



# **Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite**

## **Taipei Bodies News**

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

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Newsletter #29, December 2017

### **A word from the Venerable Master**



Dear Brethren,

Taipei Bodies continues its educational program. We resumed working on the Lodge of Perfection. During the last stated meeting in October, the 5th degree, Perfect Master, was performed in long form. It features the funerals of our Grand Master Hiram Abiff. It is very sad but meaningful ritual. It can be considered to be added in our future reunion.

Some brothers of Scottish Rite in Taipei led by Ill Norman Pin paid a visit to Abi Sabah end of last month to attend the Annual Communication of District Grand Lodge of Middle East. A big thank to those Scottish Rite Brothers of Sabah for their hospitality.

The Christmas Season is coming. I wish all brethren have a peaceful holidays, and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Fraternally yours,

Ill. Dupree Chia,  
Venerable Master

### **Spring Reunion**

Reserve your dates.

The Spring Reunion will take place in Krabi, Thailand, on Saturday April 28 and Sunday April 29. The meeting is organized by our Malaysian Brothers lead by Ill. Roy Tan.

Practical details will be communicated as soon as available

## 2017 Tercentenary Celebration of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) in London

From Ill. Dennis Liao, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of China



My first visit to the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) comes with no better reason - to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the first Masonic Grand Lodge in the world! On June 24, 1717, four Lodges in London gathered and created the 1st Grand Lodge of England. This is when all things started...

UGLE has put in tremendous efforts for this grand event. Being the reigning Grand Master of Grand Lodge of China, I have been very lucky and honored to join the total 136 grand masters being invited to

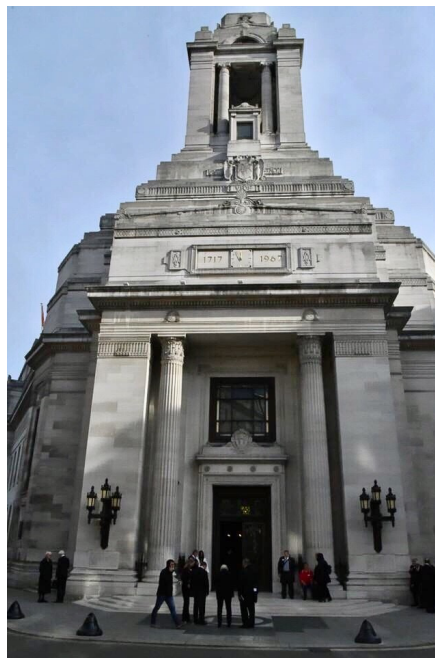
attend this once in every 300 years event held in London during October 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Upon checking in to the Hotel, we were greeted by assigned UGLE hosts who really took good care of all the guests through our stay. On the same evening, some 400 guests including the grand masters, their ladies and accompanied delegations were invited to the Grand Connaught Rooms for a champagne welcome reception followed by a sumptuous dinner. Besides contemplating the grandeur of this magnificent "Masonic tavern", I was thrilled to realize that this has been the largest gathering of grand masters in Masonic history! A live orchestra provided top of the class entertainment to the dinner guests, and a special duet (or duel) of trumpeters brought the evening to a climax. All retired well fed and drunk with cheers.

### **Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

At 8:45am all guests were transported to the Freemasons Hall (Grand Temple of UGLE) for the Grand Master's Reception. It took me a while to realize that the Grand Master of UGLE is HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent who has been in reign for 50 years! Upon entering the hall, the secretariat received gifts on behalf of the Grand Master. All grand masters were then given a number and conducted to sign the visitor register



according to the seniority of their grand lodges. In the vast Masonic world, Grand Lodge of China is relatively young. I proudly signed under the slot of #97. After dressed with full regalia, all grand masters were seated according to the assigned numbers. The Grand Master entered in a parade with accompanying officers. After his welcome address, we were escorted in a file of three to the stage to be received. When exiting the stage, we were seated again on numbered seats on the other side of the hall. Group photos were then taken after the Grand Master finished all reception to center seat.

in owe by moment this organized planning out After the Reception, a followed. By received displayed presenting



join us in the front One has to be amazed what a historical has been, and how the English is in big events like this! Grand Master's champagne reception this time, all the gifts have been with names of their grand lodges. I was

delighted to see that my presentation of a Liu-Li artwork really stood out to represent Grand Lodge of China.

After a short break in the afternoon, all guests were taken to the Mansion House (the Residence of Lord Mayor of London) for a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor. The Program Grand Master gave a welcome address to introduce the Lord Mayor, Dr. Andrew Parmley, who is also a Mason, to give a witty speech. It is an interesting contrast that the term of the Lord Mayor of London is only one year compared to the perpetual term of the Grand Master of UGLE.

## **Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

At 2pm, all grand masters boarded on buses to Royal Albert Hall for the Tercentenary celebration. Ladies and other members in the delegations were led to Freemasons Hall for a live streaming of the event. On arriving the Royal Albert Hall, this iconic concert hall of London was already packed with some 5000 Masons coming from all over England. All the visiting grand masters were seated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor boxes called grand tiers. The boxes seats offered superb views to the beautiful center stage and the overall audience seats. The celebration featured a drama depicting virtues of a true Mason, with famous music and arias from Mozart's Magic Flute. All grand lodges were introduced on screen with their emblems and geographic locations. I was excited to see Grand Lodge of China being introduced. Before closing, all stood up to sing solemn hymns, and it was really a moving moment.

Following this historical celebration, the grand masters were taken to Battersea Evolution which can sit 2000 people for dinner, while the ladies and other members in the delegations enjoyed the same menu at the Grand Connaught Rooms. A film on the 300 years of UGLE history was played to the some 2000 guests during the dinner. As a Mason, one can only feel so humble yet so proud of belonging to such a glorious ancient organization! I packed for home the next morning, feeling so surreal and



fortunate of being a part of this once in a life time celebration. Besides all the unique experience of being received by HRH Duke of Kent, meeting the Mayor and visiting the famous Royal Albert Hall, etc., the most precious is in fact meeting global Masonic leaders and exchanging fellowship and words of wisdom with them. There is certainly a bright

future in Masonry, yet one has to travel the world to know the depth and generousness of Freemasonry. My vision has been really reshaped through this wonderful trip. I urge all Masons to travel and taste the true Masonic world!

## **VMAP**

Since 2 years, the Valley is engaged in the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP), managed by the Supreme Council. The intent of VMAP is to help each Valley carry out its service to the Scottish Rite by providing the very best experience for its members. VMAP requirements are broken into the following 11 specific subject Areas which cover the full scope of the Scottish Rite experience:

1. Membership Retention / Engagement
2. Scottish Rite Education for Members
3. Membership Recruitment
4. New Member Engagement
5. Reunion Experience
6. Scottish Rite Education for Candidates
7. Philanthropy
8. Public Image
9. Degree Conferral Proficiency

10. Officer Responsibilities & Engagement
11. Valley Organizations

This program constitutes a roadmap for the development of our activities.

### **Your readings**

We hope you enjoyed reading the book of Manly P. Hall. Note that this book, as well as many reference books can be found on the Sacred Books website: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/>

Today, we will mention "Freemason's Guide and Compendium" from Bernard E. Jones. This reference document should exist in all Masonic libraries. The electronic version appears unfortunately to be discontinued.

### **Dues 2018**

End of the year is near, do not forget to pay your 2018 (and sometimes before) Dues before December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

Payment can be made

- Online in US\$ only, the best way (<http://scottishrite.org/> Pay your Dues)

**the best way**, 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.

We have to discontinue payment by check from outside the USA as our bank refuses to handle small amounts, which cost more than the checks amount.

### **New arrivals, kiss and goodbye**



Our deepest condolences to the family of Bro. Bobby Kum Hoong HOE who has joined the celestial lodge on 10th November, 2017 at the age of 79. Below is an eulogy by his brother Kum Moon HO for remembrance.

May Bro. Bobby rest in peace!

*Everyone here knows that Bobby is my brother, in fact he is our eldest brother in our family of 4 boys and one girl. We were all very close to each other when we were young. I can remember that when he was*



*courting his girlfriend he used to take us all together to watch a movie. We would all cramped into our family's mini minor and headed off to a show either at Capital or Federal Theatre in Chow Kit Road. After that we will all head down to Lake Garden and he will treat us ice cream while both of them disappeared for half an hour under the coconut tree.*

*Bobby is the brother we will always look up to, he had made a lot of sacrifices to see the four of us through our tertiary education. He used to go straight after school to help out in our late father business of selling fountain pens and reading glasses in Petaling Street. Only when he was able to pursue his dream of becoming a qualified optician and a specialist in contact lens fitting and manufacturing. He is also one of the few specialists in Malaysia to fit and custom made artificial eyes. He was a founding member and Past President of the Malaysian Optical Association. He was later nominated to be the first member to represent all the opticians to the Board of the newly launched Optical Council of Malaysia.*

*Actually, he could have manipulated our late father to will him all the assets but by his unselfish attitude and his contribution, we were able to put our 9 grandchildren through university and the result of 2 medical doctors, 2 Phds, 1 Pharmacist, 2 Bankers, 1 Optometrist and 1 IT graduate.*

*As we gather to celebrate the life of Bobby HOE, we are at the same time reminded of our own inevitable destiny and to warn us that we also should be likewise ready, for we know not the day nor the hour when, in the case of each of us, the dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to the Lord who gave it.*

*May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and prosper us in all that we undertake and do in his Holy Name.*

*Glory be to God on high, on earth peace, good will towards men.*

*And may Bobby's soul rest in eternal peace.*

### **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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