei on two full days, Friday September 23rd and Saturday September 24th at the China Masonic Temple, No 10, Lane 201, Chang An East Road Section 2.

We shall have ritual teams from India, Malaysia, Thailand, and Taiwan, many thanks for volunteers and their organizers.



A Fellowship Party will take place on Friday 23rd evening and the closing banquet will be on the Saturday 24th evening.

A Ladies Program will be arranged on the Friday 23rd, and a tour to Hualin and Taroko gorge is organized on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th, with an overnight stay in Hualien. The cost of this tour is 200 US\$ per person all included.

Our hotel partner for this event is the Sunworld Dynasty, which offers a rate of 3,100 NT\$ per night, breakfast included.

www.sunworlddynasty.com.tw
No. 100 Dun Hua North Road, Taipei 10547, Taiwan
E-mail: bc@sunworlddynasty.com.tw

Registration form for the event and hotel reservation form have been sent to you already. **Please note that the deadline for hotel reservation is August 22nd.**

If you have new candidates to propose, please contact us for application.

Master Craftsman Program

Allow us to re-insist on this Program of the Supreme Council.

The Master Craftsman Program is an exciting new by-mail correspondence course based upon quizzes and essays, designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC under the guidance

and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33 of the A. and A. Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction.

The Program includes 3 steps:

- Scottish Rite History and Ritual, based upon the degrees performed and explained in A Bridge to Light,
- Symbolic Lodge, Based upon Esoterika, a work of Albert Pike
- Scottish Rite philosophy, based upon the major work of Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma.

The Program can be subscribed individually on the website of Supreme Council.

It is suggested to work in group for 2 main reasons: it is more fun, and it is cheaper as one book is enough by group (for Taiwan, shipment of the book almost doubles the cost of the program).

For more information, go to Supreme Council website, Store,

HERMES

Who is Hermes, a favorite of Albert Pike?

The God Hermes, or Toth for the Egyptians, or Mercury for the Romans is the reference for the philosophy of alchemy and freemasonry.

In the old Cooke Manuscript (circa 1400) it is said the all ante-diluvian wisdom has been written on two pillars, which after the Great Flood were discovered, one by Pythagoras, the geometrician, the other by Hermes the philosopher.

*And after this flood many
years, as the chronicle telleth,
these 2 pillars were found,
and as the Pilicronicon saith, that
a great clerk that [was] called Pythagoras
found that one, and Hermes, the
philosopher, found that other, and
they taught forth the sciences that
they found therein written*

If Geometry is the operative basis of the Freemasonry, the philosophical teachings are deeply indebted to Hermes, "the father of wisdom".

Hermes the God is often confused or combined with Hermes Trismegistus, Hermes Thrice Great, who was an Egyptian philosopher author of forty two books, unfortunately all destroyed in the fire of Alexandria library.



This Hermes Trismegistus, although the reality of his existence is questionable, was claimed by the alchemists as the founder of their art, which is called the Hermetic Science, and which is referred in [Freemasonry](#), as Hermetic Rites and Hermetic Degrees.

The major works left by Hermes Trismegistus are the *Table of Emerald* and *The Divine Pymander*. *Poemander*, the second book of the *Divine Pymander*, offers a vision of how the divine wisdom has been revealed to Hermes and further spread to humanity, which concludes:

*Holy is God, the Father of all things.
Holy is God, whose will is performed and accomplished by his own powers.
Holy is God, that determineth to be known, and is known by his own, or those that are his.
Holy art thou, that by thy Word has established all things.
Holy art thou, of whom all Nature is the Image.
Holy art thou, whom Nature hath not formed.
Holy art thou, that art stronger than all power.
Holy art thou, that art stronger than all excellency.
Holy art thou, that art better than all praise.
Accept these reasonable sacrifices from a pure soul, and a heart that stretched out unto thee.
O unspeakable, unutterable, to be praised with silence!*

There are 46 references to Hermes in the Morals and Dogma, and he appears in 21st, 24th, 25th, 28th, 31st and 32nd degrees.

References: The Secret Teachings of all ages, Manly P. Hall
Sacred texts Archives: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/index.htm>

Asia Pacific Masonic Confederation Conference

The Grand Lodge of China is organizing a Masonic Conference with several Grand Lodges of the Asia Pacific rim. This Conference comes in line with previous editions, gathering several Grand Lodges of the Asia Pacific Rim. The first one took place in Sidney in 2008, followed by Tahiti in 2010, where The Grand Lodge of China committed to organize the next.

This Conference will take place in Taipei on the Friday October 21st, and will be followed on the 22nd by the GLOC Annual Communication.

It will be a great opportunity to understand the challenges of each other and contribute to assisting in the progress of Freemasonry in the area. It will address in particular following topics:

- How to Attract & Retain Membership
- Social Media and Fraternity
- Quality vs. Quantity

All brethren are welcome to attend these two events. Contact us to receive registration form (taipei.bodies@gmail.com)

Administration

The Dues Cards for 2017 have been issued by the Supreme Council. It is a return to the annual Dues Cards, instead of the present annual sticker.

The Dues Notices for the payment of 2017 Dues will be sent shortly, for payment before the end of the year.

These Dues Notices also include the past unpaid dues, as the case may be (and there are many cases).

Exceptionally, the Supreme Council decided to waive the Dues for years before 2016, subject that payment of 2016 and 2017 Dues is done before the end of 2016. If not, all the arrears will subsist.

We encourage brethren to use the Online Payment procedure. This procedure is very convenient and inexpensive.

New arrivals, kiss and goodbye

Please share the joyful moments of newborn babies, weddings, as well as sad moments of departing family members. Send words or pictures to taipei.bodies@gmail.com

Contribute to our letter

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

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