

## THE CRAFT FREEMASONRY NEWSLETTER No.15 FEBRUARY 2007



Greetings from the Grand East of Virginia,

First, as the Grand Master, I would like to thank all the Lodges and Grand Officers of the Regular Grand Lodge of Virginia for their dedication, zeal and devotion in assisting me in restoring the traditions of Ancient Craft Freemasonry in the United States of America this past weekend on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007 for all to witness. The historical event that took place was very important as we must continue to see that these traditions be upheld and maintain for its original purpose. Every Freemason means should be to vanquish his passions, subdue his selfish will and make further progress within Masonry.

He must flee from vice and practice Virtue by placing justice and truth above all other things. A Freemason is a man born free and of high principles, well intentioned toward both rich and poor and possess no racism or bigotry within his heart. Seeing the members of our affiliated Regular Grand Lodges and the diversity of the craft, exemplified the meaning of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

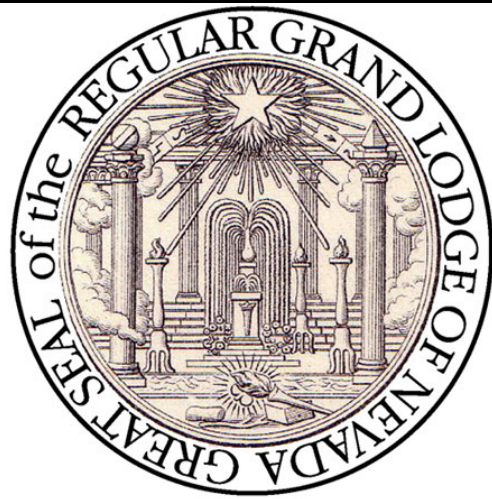
There's no doubt that the imprint of Freemasonry was left burning in the minds of every Freemason in attendance. As we now recognise the Regular Grand Lodge of Nevada and the Masonic High Council of New York as regular members of the Masonic High Council of the United States, the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons under the auspices of the Regular Grand Lodge of England, we must continue to open our doors to the good at heart and well intentioned.

Lastly, I would like to commend the following Regular Grand Lodges and Masonic High Councils for being in attendance and supporting the Regular Grand Lodge of Virginia in welcoming our new found Brethren into the realm of upper stream Freemasonry: The Regular Grand Lodge of New Jersey, the Regular Grand Lodge of Illinois, the Regular Grand Lodge of North Carolina and the Masonic High Council of Maryland.

May we live, fellowship and prosper as one. So Mote It Be,

Joseph Burris, GM

January 29, 2007



Dear MW Brethren and Brethren All,

I wanted to begin my talk by apologising for my English. English is my second language I am an Hispanic person. I was born in Peru and I entered my Masonic life in the Antient Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of Peru.

Secondly I would like to thank all of you my brothers, for being here in this wonderful ceremony. Today Masonry in the state of Nevada begins a new episode, a new stage under the protection of the Regular Grand Lodge of England and under the protection of the High Council of Regular Grand Lodges of the United States of America, an historic occasion.

It is a great honour for us to have been incorporated into this High Council and I thank all the brethren that have helped us with this petition and in particular to the Grand Secretary of the Regular Grand Lodge of England and to my brother Joseph Burris, Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Virginia and of course to my brother Carlos Pacchioni, Grand Master of the Occidental Regular Grand Lodge of Peru. I know how much hard work and effort have gone into your Masonic endeavours over the past months.

Today is a special day for the Regular Grand Lodge of Nevada because on this day we will receive our Warrant and we celebrate our incorporation to the fold of the Regular Grand Lodges of the world. We now feel that we belong to the one true organisation that promulgates true and antient Freemasonry as it was supposed to be. As a Grand Master I promise to all brethren that as I receive this new, pure constitutive Warrant I will preserve it so, free of any stains of falsehood.

Finally I want to thank the brothers of my own Grand Lodge for being here with me on this historical Masonic event. God bless all Freemasons and thank you all,

27 January 2007

Victor G. Serna, MHC, RGLN  
Grand Master



**From the MHC of Maryland greetings,**

Greetings to the Grand Master of the great state of Virginia, MW Brother Burris, his Grand Lodge Officers, Masters, Wardens and members of the craft and all that attended the Grand Lodge Meeting and the Regularization ceremony.

Love and beauty prevails giving thanks to the most high, the Grand Architect of the Universe.

As one of the original members of the Masonic High Council of the United States of America to travel to Europe, to meet, greet and break bread with our foreign brothers and bring back the love of fellowship and the beauty of Ancient Craft Masonry. On January 27, 2007 the lodge setting and fellowship that day was truly a replicate.

Assisting in this honour was the good brothers from the Regular Grand lodge of Virginia, Chicago, New Jersey, and North Carolina, to include the Masonic High Council of Maryland, Nevada and NY.

In my 16 years of Masonic Travels I've met some of the most knowledgeable brothers locally and overseas, but I've also met some that was only in it for its prestige, today I can say I have met those who have love for the order and bring out the beauty of what's been veiled for so long. We have long strides ahead of us, some I know will be rough but with the honourable brothers we have under the MHCUSA today this country will build a foundation not made of sand but with the cement of brotherly love.

Again I want to thank all who attended on this wonderful day and stepping stone to make the Masonic High Council of the United States fruitful in its endeavours.

Carlton S. Brigham  
Senior Grand Officer of Maryland



**PROVINCE PARIS – ILE DE FRANCE  
LE GRAND MAITRE**

Le 10 Février 2007

Tous les Frères Maîtres de l'Obédience,

Mes B.A.F.,

Vous le savez comme tous les ans à pareille époque, les conférences traitées et convents vont se multiplier.

**MAI 2007:**

Une délégation Française devra se rendre en Italie, la date exacte n'a pas été encore fixée ; je souhaite que les Frères volontaires se manifestent auprès de leur VM. Malheureusement, les frais engendrés ne peuvent être pris en charge par l'Obédience.

Pour ma part, j'assurerai le voyage à Sofia (Bulgarie), quatre jours, du 11 au 14 Mai 2007 accompagnée du Grand Secrétaire du H.C.M., le Respectable Frère Marc Forestier.

**JUILLET 2007:**

La date n'est pas encore confirmée, mais prévoir une délégation qu'une délégation Française se rendra aux Etats-Unis. Notre fédération se développe avec rapidité et compte sur les Frères Maîtres Maçons Français pour honorer de leur présence les manifestations se déroulant hors métropole.

Soyez assurés mes B.A.F., de ma parfaite fraternité.

Serge BOUTHEMY



# GOIF

## GRAND ORIENT OF ITALY FEDERAL - The Italian Masonic Renaissance in the third millennium -

The very first appearance of Speculative Freemasonry in the Italian territory dates back on the XVIIIth century, with the presence of sovereign, individual Masonic Lodges:

- South – in Sicilia, Calabria and Campania.
- Centre - in Lazio, Umbria and Toscana (where in the first half of 1700 dies in Florence the first martyr of Italian Freemasonry Bro.: Tommaso Crudeli).
- North - in Liguria, Piemonte and Lombardia.



Having been Freemasonry hardly thwarted and fought by the Roman Catholic Church and governative powers, it was even strongly affected by internal conflictuality and, by the end of XVIIIth century, and the outline of Italian Freemasonry featured several lodges following the Egyptian Rite in the South, Lodges of English and French Rite in the Centre and Symbolic Rite in the North.

Thanks to Bro.: Giuseppe Garibaldi, 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Master of the Grand orient of Italy (GOI), Italian Freemasonry found unity and, during the Risorgimento it had its utmost Strength, Beauty and Wisdom, bringing an outstanding contribution, through men, ideas and determination to reach the intellectual and material Freedom in our Country.

In the XXth century (1908) the Italian Masonic Unity of GOI spitted apart, originating the so called Ferian Schism (by the name of the main protagonist Saverio Fera) due to the disputing point of view on the laicality and religiousness of Freemasonry; the came-out Brethrens set up the Grand Lodge of Piazza del Gesù, as from the address of its first premise in Piazza del Gesù, 47 in Rome.

During fascist regime (1930 – 1940), Freemasonry had been harshly banned and its Grand Master and Senior Officers made it non-operational taking refuge out of the country or sent to exile.

After the first half of XXth century, Freemasonry re-starts its activity , GOI is re-settled as well as the Grand Lodge of Piazza del Gesù, although further divisions take place with the formation of several Grand Lodges, each one claiming to be the legitimate derivation of the original Grand Lodge of Piazza del Gesù.

After an important though incomplete unification between GOI (Grand Master Bro.: Lino Salvini) and Grand Lodge of Piazza del Gesù (Grand Master Francesco Bellantonio) which took place in 1973 when GOI was recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England – UGLE, again a new division fell on the GOI in 1993.

Its Past Grand Master in fact, Giuliano Di Bernardo established the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy – GLRI and gathered several Lodges that worked before giving their allegiance to other Masonic Institutions. It was an important Masonic event, not for the numbers involved, but for the relevant recognition which UGLE gave it denying at the same time the one earlier given to GOI.

This flourishing of Grand Lodges and lack of organisation at the same time characterised the Italian Masonic scenario throughout the XXth Century.

The above is just a brief summary of the most relevant facts of the history Italian Freemasonry that, by the end of the XXth Century is mainly represented, as for the first three degrees (Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master) of solar Masonry (men only) by:

- **GOI**
- **GLRI**
- **Various Grand Lodges**, mainly deriving from the Grand Lodge of Piazza del Gesù or from schism within GOI (like Grand Lodge of Italy of the Universal Masonry of Palazzo Giustiniani - GLDI della MU da PG, established in 1978 by Vittorio Colao, Pierangelo Mininnj, Giovanni Pica and others).

### **Why GOIF – Italian Masonic Renaissance in the third millennium?**

#### **Whereas**

The above described Masonic Panorama has been strongly affected by situations outside Masonic Traditions and was led by spurious -fake-Masonic deviations.

#### **Whereas**

There is a heart-felt necessity to go back to the Beauty of Initiation, the inner research of Man, the intellectual and spiritual achievements through the study of symbolism, the application of esoteric knowledge for the conquest of the "pure" concept of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

## Requiring

All Italian Brethren the "true" return to the Universal Masonic Tradition, because we all wish to make it "our own garden full of flowers and fountains of fresh and clear water of strength, virtue and harmony" where all of us, Masons, shall be able to drink deep from.

## The answer

Is the establishment of GOIF – MHC of Italy, which works under the auspices of the MHCMW (*Masonic High Council Mother of the World*), a Grand Orient Federal of Italy made up of Grand Lodges and Grand Orients regularly working according to the initiatic regularity and old traditions (Landmarks).

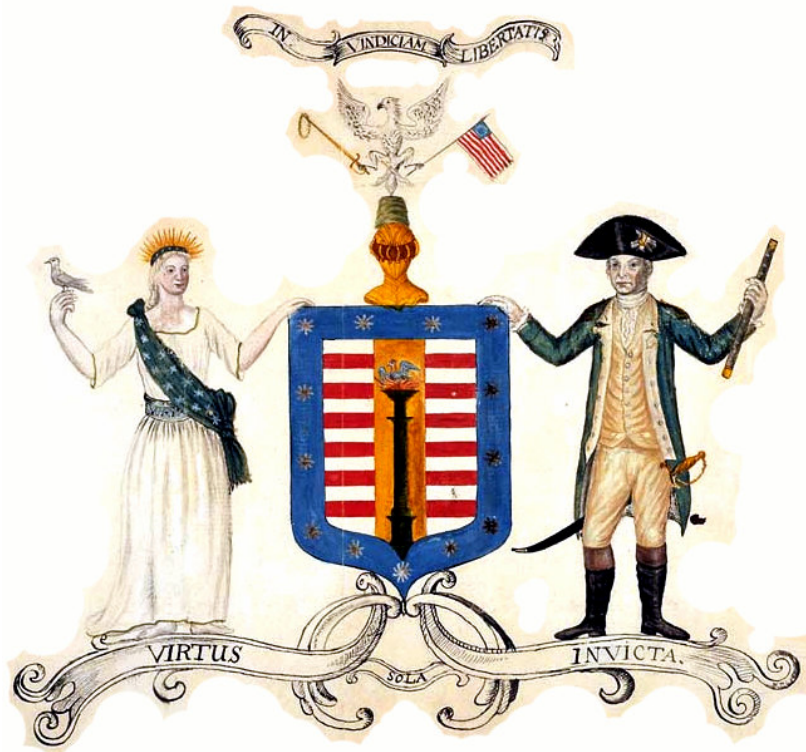
GOIF is a regular and federal Masonic Obedience of the first three degrees that, in respect of the historical identity of its constituent Grand Lodges and/or Grand Orients, along with several Masonic Allegiances working under the auspices of the RGLE-MHCMW throughout the world, has endorsed Treaties such as the "Treaty of London" and the "Accord of Paris" that aim at fostering the development of the Universal Freemasonry of "true" traditions.

Outstanding efforts and work are being done by all GOIF Brethren in order to achieve a Masonic unity and the goal of joining together Initiates.

GOIF keeps a continuous contact and remain available for comparing it-self with others Masonic Obedience's, provided that they are respectful of the landmarks and in compliance with the Italian laws on Masonic associations, which might be willing to play a role as protagonist, in this venturing work of our:

### **Italian Masonic Renaissance in the third millennium**





**MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges, Conference of Grand Masters**

**Annual Masonic Conference**

**18 August 2007**

**Greetings:**

To all Regular Free Masons,

We hereby give notice that the Masonic High Council the Mother High Council of the World and the Masonic High Council of the USA communicate that an International Masonic Conference of Regular Grand Lodges and Conference of Grand Master is planned to convene at the venue of the Holiday Inn, 500 Holiday Drive, Matteson, Illinois 60443 on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007. The International Masonic Conference will start promptly 08:00AM.

**CONVENTION & DINNER BALL**

In the evening at 06:00PM will commence the Convention Dinner and to fellowship with all brethren travelling from overseas to the United States. The Convention Dinner & Ball package costs US\$50 per individual member and US\$90 per couples.

**HOTEL COST**

The Hotel cost is: US\$99 per room, per night plus 11% tax for a total of US\$110.

The Masonic High Council of the United States ask that all Regular Craft Free Masons in good standing attending, to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible, in order to give the hosting Regular Grand Lodge of Illinois an idea of the participation numbers. We are looking forward to having the privileged to join with you all in the true spirit of Masonic Fellowship with all Regular Craft Free Masons of the United States and from the rest of the world.

Fraternally,

Joseph Burris, MHCUSA  
Secretary General



## MHC OF CHILE

### News of a new lodge

The Masonic High Council of Chile is happy to report positive developments resulting in the consecration of the following new lodge:

Pythagoras Lodge No. 2 meeting in the Orient of Santiago de Chile, Chile

All further correspondence or enquiries of any kind should be directed to our Grand Secretary at:

[altoconsejomasonico.chile@gmail.com](mailto:altoconsejomasonico.chile@gmail.com)



## MHC OF AUSTRALIA

### News of a new lodge

The Masonic High Council the Mother High Council, is pleased to inform on the creation of a new Lodge in Australia.

We wish all the Brethren in Australia all the best in their new beginnings and wish them great prosperity for the future, knowing that the future of regular Craft Freemasonry in Australia is now assured.



## REGULAR GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS

### New Lodges in Illinois

The Regular Grand Lodge of Illinois is pleased to report the founding of the following new lodges under its jurisdiction:

The Ancient Travellers Lodge No. 6

Gideon Lodge No. 7

Brothers of Euclid Lodge No. 8

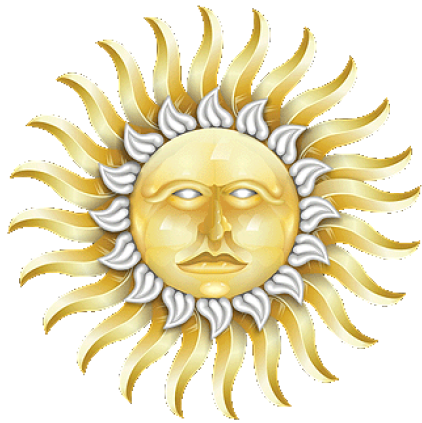
Once again we have shown that the spirit of true Antient Freemasonry is being joyfully revived in the United States of America, particularly here in the State of Illinois. We shall continue to build and keep you, via this Newsletter of the Regular Grand Lodge of England, completely informed of our further successes.



## MHC OF CANADA News of a new lodge

The Masonic High Council the Mother High Council, is pleased to inform on the creation of a new Lodge in Canada. We wish all the Brethren in Canada all the best in their new beginnings and wish them great prosperity for the future, knowing that the future of regular Craft Freemasonry in Australia is now assured.





## MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL OF GERMANY

Developments are moving slowly but in the right direction from our point of view. Many contacts have been made particularly with disillusioned brethren of the two English speaking Grand Lodges in Germany, The American Canadian Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany.

In spite of brethren being put under tremendous pressure bordering almost on threats and bullying, many Masons have been in dialogue with our fledgling Masonic High Council making inquiries regarding the formation of lodges. The unfortunate head in the sand attitude of the above mentioned two "Grand Lodges" only gives us more encouragement to redouble our efforts and set up our first lodge. We will report of developments in future newsletters. A recent meeting of supporters of the Regular Grand Lodge of England drew an attendance of brethren from the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany which amounts to some 5% of total membership resident in Germany.



## Important News

Dear Brethren,

Our Grand Secretary's staffs are working hard to ensure that this newsletter is prepared and sent out to all of you on a regular basis. We urge you all to send in all items which you may feel are of interest to the thousands of brethren who receive this newsletter. Although we cannot always guarantee to include it we can certainly promise not to if you do not send it! Although we will not publish your name if you do not wish us to, please let us know who it is from.

We look forward to receiving many of your items.

### **From the staff of the Office of the Grand Secretary, Regular Grand Lodge of England**

All enquiries, submissions and articles should be sent to the attention of The Grand Secretary of the Regular Grand Lodge of England

**Grand Secretary  
Masonic High Council  
Regular Grand Lodge of England  
14 Clarendon Street,  
Dover, Kent CT17 9RE ENGLAND**

**tel: +44 (0)1304226033**

**e-mail: [masoniccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:masoniccouncil@gmail.com)**

**[www.rgle.org.uk](http://www.rgle.org.uk)**

*"We are unable to return material submitted by individual brethren. Any submissions which are not signed will not be considered for publication."*