



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #27, August 2017

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear Brethren,

Brethren,

Although the weather is still hot, it is fall now in the Chinese calendar. As we all know one big event of Scottish Rite will be held in the Fall, that is our Fall Reunion during 21st ~ 23rd September in Taipei.

There will be ritual in long form for 6 degrees and very international as the team had been assigned as followings:

4th degree: Sabah, (Perfection)

14th: KL, (Perfection)

18th: KL, (Rose Croix)

26th: India, Sri Lanka, (Kadosh)

30th: Sabah, (Kadosh)

32nd: Thailand. (Consistory)

The 26th is a new long form which our Body has not performed before.

We all are looking forward to enjoy this new form.

Wish all of you will attend this reunion the coming month. There is a welcome party in 21st September evening. Lodge will be open in the morning of 22nd. As usual, we will have half day on Saturday, then the banquet in Saturday evening. Hope you will enjoy it.

Fraternally yours,

Dupree Chia, 32° KCCH

Venerable Master

Fall Reunion

The Fall Reunion is coming soon. It will take place in the China Masonic Temple in Taipei from Friday September 22nd and Saturday September 23rd.

A welcome party will be organized on the Thursday 21st evening, from 18:00 h at the China Masonic Temple. The closing banquet will be on the evening of Saturday 22nd, from 18:30 h, at the Sunworld Dynasty Hotel.

This Program is almost a replica of the 2016 edition with the performance in long form of the 4th, 14th, 18th, 26th, 30th and 32nd. The 26th degree will replace the 27th at the initiative of our Indian brethren.

It will start on the 22nd at 8:00 h by the ceremonies of investiture and coronation of the new promotion of KCCH and IGH.

The Registration fees of last year are maintained: 2,000 NTD (70 USD), including refreshments and banquet. Additional guest for banquet will be charged 1,500 NTD (50 USD). If not done already, we would appreciate you return your registration form for the Reunion for a better organization of the logistics.

The suggested hotel is the Sunworld Dynasty Hotel where the banquet will be held. The proposed room rate is 3,100 NTD, but it remains possible to obtain more attractive rates through Booking.com or else.

2017 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of Southern Jurisdiction, USA, by our Master of Kadosh, Illustrious Dennis Liao



As the reigning Grand Master of Grand Lodge of China, I was honored to be invited to attend the 2017 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of Southern Jurisdiction, USA held in Washington D.C. during August 19th – 22nd.

Guided tours to the House of the Temple are available throughout the session days. Designed by the famous architect John

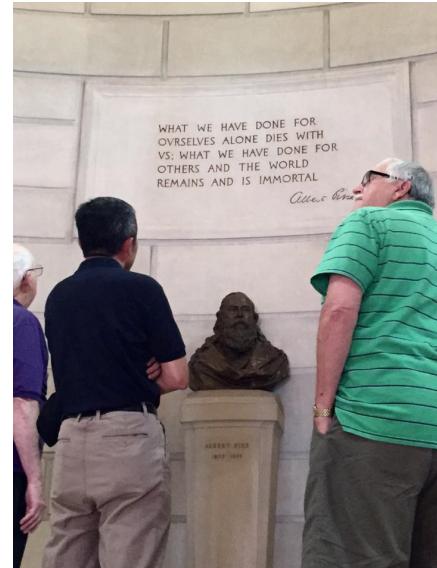
Russell Pope who also designed the National Archives, Jefferson Memorial, and National Gallery of Art, the House of Temple is truly a magnificent architectural work to adorn. At the entrance, the bust of Ill. Albert Pike sits at the end of the wall with his famous quote: "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." The exhibits in the Albert Pike room tell more about this great Masonic leader. Browsing in the various corner of this sacred edifice, one should be very proud to be a member of the Mother Council of the World!



On Sunday, August 20, the welcome reception at 1pm offered all delegates an opportunity to know each other. At 3:30 everyone was guided to the nearby St. John's Episcopal Church (which the President of the US attends) for Vesper Service. Grand Chaplain Ill. Ken Lyons delivered an insightful sermon "Little Things Mean a Lot" which left everyone something to ponder. In the evening, all grand masters and their ladies were invited to attend the Sovereign Grand Commander's Dinner. I presented a Liu-Li glass artwork to the Commander as the greeting and appreciation from Grand Lodge of China.

On Monday, August 21, the opening and business session was attended by over 1000 members and guests. After the impressive opening ritual, each grand master was announced name and greeted by the Sovereign Grand Commander one by one. The Commander gave his welcome remarks, various officers then made reports on their respective duties. It is comforting to know that the Supreme Council is doing quite well. A partial sun eclipse occurred during the day, and all participants were provided special glasses to observe the eclipse. This is probably the best entertainment one can get when attending a conference. After lunch, a "Freemasonry Q & A session with Arturo de Hoyos" was scheduled at 3-4:30pm for those who sought further light in Masonry. Main queries of the session were on different rituals of various Masonic rites. It is good to know what we didn't know... and still don't know. At 8pm, "The Bright Lights of the Scottish Rite Variety Show" performed by talented brethren opened to entertain the guests. We've got talents in our brotherhood!

On Tuesday, August 22, at 10am, a proficient ritual team delivered a flawless ceremony to confer white caps to some 100 33° Elects. This makes me think that we have a big room for improvement for our ritual works. Ill. Norman and I managed to visit George Washington Masonic Memorial and the famous National Cathedral (6th largest cathedral in the world) before the



Gala Banquet at 7:30 pm. D.C. is so full of historical monuments and museums and one can never get to see them all. There is always a reason to come back.

The entertainment of the Gala featured "Letters from Home", a female duet which tours around military. They performed wonderful songs and dances with fervent passion. During one of their songs, they called various services of military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, etc.) one by one to stand up and be applauded by the audience. It was a very touching moment to see those who devoted to the services being respected and appreciated. The banquet and the Biennial Session were closed with beautiful songs. Everyone bid farewell and packed home with fond memories. Make your plan to attend the next Biennial Session of the Supreme Council.... and get the ultimate experience - 33°!

Hermes Trismegiste

At the beginning of Christian era, Hermes Trismegiste has been considered as prominent philosopher whose writings were supposed to date from remote Egyptian antiquity, supposedly before Moses times.



His main writings consist in a *Corpus Hermeticum*, and *Tabula Smaragdina* (Table of Emerald). They contain a mixture of mysticism and of Egyptian occult magic . They were however endorsed at least in part by prominent "Fathers of the Catholic church", such as Augustin and Lactance (4th century). Although these scholars might have been embarrassed by some magic aspects, the writings of Hermes were considered as precursor of Platonism and of the Christianity. They are not far from gnostic philosophy.

Lactance wrote in his Institutes that Hermes "affirms the majesty of unique and supreme god, whom he designates by the same names as we do: God and Father". He also quoted Hermes as saying; " the Lord and Creator of everything we justly call God as he created a second God visible and sensible ", announcing the coming of the Christ.

A comprehensive translation in latin of part of the *Corpus Hermeticum* was done in 1490 by Marsilio Ficino, an Italian scholar and catholic priest. Ficino was one of the most influential humanist philosophers of the early Italian Renaissance. He entertained the legend of Egyptian Antiquity of Hermes Trismegiste for all the 15h century. His translation was named *Poimandres*, by the name of first chapter.

An Italian Scholar Giordano Bruno was very instrumental in the propagation of the Hermes philosophy. He also published several writings about the art of memory based upon Egyptian occultism.

During 15th and 16th centuries, the writings of Hermes inspired philosophers and also alchemists with the magic aspects of the works. From his name come the word Hermeticism which defines the philosophical and esoteric tradition which developed strongly from that period. Isaac Newton was well known for his interest in hermetic science of the *Corpus Hermeticum*. His translation of the *Tabula Smaragdina* is appended to this text.

The influence of hermeticism is also important in the works of Robert Fludd, (1574-1637) British astrologer and alchemist, and may also be found in the Rose Croix philosophy of which Fludd was an adept.

It has to be noted that this period saw also the birth of the "Old Charges" of the Freemasonry. Cooke manuscript is dated 1490 (first appearance of Hermes in Masonic documents), the Second Statutes Shaw are dated 1599.... It also see the development of speculative Freemasonry and the first speculative Masons are also known for their acquaintance with hermeticism (Elia Ashmole, 1617-1692) and it is very thinkable that hermetic writings inspired the symbolism of Freemasonry.

Although it was demonstrated that Hermes Trismegiste writings were to be dated from the beginning of Common Era (Isaac Casaubon in 1614), the Egyptian Hermeticism remains strongly influential, and was one source of inspiration of Albert Pike (*Morals and Dogma*).

This period also see a revival of the art of memory, developed earlier by Greeks and Romans. Memorization was based upon the association of a speech with the visit of a building, linking the various parts of the speech to specific apartment. From these circumstances, we could understand the relation of our rituals with the Temple of Solomon and the construction.

Emerald tablet

*Tis true without error, certain & most true.
That which is below is like that which is above & that which is above is like that which is below to do the miracles of one only thing
And as all things have been & arose from one by the [meditation] of one:
so all things have their birth from this one thing by adaptation.
The Sun is its father, the moon its mother, the wind hath carried it in its belly, the earth is its nurse.*

*The father of all perfection in the whole world is here.
Its force or power is entire if it be converted into earth.
Separate thou the earth from the fire, the subtle from the gross sweetly
with great industry.
It ascends from the earth to the heaven & again it descends to the earth
& receives the force of things superior & inferior.
By this means you shall have the glory of the whole world
& thereby all obscurity shall fly from you.
Its force is above all force. For it vanquishes every subtle thing &
penetrates every solid thing.
So was the world created.
From this are & do come admirable adaptations whereof the means (or
process) is here in this. Hence I am called Hermes Trismegist, having the
three parts of the philosophy of the whole world
That which I have said of the operation of the Sun is accomplished &
ended*

Your readings

We shall open this section to introduce books you have judged interesting for our enlightenment.

So please do not hesitate to present your recommendations, possibly with your comments.

We shall start with "The secret teachings of all ages", from Manly P. Hall. This reference book offers an outline of Masonic, hermetic, quabbalistic and rosicrucian symbolic philosophy. Any comments?

Dues 2018

The 2018 Dues Cards have been received and the Dues notices have been emailed to all brethren. Payment is due before December 31st 2017.

Payment can be made

- online in US\$ only, the best way (<http://scottishrite.org/> Pay your Dues) **the best way**, or
- by check in US\$ worded to Taipei Bodies A&A Scottish Rite, or
- by bank transfer to the following account
Megabank International Commercial Bank
Account Holder: Claude Robert Soucaille
Account Number : 021-10-42184-9
Swift Code : ICBCTWTP021
- or in cash at the Temple.

New arrivals kiss and goodbye

Our deepest condolences to the family of Bro. Larry Leo McManus, Jr. who has joined the celestial lodge on June 11, 2017.

Bro. Larry was a dedicated Mason for 50 years. He was a member of Cascade Lodge #34 in Montana, and a life member of Szechwan Lodge #4 of Grand Lodge of China.

Bro. Larry was a friend to all he met and a man of many words. He enjoyed travelling to the football games.

May he rest in peace.

Contribute to our letter

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

Taipei Bodies, China Masonic Temple
#10 Lane 201, Chang An East Rd Sec. 2, Taipei
Or PO Box 34-154, Taipei 10499
Phone +886227713310, taipei.bodies@gmail.com