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THE BEACON

The monthly Trestleboard of Union Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M

January 2018

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Tidings From the East

Happy January Ancient Craftsman of Union No. 3

First thing is first...

Congratulations to our immediate Past Master Worshipful

Brother Matt Gerbrandt for a fine Masonic Year. Please find the time to congratulate WB Matt for a job well done.

Now we are looking directly full steam ahead to a fresh Masonic Year!

By my count this is the 151st year for Union Masonic Lodge.

The program for January 2018 Stated Meeting will be the sharing of the Union # 3 Outreach Charities we will be focused on this year and the Dinners and Programs that are scheduled to occur.

Please take the time to come to the January Stated Meeting to hear details of this year's goings' on.

Here is a short breakdown of the scheduled events for 2018:

- 1 Author coming at the February Stated meeting.
- 4 Quarterly Dinners
- 3 Programs concerning Future Possibilities for alternative investment strategies for Union #3's investments.
- 1 Program with Marissa Douglas Marketing Manager/MMSAP Coordinator
- Summer will be floats and watermelon for our Agape after our Stated.

- 1 Documentary Movie from our Brother Jared Brandon- Flande.
- Close out the year with a St. John's Program in December.

The strength of our Masonic Lodge falls directly in all our laps.

We can not have a strong Lodge if Brothers do not attend the Stated Meetings

We can not come to the relief of widows if Brothers do not come out and attend the 1 dinner in February (Sweethearts Dinner) showing our love and remembrance of our dearly departed Brothers and visiting with their Widows.

We can not show our community that we as Freemasons are here in McMinnville Oregon if we do not come out in force during our Union # 3 Outreach Dinners and Programs for the benefit of our Charities.

In the end Ancient Craftsman of Union No. 3 we are not a strong Masonic Lodge without you.

Why be a Freemason if you never attend Lodge and support the Brothers and the Events and Charities through out the year.

I know this might be harsh but it is how I feel as a Freemason and as your Worshipful Master.

Please come out and attend **your** Lodge every month.

If you need a ride call me directly 971-241-5355 if you need a ride to lodge.

See you in January!

Johnny J. Edwards
Worshipful Master

Brothers of Union No. 3

Starting after the January 2018 Stated Meeting we will be returning to having our Fellowship / Agape immediately after lodge is closed.

The only difference it will be held within the dining hall not out in town.

Refreshments and a light snack or desert will usually be provided.

JANUARY 2, 2018

Worshipful Brother J. P. Porter will be providing a fine soup called, "Zoupa Toscana / Tuscan Soup. Please come out and enjoy the Agape.

Johnny J. Edwards



Tidings from the West

Greetings from the West, Brothers! Thank you very much for electing me to the position of Senior Warden! We have a wonderful crew of officers (once again!) and I'm very much looking forward to working with them and everyone in the Lodge community this year.

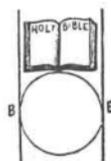
Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt



Tidings from the South

What does St. John the Evangelist have to do with a goat?

We are told in the first degree two pieces of information that are related: That the lodges are dedicated to St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist, and that these two Christian patrons of Freemasonry are represented by a "point within a circle," the point representing an individual brother, the circle the boundary-line of his conduct beyond which he is never to suffer his prejudices or passions to betray him. This circle is embodied by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist; and upon the top rest the Holy Scriptures.



This symbol has a deeper meaning, and it involves the symbol itself. The point within the circle is the astrological symbol for the Sun. This is interesting to us because in the journey of the earth around the

sun, the feasts of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist happen at or near the Summer and Winter Solstices, respectively. So this symbol, the point within the circle bordered by two perpendicular lines, represents the journey of the sun from the Summer to Winter Solstice and back again.

What does this have to do with a goat?

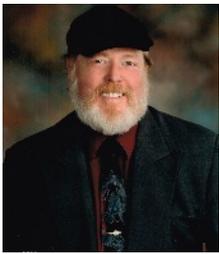
The astrological symbol assigned to the time period between December 22 and January 19th is Capricorn, often visualized as a sea-goat: back half fish, front half goat. The feast of St. John the Evangelist falls on December 27th, smack dab in the middle of Capricorn.

The symbol of Capricorn itself is unique, as to my knowledge there's no such thing as a sea-goat. According to J.E. Cirlot in his *Dictionary of Symbols*, this dual aspect refers to 'the dual tendencies of life towards the abyss (or water)' or chaos of the beginning of time, and 'the heights of mountains' or order and Malkuth (the earth) as symbolized by the goat aspect." In this chimeric symbol, both the tendencies of order and chaos are represented.

Albert Pike, in *Morals and Dogma*, speaks of the Greek tradition that the Solstices were the two gates of Heaven, through which the soul entered the world from the celestial world. The soul enters through the Gate of Capricorn, falls through the planets, starting at Saturn, then Jupiter, Mars, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon, before arriving in the body at the Gate of Cancer. There was a tradition of the soul rising back through the planets to reach the gate of Capricorn, but this required ritual initiations and secret knowledge to accomplish the journey.

So, St. John the Evangelist, who's feast day is December 27th, in Capricorn. St. John writes about how "In the beginning was the Word", and that word is first spoken to the Goat, as this is where the soul begins its journey into the world.

Fraternally,
Scott Rassbach



From the Secretary's Desk

*"There is nothing permanent in life except change."
Heraclitus*

As I write this it is St. John's Day. Our Lodge has passed through another year of labor, and yet another lies before us. Last year gave us momentous events, enjoyable times as well as sad. Our Brothers rose to the challenges, completing the work set before them and starting work on new projects. New designs are upon the Trestle board, and another Masonic year beckons.



The great enlightenment of Gautama Buddha is that everything changes, and those changes will change further. Happiness and sadness will alike pass away, and from the viewpoint of an individual nothing is permanent—including the individual. Change is the nature of our world, and although some fear it none can stop it. Like the tides of King Knut, change is deaf to the entreaties of those who would stop its flow.

We as Masons, however, understand change as the ancient stonemasons did. With a firm base in our ancient Craft, we labor to improve our Lodge, our community and ourselves. Knowing that there will always be change, we strive to improve our world and our contributions to it. We try each day to be better men than we were the day before. Thus we use our traditions to harness change for the betterment of ourselves and our Lodge.

I recently saw t-shirt with the saying "Death smiles at everyone, a Mason smiles back." Pithy, but to the point. We will not always be here, but our Craft will endure. And while we are here, let us work as Brothers in harmony. Some of us have taken up new stations and places, some have taken up new challenges. Together we can do great things. As the saying goes, "Where there is unity there is always victory."

I have no idea what the new Masonic year will bring, but I know that the reality will be far more than my expectations. As we start out on the labors of a new year, I can think of no better group of fel-

lows to share the journey with. I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish.

Walk in Light, my Brothers.



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

*"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."
- St. Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430 CE)*

Greetings, Brethren! I'm back in Bristol now and diligently working on a couple writing projects, both with deadlines in the first week of January. But, I've been doing my level best to do both things Masonic and take advantage of the wealth of history surrounding me here.

Since I checked in last, I've attended Lodge at Cabot #3884 here in Bristol and submitted my petition for affiliation. That was balloted in December and I am now an official member of the Lodge, which brings with it the paying of dues next month. The camaraderie that I have felt with the Brethren at Lodge there, however, makes it a bargain at any price.

In November, I was able to attend the raising of a Brother FC to the sublime degree of MM. The list of "very different" things gets longer with every visit. One of the more striking things about the MM was that the entire degree was conferred in the dark. Literally. There are elements that we consider essential to the conferral that are wholly absent from theirs. The degree itself is recognizable, but the people who do or say specific things differ significantly. In fact, the obligation itself – one of the cornerstones of all three degrees, but the MM in particular, is not the same. At all.

I've noted before that Bristol's ritual is considered to be "unique." Many, at least here in Bristol, attribute that to its being more closely based on the "original" ritual coming out of the 1720s than the more modern ritual. There may be something to that. Bristol ritual is alleged to be much more like the Irish ritual than UGLE or Lodges in emulation of UGLE. The Irish ritual would have had an early English ritual as the basis and Bristol has had very close ties of communication and commerce with Ireland since the 12th century; for a while, Bristol traders had the exclusive right of trade with Irish

ports from England. The close ties in the 18th century and the deep association with sea captains and ships officers and the Masonic community here may contribute to the ritual differences as Irish captains and captains who traveled often to Ireland “ran the chairs” in Bristol.

Unfortunately, there’s not a good way to research that apart from observances of the ritual itself. All thirty-seven of the Lodges in the Province of Bristol meet at one location – the Freemason’s Hall. As far as anyone knows, it’s always been that way. The downside to that is that most of the records of all the Lodges organized before 1940 and the Provincial Grand Lodge were destroyed during the so-called “Bristol Blitz” in November of 1940 when German bombers leveled large swaths of Bristol to take out shipping, commerce, and industrial sites (such as the Rolls Royce engine factory and fighter plane parts and assembly plants nearby.) A piece of collateral damage during that time was the Freemason’s Hall and with it the records of those Lodges. Only the portico (front porch) survived intact. Some bits of furniture and a few records were saved, but something on the order of 90% were lost.

Most recently in December, Kathleen and I took a brief trip to Strasbourg – a city with a wealth of Masonic connections. There is a tradition in some parts that Freemasonry got a start in Strasbourg during the building of the cathedral around 1275, under the direction of Erwin von Steinbach. After a thirty-year period where six architects, all with experience working on the major cathedrals at Rheims and Chartres, came and went von Steinbach finally got the nod as chief architect to rebuild the Notre-Dame de Strasbourg after a devastating fire in 1176. von Steinbach, besides having a design that won over the Bishop, had a vision of how to organize his crews of stonemasons. That vision was expressed in a document that lays out the "ancient" direction and management of the corporation of stonecutters in Strasbourg has some similarities to regulations of Masonic Lodges. That particular document (the earliest copy dated to the early 15th century) was amended a few times in the 15th and 16th centuries and was approved by the Emperor Maximilian in 1498. It was still in force, binding the Master Ma-



sons of Upper Germany to a central corporate charter, until the early 17th century. It’s believed that von Steinbach was both codifying his own thoughts about organization and also formalizing agreements between the stonecutters and masons that were already in force in the area. I didn’t have time to set up an appointment to see it, but von Steinbach’s contract (dated 1283) still exists in the town archives.

A monument has been erected in the south plaza of the Cathedral that recognizes the operative Masonic traditions. It’s essentially square with a “cut out” area.



The inside memorializes the hewing of stone and carving that produced the cathedral in its final form – from the gargoyles and grotesques to the



windows, lintels, corbels, and buttresses. On one side of the monument is a progression showing the carving of a window frame from the stone. The top is covered with actual representations of the over-three hundred Mason’s Marks

that have been discovered on stonework in the cathedral itself spanning four hundred years of building. Each mark is unique to a specific Master Mason, although the record of which person goes with which mark has been lost to time. I’ve included a few pictures of the monument and the south side of the cathedral showing some spectacular windows, buttresses, and part of the base of the spire.



I've also included a couple other pictures. One is a that marks locations of historical interest. One finds them all over the UK. This one was placed just this year as part of the tercentennial celebrations of the



Grand Lodge of England and commemorates the founding meeting of the Rummer Lodge in 1735.



The other is a page from a 12th century manuscript in the cathedral library and archives at Hereford.

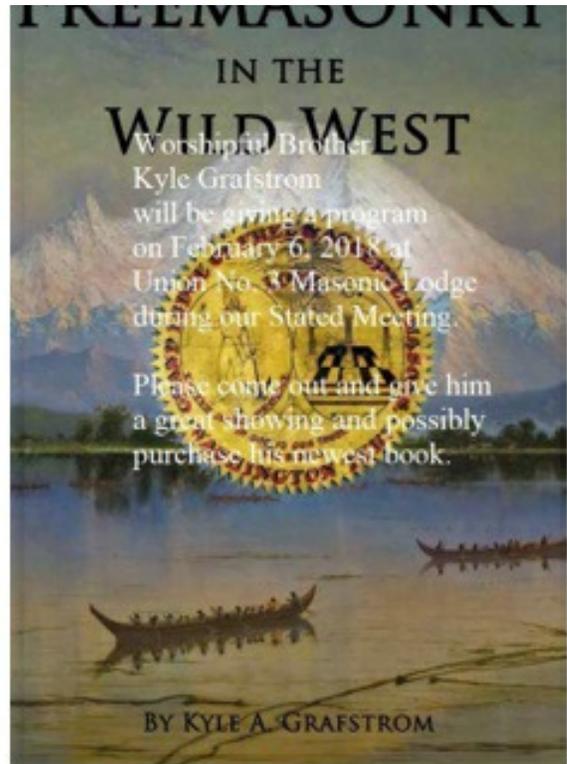
While not specifically Masonic, it's an interesting study – it wasn't clear exactly what it was until very recently. An Irish scholar working on the manuscript identified it as a representation of universal organization or "Harmony of the Spheres."

Encapsulated in the drawing and its Latin glosses are astronomy, music, geometry, and mathematics.

January means installation here at Cabot #3884 – it will be a "black tie" affair which means that I'll be breaking out the formal Scottish attire (i.e. kilt and Prince Charlie coatee and waistcoat) as I don't own a tuxedo. That should be a good occasion to snap a few pictures of Lodge here and myself smartly dressed in Past Master's apron and collar.

Until February, then, and Fraternally as always, WB Frank Blair

Second, at our February 6th Stated Meeting,



FEB 6 Speaker WB Kyle Grafstrom Author of **Freemasonry in the Wild West**
Public · Hosted by Union Masonic Lodge # 3 AF&AM

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

On the **next page** is one more special date to add to your calendar.



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

As we kick off the new Lodge Year, here are some items to add to your calendar.

First, at the January 2nd Stated Meeting we will be outlining the program for the coming year.

Third, on Saturday, February 10th WB Rod Brown will again prepare our Sweethearts Dinner, honoring our Masonic widows and our “significant others.”



Sweethearts Dinner

The Brothers of Union No. 3 invite you to our Annual Sweethearts Dinner.

The meal is free for the ladies and \$10.00 for the men.

February 10th, 2018
@ 6:00 p.m.

Menu:
Chicken Cordon Bleu,
Steamed broccoli with brown sugar cashew sauce,
Salad,
Cheese Cake.

Location:
Union No. 3 Masonic Lodge
McMinnville Oregon
Elevator is behind the masonic building.

If you need a ride to the dinner, please call Johnny.

Please **RSVP** by contacting
Johnny J. Edwards
johnny6_28_66@yahoo.com
503-883-9081

January/February 2018 Calendar

- Jan 2** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- Jan 2** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 3** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 4** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Jan 6** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Jan 10** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- Jan 30** - Union # 3 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm
- Feb 6** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- Feb 10** - Union Lodge Sweethearts Dinner - 6:00 pm

Be sure to visit the Union Lodge website at
<http://www.unionlodge3.com>

and also



Visit Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook and be sure to Like us.