



GRAY LODGE 329

NEWSLETTER



What's going on at your Lodge?

October 2007

Newsletter Format

We have received good feedback on the newsletter format. Please continue to send me your suggestions and I will endeavor to include your ideas and articles. send to: master@gray329.org

Please stay up to date on all Gray Lodge news by subscribing to our e-mail list...send an e-mail to: gray329-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Useful Links:

- [Gray Lodge](#)
- [HMLMF](#)
- [Grand Lodge of TX](#)

October Stated Meeting: 10/3/07 7pm

We are honored to have Bro Cliff Cameron, the Grand Historian and Chairman of the History and Preservation Committee 2007 for the Grand Council of the Royal and Select Masters of Texas paying us a visit to be our guest speaker for the Open Program portion of this stated meeting. Bro Cliff will give a presentation about the First Documented Masonic meeting in Colonial Texas on February 11, 1828 and the Ancient York Masons at San Felipe de Austin.



November Stated Meeting 11/7/07 7pm

We will be having an open program for this meeting also. More details to follow in the next newsletter, but it will be a fascinating presentation on the Kabbalah...so mark your calendars!

Degrees

We have several new candidates and therefore a lot of degree work coming up. If you would like to participate, please contact our Senior Deacon (davidraycousins@yahoo.com) and he will let you know what the degree schedule is. If you need to brush up on your floor work, contact the JW, Bro Darrin Pitts (dpitts36@yahoo.com) and he will inform you of our rehearsals and degree team instruction.

GRAND LODGE

We have booked 10 rooms for Grand Lodge (6th thru 8th of December). Room rate is \$82 per night. There will be a sign up sheet at the Lodge. First come, first served!

Line Officers 2007

WM: Lex Leckie
 SW: Greg Weisinger
 JW: Darrin Pitts
 SEC: TBA
 TR: Doug Hissong
 SD: David Cousins
 JD: Roberto Sanchez
 MA: Randon Reaves
 MC: Paul Anderson
 SS: RW Butch Boggess
 JS: Carl Rubly
 CH: Craig Johnston
 TI: David Woodard

FROM THE EAST

Our recent influx of new petitions continues and we are very fortunate to be attracting the kind of candidate we know will be a credit to Gray Lodge and Freemasonry in general. Many thanks for keeping up with the prospective and current candidates go to the Deacons, and Bro Secretary. As we start getting closer to Grand Lodge, there is something we should all be aware of...and that is the Grand Masters proposed resolution to have all business meetings of the lodge conducted in the EA degree. This has several implications for Stated Meeting attendance as well as the retention of EAs and Fellowcrafts and making them feel more a part of the lodge rather than being out in the cold, as it were, until they are raised. I am fully behind the Grand Master on this, and hope the rest of the Lodges in Texas will vote in favor of it come December.

When I look at the two points above...one about new candidates and one about the possibility of EA's being allowed into stated meetings, there is an issue that arises that has always been important to me: Investigations. Brethren, if you are asked to serve on an investigation committee, you have a chance to make a tremendous impact on a potential new member...and you also have the responsibility of protecting the Lodge from those who might be the wrong kind of fit for our organization. Let's not kid ourselves...there are men out there who would quite easily say what they want in order to abuse the great reputation our fraternity has for personal gain etc. So the role of the Investigation Committee is very important. Please take it seriously and if you have reason to believe that a candidate does not possess the correct moral fiber for Freemasonry, then please fill out your report accordingly and I assure you, you will have my full support.

On a lighter note, as the holiday season approaches, take the time to appreciate family and friends, as well as giving some thoughts and prayers to our troops serving abroad this year.

Fraternally, Lex Leckie, WM Gray Lodge #329.

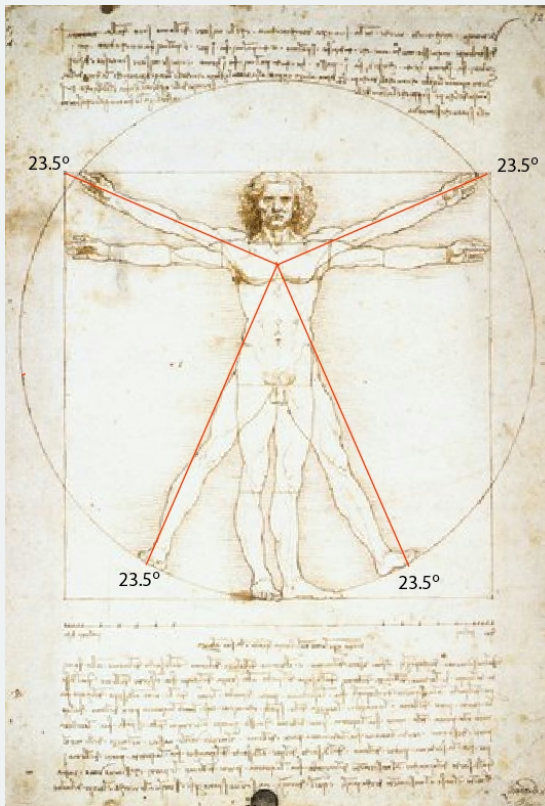
MASONIC AND OTHER TRIVIA

Farmers Astronomy

On any September 21st, you can put a stake in the ground marking a line from that observation point to the sunrise. The following night return to exactly the same observation point and stake another line to the evening's sunset. A string or line stretched between the two stakes will give you very, very close to an exact East-West line. A line perpendicular to your string will be the North-South line where you live. When you get your lines drawn, you know will then be able to calculate with Mayan-like precision whether your home was oriented by detail-oriented people, or just thrown onto the property by randomists, who didn't take the time to square things up.

How Did They Know?

23.5 degrees is the angle of tilt in the axis of the earth, the inclination of which gives us our four seasons (except in Houston, where we seem to only have one-and-a-half seasons, hot and rainy). The 23.5-degree angle, and it's 47-degree double, are two of Freemasonry's "Cosmic Angles," found in Frank C. Higgins' 1919 book, "Ancient Freemasonry: An Introduction to Masonic Archaeology." The 23.5 degree angle is encoded in many places. The angle of 23.5° is found in Leonardo Da Vinci's famous drawing, Vitruvian Man.



The angle of 23.5° is even referenced in one of the most infamous symbols of them all – the "All-Seeing Eye" in the detached and floating capstone of the pyramid from which rays of light radiate. This symbolic image is on every US Dollar bill and is really a reference to the Great Pyramid of Giza, which is missing its capstone.

23.5 is also found on coins showing ancient Phoenician temples of Cypress, ancient Greek paintings of Hermes and Ceres, as well as in the Masonic Keystone and Compass of the present day. We find the angle of 23.5° repeated in symbolism such as the Templar Cross Patee or Maltese Cross and even in the Masonic Compass and Set-square.

The 23.5-degree angle remains a part of modern-day Masonic ritual, even though many Masons do not know the source of the 23.5. In a 1998 Masonic Manual and Monitorial Instructions booklet, a section titled "Manual of the Rod," (abridged) it says: "The rods are carried by the Deacons and Stewards as emblems of Office. They are carried in the performance of official duties, either directed or implied, from the sound of the gavel which congregates the Lodge to the sound of the gavel which closes the Lodge ... While they are marching, they carry the rod between the upper arm and the body, inclining it forward at an angle of 23 and one-half degrees ..."

The Templar's Plague

Between the years of 1347-1352, the Plague, the "Black Death" consumed 25 million lives throughout Europe. By the time merchants reached Europe, a number of crew members and rats were infected with the disease. Rats were the primary cause of the disease spreading so quickly. The Plague vectored from infected fleas that transmitted the disease to rats. The rats in turn spread like rats do, depositing infected fleas everywhere they went. The infected fleas would transmit the Plague to humans and other rats. The cycle repeated itself until virtually no part of Europe was immune.

There was little or no barrier to the rats spreading the disease. The flea carrying rat population ran unchecked because the rat's main predator, the common house cat, was in short supply. It was that little matter of "unintended consequences" that had reduced the population of cats in Europe.

While this was not the first time cats had been linked with devilish deeds, it certainly was the catalyst that insured their undue persecution.

The Pope issued a bull that year that deemed the common house cat as diabolical. Charges of heresy after that became increasingly associated with cats.

The Templars were involved in most facets of the European infrastructure by 1307. Templar endeavors in: banking, inns, farm holdings, and shipping affected the lives of a great portion of the European populace. The Church leveled charges against the Templars and the trial of the Templars that catapulted demonizing cats into the minds of most Europeans.

When Black Friday occurred, and throughout the subsequent trails, people throughout Europe, fueled by the notion cats were linked to the Devil, turned to killing cats as way to insure evil forces would not overtake them.

The populace of Europe paid the price for this misconception. Forty years of slaughtering cats dissolved the one barrier that could have given some protection from the Plague.

In this way, the Black Death might have been said to be the Templar's Plague. The governments and peoples of Europe had unwittingly sentenced themselves a steep toll for their undue persecution of the Templars.

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Thanks to Paul Anderson for the Trivia Articles this month.

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If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please contact master@gray329.org

