

Hiram's Hams Amateur Radio Society

Founded September 5994 A.L.



NEWSLETTER

The Fraternity within The Fraternity

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Toledo, Ohio

November A.L. 6002

Some Birthplaces of Freemasonry

Hundreds of enthusiasts have propounded as many theories of the origin of Freemasonry. It began in the patriarchal religion; it was born of the ancient mysteries; the Essenes formed it; it commenced in King Solomon's Temple; the Crusaders thought it up; the Knights Templars dreamed it; the Roman College of Artificers began it; the Rosicrucians created it; Oliver Cromwell made it for the advancement of his political schemes; the Pretender thought such an organization could restore the House of Stuart to the throne; it was the result of plans made by Adam, Noah, Pythagorus, Athestane, Charlemagne, Francis Bacon, Ignatius Loyola. It has come from India and Egypt, Mexico and England, Ireland and Scotland, France and Germany.

The syllogistic approach to some of these theories has satisfied many of their correctness; the square was a symbol of right living in China four thousand years ago; the square is a symbol of right living in Freemasonry; *therefore*, Freemasonry originated in China four thousand years ago. The point within a circle was in use as a symbol in India for uncounted ages; the point within a circle has always been a symbol in Freemasonry, *therefore*, Freemasonry originated in India four thousand years ago; etc.

Such theories ignore the fact that the cross, Christianity's greatest symbol, was a symbol in Egypt thousands of years before Christ; that spires of churches and pointed elliptical windows in church edifices are descendants of the old phallic religions, that Freemasonry, like many another philosophy, has made its own teachings and the symbols of other beliefs. Perhaps the Great Seal of the United States carries as good an example as any of this "cross breeding" of symbols and thoughts. The Great Seal of the United States has upon it an All Seeing Eye and a pyramid; as the All Seeing Eye and the triangle are Masonic symbols, therefore, says the theorist, the Great Seal must be Masonic and designed by Masons.

But history shows Masons had nothing to do with the design of the Great Seal; both All Seeing Eye and triangle were symbols of Deity long before Christianity, Freemasonry or the United States came into being.

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What if Freemasonry is a religion?

By: Brother Allan Scott, MM

We all know the old stand-by that Freemasonry is not a religion. But we are also told that Masonry is an individual experience; every Mason takes something different away from it.

What happens when these two paradigms collide? What if, for some Masons, Masonry is a religion?

Oxford defines religion as (among other things) "a particular system of faith and worship." Now let's suppose an individual's "religion" (as defined by Oxford) is of a rather simple nature (what other faiths may call undeveloped or immature); to wit: the individual believes that all creation is the product of a deliberate will and is imparted with both meaning and purpose. The "creator" is defined, simply, as the GAOTU (a generic, but for this individual, sufficient definition). The individual further believes that the GAOTU desires all man to be good, fight evil and labour to be the best man he can be during his short time on Earth. Finally, the individual believes in the immortal nature of his soul, but has no particular belief about what happens after death, other than that a just life will somehow be rewarded and a wicked one punished.

Of particular note, the individual eschews all religious dogma (i.e. all notions that the one, true path to salvation comes from the embracing of one set of religious beliefs and characters to the exclusion of all others). The individual simply admits that he hasn't any idea what, exactly, awaits him at the hour of his death and is prepared to allow that any religious belief system may be correct - or, indeed, that they may all miss the mark (his most likely belief).

For this individual, we should not be surprised that Lodge ceremonies and lessons are flexible and tolerant enough to satisfy his need to worship (the second part of our Oxford definition, itself defined as "a homage or reverence paid to a deity"). For him, Freemasonry is more than a BSOM, VIA and IBS; for

..... continued on page 3

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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM KING SOLOMON Grand Visitation

The visit of a Grand Master, accompanied by his Grand Officers, to a subordinate Lodge to inspect its condition, is called a *Grand Visitation*. There is no allusion to anything of the kind in the Old Constitutions, because there was no organization of the Order before the eighteenth century that made such an inspection necessary. But immediately after the revival in 1717, it was found expedient, in consequence of the growth of Lodges in London, to provide for some form of visitation and inspection. So, in the very first of the Thirty-nine General Regulations, adopted in 1721, it is declared that "the Grand Master or his Deputy hath authority and right not only to be present in any true Lodge, but also to preside wherever he is, with the Master of the Lodge on his left hand, and to order his Grand Wardens to attend him, who are not to act in any particular Lodges as Wardens, but in his presence and at his command; because there the Grand Master may command the Wardens of that Lodge, or any brethren he pleaseth, to attend and act as his Wardens *pro tempore*."

In compliance with this old regulation, whenever the Grand Master, accompanied by his Wardens and other officers, visits a Lodge in his jurisdiction, for the purpose of inspecting its condition, the Master and officers of the Lodge thus visited surrender their seats to the Grand Master and the Grand Officers.

Grand Visitations are among the oldest usages of Freemasonry since the revival period of 1717. In America they are not so frequently practiced, in consequence of the extensive territory over which the Lodges are scattered, and the difficulty of collecting at one point all the Grand Officers, many of whom generally reside at great distances apart. Still, where it can be done, the practice of Grand Visitations should never be neglected.

The power of visitation for inspection is confined to the Grand and Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Wardens possess no such prerogative. The Master must always tender the gavel and the chair to the Grand or Deputy Grand Master when either of them informally visits a Lodge; for the Grand Master, and in his absence, the Deputy have the right to preside in all lodges where they may be present. But this privilege does not extend to the Grand Wardens.

Tnx *The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*
and
Its Kindred Sciences
by

Dr. Albert G. Mackey 33°

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FAMOUS FREEMASONS

- * **George Pullman** - Built first sleeping car on train
- * **Stanley F. Reed** - Supreme Court Justice
- * **Paul Revere** - Famous American
- * **Eddie Rickenbacker** - Great American Air Force Ace
- * **Will Rogers** - Actor
- * **Franklin D. Roosevelt** - President of the United States
- * **Theodore Roosevelt** - President of the United States
- * **Wiley B. Rutledge** - Supreme Court Justice
- * **David Sarnoff** - Father of Television
- * **George Schoonover** - Founder of "The Builder"
- * **Sir Walter Scott** - Writer
- * **William Shakespeare** - Writer
- * **Red Skeleton** - Entertainer
- * **John Philip Sousa** - Led the U.S. Marine Band from 1880-1892
- * **Leland Stanford** - Drove the gold spike linking the Intercontinental Railroad
- * **Leland Stanford** - Railroads and Stanford University
- * **Potter Stewart** - Supreme Court Justice
- * **Charles "Tom Thumb" Stratton** - Entertainer
- * **Noah H. Swayne** - Supreme Court Justice
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- * **Colonel William B. Travis** - Alamo
- * **Robert Trimble** - Supreme Court Justice
- * **M.W. Harry S. Truman** - President of the United States, and Past Grand Master of Missouri

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Some Birthplaces of Freemasonry

A hundred of more theories ask the world to believe that Freemasonry never was itself, but always something else!

Search all Masonic documents from the beginning - the Regius Poem of 1390 is the oldest - and there will be found no references to mature religions, mystery or fertility cults, magic, charms, spells, horoscopes, the zodiac, demonology, satanism, theologies, political government, monarchy, oligarchy, aristocracy, capitalism. Nor are these in the ritual of Freemasonry.

Instead, Freemasonry brings to the attention of its members and initiates matters connected with building; rough and perfect ashlar, a trestleboard, rule, square, level, plumb, compasses, trowel, setting maul, gavel, pillars, columns, pilasters, orders of architecture, the wisdom, strength and beauty necessary for both successful building and a successful organization, aprons, the dignity of labor, the story of the building of the great temple.

Freemasonry was born of Freemasons.

Tnx The Masonic Service Association

Continued in the December 2002 edition

Brethren

Please do not send your newsletter correspondence and donations to the AASR Valley of Toledo. Use the address shown on page 2. Thanks

American Union Lodge

Freemasonry remained somewhat active during those early years of the Revolutionary War. For instance, in Virginia in 1777 a committee met several times to determine if Virginia should elect its own Grand Master and form a Grand Lodge. This would be accomplished in October 1778. Several Grand Lodges, and Lodges, continued to celebrate the *Festivals of the Saints John*. **American Union Lodge** met in various locations whenever possible. Washington moved to Philadelphia on December 22, 1778, and was able to celebrate the *Festival Of St. John the Evangelist* with Pennsylvania and military Masons

General George Washington was seriously proposed for the then non-existent position of *General Grand Master*. However, in 1779 the American forces went into winter quarters at Morristown, NJ. There **American Union Lodge** met on December 15. During this meeting the Lodge proposed Washington for *General Grand Master*. Five days later the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania did the same! **American Union**, with Washington present, celebrated the *Festival of St. John the Evangelist* on the 27th.

Later, a group of Masons petitioned John Rowe, the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a warrant to form a lodge. Rowe, a Loyalist, had virtually turned control over to his deputy, Richard Gridley. Gridley readily constituted "**American Union Lodge**, now erected in Roxbury, or wherever your Body shall remove on the Continent of America, provided it is where no Grand Master is appointed." This wording is important. It permitted the Lodge to meet virtually anywhere. In 1776 it met 31 times, but where isn't always stated. Only one meeting is recorded in 1777 and 1778; in three months it met 18 times.

Amazingly **American Union Lodge** is still in existence! At the urging of several Freemasons at Marietta, Ohio, Johathan Heart, who had the charter of the Lodge, opened **American Union Lodge** in that settlement on June 28, 1790. It became No. 1 on the roster of the Grand Lodge of Ohio when that Grand Lodge was organized.

Tnx *Masonic Trivia & Facts* by Wor. Bro. Allen Roberts, sk

continued from page 1

What if Freemasonry is a religion?

him it is the incarnation of his spiritual belief system and a necessary part of his development and life as a human being.

Is this Mason wrong? Should he be chastised? Or is it permissible to allow that for some our gentle craft is a religion - in all but name, perhaps?

What say you, my brothers?

From: Bro. Allan Scott, MM
<seamaster@canada.com>

Tnx Wor. Bro. John Ochmann, WA8NDL

Continued from the October 2002 edition

Scottish Rite Freemasonry and the War on Terrorism

The extremists we battle claim the religion of Islam, but those who are the most fanatical know the least of their religious qualifications and teachings. Factual and accurate accountings of religious credentials are uncommon in the radical extremists. The zealot is the product of being raised with radical teachings, inflexible and without question. No amount of convincing and common sense will prevail upon these individuals; they will resist all efforts to show them the truth. The militant Muslim extremist will refuse profound evidence and factual information presented with reason because they are unreasonable in the perception of their dogma.

It is the responsibility of Scottish Rite Masons to resume their obligations and pursue in earnest the many great and important, moral and Masonic lessons to benefit society. We must resume the study of the Scottish Rite degrees which were envisioned to be a ladder toward the pinnacle of Masonic virtue and beneficence. The profound obligations we had undertaken require we develop the principles of being true to all men, frank and sincere in all things, exercising toleration, sympathy and philanthropy. We must be the champions of society, true and reliable in the defense of political and religious freedom. Scottish Rite Masonry dictates we do all within our power to improve society, protect the oppressed from the oppressor, relieve strife and misery and combat radical fanaticism wherever it arises. We must expose the charlatan, and enlighten society to their wiles. Where Masonry is idle terrorists thrive; where Masonry is active the militant extremist is exposed. We must prevent future acts of terrorism from being enacted by militant Muslim extremists. We must revitalize Masonry and provide education to our Scottish Rite brothers. We must resume our responsibilities to society by teaching toleration, moderation, morality and virtue. We must resume our battle against tyranny, oppression, zealotry and intolerance. We must battle terrorism as the nemesis to all our Masonic principles.

Tnx Bro. Jason C. Russo, 32°

Junior Warden, Blandford Lodge #3 (Chartered 1757), Richmond, Virginia
Member SRRS

also Tnx to Wor. Bro. John Ochmann, WA8NDL

Techno-Junk Piling Up

A new study called *Waste in the Wireless World: The Challenge of Cell Phones* says that 130 million wireless devices will be discarded annually in the United States. This equals 65,000 tons of two-way radio garbage.

The study makes several recommendations regarding both the design of cell phones and the disposal of them. It says that the use of toxic substances in them be reduced. It also suggests that device standardization be implemented so users are not forced to purchase new phones when they change service providers or for travel. Finally, the study says that cellular telephones should be designed for disassembly, reuse and recycling.

It should be noted that the study was limited to cellular phones and other two way radio devices. It does not include the tons of VCR's and TV sets that are disposed of each year.

Tnx Amateur Radio Newslite

"Are You a Traveling Man?" Irish Travelers

By Irish Traveler expert Don Wright

Some local authorities will not refer to child beater Madelyn Gorman/Toogood and Margaret Daley as 'Travelers' but an expert on *Irish Travelers* says from the Kohl's video he's seen, he believes the women are *Irish Travelers*. There are an estimated 12,000 to 20,000 *Irish Travelers* in the United States, mostly in South Carolina and Texas. This is where it is believed Gorman and her family are from.

Travelers live a nomadic life-style, moving from town to town in large groups to do seasonal work but they've also been labeled, by some, as scam artists. Most *Irish Travelers* in this country are descendants of 19th century Irish immigrants. They are also known as Irish gypsies or "tinkers"

Irish Traveler expert Don Wright wrote about Travelers who travel from Fort Worth, Texas to Indiana in his 1996 book called 'Scam!' "A majority of the Travelers come to Elkhart, Indiana a few times a year to pick up travel trailers they use for different scams." Wright says the trailer is a scam in and of itself. They live in it until they can sell it for an exorbitant price. Meanwhile, **men of the Travelers do house scams and the women do shoplifting scams.** Wright says it is common to take along their children. "This is on the job training for kids. They learn to shoplift at their mothers elbows."

Brethren, how does this affect you? Well, first of all, a mode of communication between *Irish Travelers* is very close to the common expression used when a Mason sees a man he does not know wearing Masonic jewelry. Usually, he will say something like, "**are you a traveling man?**" If the man is indeed a Mason, this will usually "break the ice" and the two Brothers introduce themselves.

But! Be careful with this expression because you might find yourself shaking hands with an *Irish Traveler!* Brethren, "take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly."

Ham-Congressman, WB7OCE Appointed to Key House Subcommittee

The ARRL Letter reports that Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Walden is one of only two amateurs in the US House of Representatives, and his appointment to the key House panel dealing with communications matters is considered good news for the ham radio community. Walden's selection was announced by Republican House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin of Louisiana.

Tnx Amateur Radio Newslite

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New Hiram's Hams!


Correction

In the October edition we inadvertently relocated **Brother Charles W. Gerrard, K1MAV**, and his sponsor, **Bro. Donald S. Johnson, W1UPH** from their respective QTH's in Massachusetts to Maine. Oooooooooops, Sorry

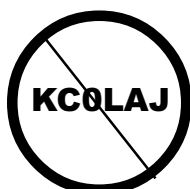
Brethren, "Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly."

 **Bro. Charles D. Herrell, KC8MAG**, Ironton, Ohio
Tnx Sister Connie Hamilton, N8IO
A Super Hiram's Hams Sweetheart

 **Bro. James T. Clark, N5QHO**, Burleson, Texas
Note: Go to the QSL Call Sign Data Base: <http://www.qrz.com/> and type in Brother Clark's call sign. Enjoy his bio!
Tnx Wor. Bro. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

 **Bro. Addison L. Smith, KC8FOH**, Apple Creek, Ohio
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Net Control Emeritus



WORDS OF WISDOM for radio amateurs

"Good amateur practice is a hard thing to define," Hollingsworth conceded. "I'd have to say it's the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid."

by: F.C.C. Special Counsel, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZHD
More "Words of Wisdom" de K4ZDH, next month

BRETHREN

Please look at your address label if there is a dreaded "X" before your name it means that this may be your last copy of the newsletter. Sorry

SO MOTE IT BE

HAMFESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2002

November 9 Kentucky Mountain ARC <http://www.qsl.net/k4avx/kmarc.html> Hazard, KY
 November 9 Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club lora@cooldude.com Springfield, MO
 November 10 Ham Radio Auction sponsored by the Chicago Amateur Radio Club Chicago, IL
 E-Mail: w9caf@chicagoarc.com



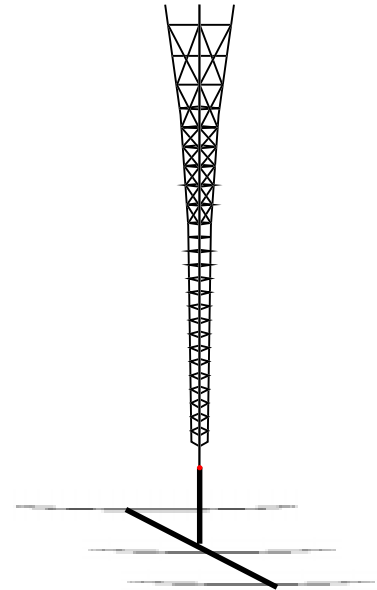
Nov. 16-17 Indiana State ARRL Convention <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com> Fort Wayne, IN
 November 16 University of Miami & Flamingo Net: E-mail: wa4tej@Beethoven.com Coral Gables, FL

2003

January 4 Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club E-mail: AEckman@lowell.k12.mi.us Lowell MI
 January 11 Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club E-mail: k4fqu@juno.com Fort Myers, FL
 January 18 Missouri Valley & Ray-Clay Amateur Radio Clubs E-mail: nem3238@ccp.com St. Joseph, MO
 January 19 Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation <http://hfradio.org/kc8aav> Nelsonville, OH
 February 23 Briarpatch & Foot Hills Amateur Radio Club rgwaller@psknet.com Elkin, NC

Tnx ARRL and the Southeastern Repeater Association

The Fraternity within The Fraternity



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