

Chapter 1 : Lodge Library - Gettysburg Freemasons

This exhibition features stunning examples of masonic badges referred to as 'jewels' from the long tradition in English freemasonry. With additions from around the world, Bejewelled: Badges, Brotherhood and Identity is the largest gathering of masonic jewels ever exhibited in the UK.

About Freemasonry Seth Anthony T Members must be men, at least 18 years of age and of good moral character. Freemasonry is not a religion. It only requires that its member have a belief in a Supreme Being. The discussion of politics or religion is forbidden in Lodge. There is no national governing body for Freemasonry in the United States. Each jurisdiction governs itself independently. Members pay a one-time initiation fee and annual dues that vary by lodge. The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. Volumes have been written about it. Yet, to many, Freemasonry remains a mystery. Where did Freemasonry come from? Some historians trace Freemasonry to the 10th Century B. Records reveal that Freemasonry was introduced into England in A. Many other historians believe that Freemasonry is directly descended from the association of operative masons, the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages, who traveled through Europe employing the secrets and skills of their crafts. A more recent theory suggests that Freemasonry grew out of the survivors of the destruction of the Order of the Temple in by King Philip The Fair of France. To maintain their Order, they developed another organization, giving it a legendary ancient history to contribute to its cover from the authorities who wished it destroyed. When did Freemasonry start? Today, there are more than Grand Lodges in free countries of the world with a membership of more than 3. In the United States there are 51 Grand Lodges. There are approximately 1., Freemasons in the 51 Jurisdictions of the United States. What is a Lodge? It is the Symbolic Lodge that issues petitions for initiation and membership, acts on petitions and confers the three Symbolic Degrees, known as the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees. How do you join? Membership is limited to adult males who can meet the recognized qualifications and standards of character and reputation. A man becomes a Freemason through his own volition. When a man seeks admission to a Symbolic Lodge, it is of his own free will and accord. The choice is his. The petitioner must be recommended by two Master Masons, one of whom must be a Member of the Lodge to which he desires to apply and pass a ballot. The petitioner must be 18 years of age, mentally competent, of good moral character and believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. Is Freemasonry a secret society? Contrary to what many believe, Freemasonry is not a secret society. It does not hide its existence or its membership. There has been no attempt to conceal the purpose, aims and principles of Freemasonry. It is an organization formed and existing on the broad basis of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Its constitutions are published for the world to behold. Its rules and regulations are open for inspection. Is Freemasonry a religion? Freemasonry is not a religion even though it is religious in character. It does not pretend to take the place of religion, nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. Although an essential requirement is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, Freemasonry accepts men, found to be worthy, regardless of religious convictions. It teaches the Golden Rule. It seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Chapter 2 : About Freemasonry - Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

A Library of Freemasonry: comprising its history, antiquities, symbols, constitutions, customs, etc., and concordant orders of Royal Arch, Knights Templar, A. A. S. Rite, Mystic Shrine, with other important Masonic information of value to the fraternity derived from official and standard sources throughout the world from the earliest period to.

Address of a Member If you are trying to contact a Pennsylvania Mason, we will not provide you with the address of record, however, we will gladly transmit a message to that member if you provide your name, address, and a written request to have him contact you. Membership of a Deceased Person for genealogical, fraternal and historical purposes. There is an unfounded expectation that such research will reveal a wealth of factual information about a person. While it is true that some individual Lodges may have kept detailed records, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania can only verify if a man was a member in good standing. It is unlikely that any other useful information will be available. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania only has information on members in this jurisdiction. If a man was made a Mason in any other jurisdiction, we have no record to verify that. There never has been a national or central membership database for Freemasonry in the United States. Additionally, we can usually only verify Lodge membership. If pertinent we can sometimes verify address and occupation at time of petitioning. Requests received often include extraneous details about the men being researched. This detail does not help us. The information that is useful to us in performing this research for you is the FULL NAME of the subject, last known Pennsylvania address, date of death and, if available, the name or number of the Lodge in which he was reputed to be a member. The occupation and address at time of petitioning may also be helpful to us. Staff Time Research is done only during available staff time, when other responsibilities are not pressing. Membership records pertaining to deceased members prior to are NOT computerized. Therefore, this is a detailed and labor-intensive process that requires significant manual effort. Requests may not be answered for several months. Records Our records are for Freemasons who have held membership in Pennsylvania only! Records of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, under normal circumstances, do not include information concerning the names of fathers, mothers, grandparents, etc. In most cases, the only information included would be the name of the lodge, the date of a petition to join a lodge and the dates the brother would have received each of his three degrees. Requests can be made via the contact information found at the bottom of the page. Please include in your request a postal mailing address and a daytime telephone number where you can be reached. There are times when a simple question by our staff can result in a quicker response to you.

Chapter 3 : Home - The Library and Museum of Freemasonry

Library. The Library is open for reference use. It contains a comprehensive collection of printed books and manuscripts on every facet of Freemasonry in England as well as material on Freemasonry elsewhere in the world and on subjects associated with Freemasonry or with mystical and esoteric traditions.

Original concept[edit] In the premier [1] Grand Lodge purchased a house fronting the street, behind which was a garden and a second house. A competition was held for the design of a Grand Hall to link the two houses. The winning design was by Thomas Sandby. It is an imposing Art Deco building, covering two and a quarter acres 0. The financing for building the hall was raised by the Masonic Million Memorial Fund. Many non-Masonic organisations also use the Grand Temple for numerous events as diverse as Fashion show s and Polytechnic award ceremonies. All are highly ornate in their various art deco styles, and no two are identical. Amongst the temples which are of particular note: Temple No 1 was very large seating up to and contained a series of portraits of former Grand Masters. However, the temple was converted into a conference space, by removing the furnishings and organ but leaving the portraits. Temple No 3, although of no unusual style in itself, contains a recently restored nineteenth-century chamber organ of note; Temple No 10 where the designers had additional height and space due to its location beneath the large clock tower is built in a style which combines classic art deco with Egyptian design, and includes an impressive high domed ceiling, and also a Willis pipe organ awaiting restoration ; Temple No 11 was largely funded by donations from Japan and the Far East, and is consequently decorated in a lavish style, dominated by stylised Chrysanthemums , the national flower of Japan; Temple No 12 is known as the Burma Temple for similar reasons, and is decorated with stylised Burmese artwork, and a plaque recording the contributions of Freemasons from British Burma. Temple No 16 has a distinctive and highly decorated barrel vault ceiling; Temple No 17 was largely funded by the Freemasons of Buckinghamshire, and has a very large carved swan the symbol of Buckinghamshire on one wall; it also enjoys a more than usually ornate decorative style, with extensive oak panelling, and is used in particular by the most ancient lodges in London, including the three remaining lodges of four originals which pre-date and the formation of the Grand Lodge itself; Temple No 23 is the smallest seating approximately 30 people and contains a series of portraits of former Grand Secretaries. Unlike the Grand Temple of which public tours are available daily the other 23 temples and the rehearsal temples are not normally open to the public, as they are in constant demand by private London Lodges and Chapters for their regular meetings. Dr Vicky Carroll Museum Curator: Mr Mark Dennis Archivist: The Museum has a collection of objects with Masonic decoration, including clocks, furniture, glassware, jewellery, porcelain, pottery, regalia and silver. The Library and Museum also has one of the most comprehensive collections of Friendly Societies material in Europe, including books and museum artefacts relating to all the major friendly and fraternal societies, items are on display in the Museum gallery, which can be viewed by contacting the curator or one of his staff [6] Hourly tours of the building are given starting from the Library and Museum, including a tour of the Grand Temple. There are 5 tours a day at 11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Saturday tours must be pre-booked, and there is only one extended tour at To book a tour telephone The Library contains a comprehensive collection of printed books and manuscripts on every facet of Freemasonry in England, as well as material on Freemasonry elsewhere in the world, and on subjects associated with Freemasonry or with mystical and esoteric traditions. The Library catalogue is available online. A large collection of Friendly Societies books, especially relating to the Oddfellows and the Foresters, are also held by the Library. The Library and Museum provides a genealogical enquiry service. Recent seasonal exhibitions have included one on the subject of Masonic Dining July to September , and another celebrating the Centenary of the Order of Women Freemasons June to December Admission to seasonal exhibitions is free. The Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London is also administered from the building. It has around 40, Freemasons as members, which makes it the largest of the Masonic provinces. This was an historic moment for the province, as it was its first ceremony within the Grand Temple. The Hall is seen sporting double Templar Crosses on the facade of the Temple. The building makes frequent one-off appearances in episodes of other television series, such as its extensive use in

Hustle , series 5, episode 2. It has also been used in many other feature films, including Agent Cody Banks 2: The building has also featured as a backdrop in music videos, including extensive use internally and externally in the music video for the Westlife single Mandy.

The Library, founded in , is considered to have one of the finest collections for the study of Freemasonry. The importance of collecting and cataloging seminal works in the history of Freemasonry has remained a focus of the institution since its inception.

I was on a bus when I first began to notice it, somewhere on the road between Aguada de Pasajeros and Santa Clara. It was a hot, dusty day, and as the antique vehicle chugged along I was gazing out the window – watching a rolling landscape of yellowed grass and palm groves, unfinished buildings and the occasional flag-flying monument to the revolution. We passed through a village, its wide streets lined in the usual cocktail of Soviet-era concrete and colourful, crumbling Spanish Colonial architecture. Suddenly my eyes landed on one building that stood out from the rest; a burst of turquoise, red and gold, more elaborate than anything else on the street. As the bus rattled past, I noticed the emblem carved in bold strokes above the front door – a square and compass, framed in a glorious golden starburst. The sign immediately distinguished this as a Masonic lodge; which was strange, I thought, as usually such places do little to announce their presence. It was at that point I remembered I was travelling through a communist state, and my brain did a somersault – because as far as I knew, Freemasonry had been outlawed by virtually every communist party of the 20th century. In his autobiography *My Life*, Leon Trotsky writes: The work on freemasonry acted as a sort of test for these hypotheses. I think this influenced the whole course of my intellectual development. One of the more discreet lodges I spotted. The general consensus seemed to be that a system of secrets and secret hierarchies was incompatible with the new mode of equal, Marxist society. Looking out the window of that humid, rattling bus however, it seemed as though Cuba disagreed. Now that my eyes were open I began noticing them everywhere: They dominated town squares, they burst in colourful formations of pillars and plaster facades out of otherwise plain village streets. Far from outlawing Freemasonry, Cuba appeared to celebrate it; so I decided to do some digging and find out why. In it was reported that the island had Masonic lodges, and more than 29, active members. Numbers further increased with the influx of French Masons fleeing the Haitian Revolution of . The first part of this story is nothing peculiar: But the Grand Lodge of Cuba, recognised as regular and correct by the majority of mainstream lodges around the world, is nevertheless remarkable in that it continues to thrive under a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. One of the popular explanations that has been offered for this puzzle posits that Castro himself was a Freemason. It was from this lodge that Castro laid the foundations for his 26th of July Movement, which in would ultimately lead to a socialist revolution in Cuba. Some say that Fidel Castro himself was initiated as a Mason during that time. Perhaps they decided it was better to control Freemasonry, than to fight it. The second ensured the sympathy of the Latin American left. Nevertheless, the rules governing Cuban Freemasonry are still a confusing mass of contradictions. This is the nucleus of Cuban Freemasonry, its public face, its archive, the nerve centre from which all Cuban lodges are regulated; and after my week of road-tripping through the cities of the south, I was hoping to stop by and pay them a visit. Lodges gathered their dead together, wrought iron fences separating the deceased into memorial plots according to Masonic fraternity. The graven symbols of the Craft were rarely discreet. In the afternoon I set out for the Grand Lodge of Cuba, at no. The avenue itself meanwhile was named after the 30th president of Chile; a Marxist, a Freemason, and a good friend of Fidel Castro. I spotted the Gran Logia de Cuba almost the moment I turned onto the avenue. I had cut through the backstreets on my way there – past a burnt-out car on Calle San Francisco, under washing lines and spiderwebbed telephone cables, where children played baseball in the street – and then suddenly there it was. Pontiacs and corvettes pattered up and down the avenue while at the far end, rising clear of the colonial blocks and arches, a yellow titan broke the horizon. A black gentleman in suit and glasses stood between the doors, and greeted me with a quizzical smile. He asked a question in Spanish. No library for me. I gestured past him, towards the innards of the building, and said Please in Spanish along with the best smile I could manage; but I was answered with a motion of genteel refusal. By all accounts, the building is quite extraordinary inside. Ballard calls it the best-kept building in Cuba, full of leather couches and luminous globes, its walls hung with medals and swords. The dress code

amongst Cuban Masons also seems to be somewhat more relaxed. After my firm yet friendly refusal at the Gran Logia de Cuba, I crossed over the road; strolling through the Parque de La Santa Varela, where a woman washed clothes in a bucket on the grass, and children played barefoot around the open spaces. The back wall of the plaza was engraved with a contoured bust of Karl Marx, beside the words: The carved slogan is Spanish for: Hector told me that his brother worked at a cigar factory. He had the good stuff, very cheap, and if I came to his house he could make me an excellent deal. In Cuba, it sometimes seems like everyone has a brother who works at the cigar factory. It was simple, but comfortable inside. Hector set a wooden chair for me at the table, and poured a glass of sugary lemon drink; he lit a cigar, then passed me one too. After that he presented a wooden cigar box and began his sales pitch. Gran Logia de Cuba: Above the Masonic crest, the 12 points on the clock are marked with zodiac signs. Hector suddenly seemed tired though, no longer as chatty as before.

Chapter 5 : The Supreme Freemason Library, Knights Templar, Secret Society Volume 1 DVD F49 | eBay

View the Museum Collection. View our large collection of items used by Masons through the centuries and around the world.

See Article History Alternative Titles: Free and Accepted Masons, Freemasonry Freemasonry, the teachings and practices of the secret fraternal men-only order of Free and Accepted Masons, the largest worldwide secret society. Spread by the advance of the British Empire , Freemasonry remains most popular in the British Isles and in other countries originally within the empire. Estimates of the worldwide membership of Freemasonry in the early 21st century ranged from about two million to more than six million. Freemasonry evolved from the guilds of stonemasons and cathedral builders of the Middle Ages. With the decline of cathedral building, some lodges of operative working masons began to accept honorary members to bolster their declining membership. From a few of these lodges developed modern symbolic or speculative Freemasonry, which particularly in the 17th and 18th centuries adopted the rites and trappings of ancient religious orders and of chivalric brotherhoods. In the first Grand Lodge, an association of lodges, was founded in England. FreemasonsA group of Freemasons in ceremonial dress, Freemasonry has, almost from its inception, encountered considerable opposition from organized religion , especially from the Roman Catholic Church , and from various states. Freemasonry is not a Christian institution, though it has often been mistaken for such. Freemasonry contains many of the elements of a religion; its teachings enjoin morality , charity, and obedience to the law of the land. In most traditions, the applicant for admission is required to be an adult male, and all applicants must also believe in the existence of a Supreme Being and in the immortality of the soul. In practice, some lodges have been charged with prejudice against Jews , Catholics, and nonwhites. Generally, Freemasonry in Latin countries has attracted those who question religious dogma or who oppose the clergy see anticlericalism , whereas in the Anglo-Saxon countries the membership is drawn largely from among white Protestants. The modern French tradition, founded in the 19th century and known as Co-Freemasonry or Le Droit Humain, admits both women and men. In most lodges in most countries, Freemasons are divided into three major degreesâ€”entered apprentice, fellow of the craft, and master mason. In many lodges there are numerous degreesâ€”sometimes as many as a thousandâ€”superimposed on the three major divisions; these organizational features are not uniform from country to country. In addition to the main bodies of Freemasonry derived from the British tradition, there are also a number of appendant groups that are primarily social or recreational in character, having no official standing in Freemasonry but drawing their membership from the higher degrees of the society. They are especially prevalent in the United States. In Britain and certain other countries there are separate lodges restricted to women. English Masons are forbidden to affiliate with any of the recreational organizations or quasi-Masonic societies, on pain of suspension.

Chapter 6 : Fidel Castro & the Curious Case of Freemasonry in Cuba - The Bohemian Blog

A Library of Freemasonry Comprising Its History, Antiquities, Symbols, Constitutions, Customs, Etc., And Concordant Orders of Royal Arch, Knights Templar, A. A. S. Rite, Mystic Shrine, With Other Important Masonic Information of Value to the Fraternity by Robert Freke Gould.

Chapter 7 : A Library of Freemasonry

A Library of Freemasonry: comprising its history, antiquities, symbols, constitutions, customs, etc., and concordant orders of Royal Arch, Knights Templar, A. A. S. Rite, Mystic Shrine, with other important Masonic information of value to the fraternity Volume 4 [Leather Bound].

Chapter 8 : Freemasons' Hall, London - Wikipedia

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Library. The House of the Temple's library, located on the main floor, is the oldest library in DC that is open to the public and houses over , precious books, manuscripts, and other publications.