



Trestleboard

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

March, 2006

Volume XCIII, Number 3

THE SQUARE AND COMPASS(ES)

"And it was in the heart of David my father
to build an houses for the name of the Lord God of
Israel."
1 Kings 8:17

Knowledgeable Masons quickly recognize the Square and Compass, two of the Great Lights of any Masonic Lodge. In combination, they constitute the oldest, simplest and most universal symbol in Freemasonry. They are so recognizable as literally symbolizing Masonry that years ago, when a business firm attempted to adopt the Square and Compass as a trademark, the U.S. Patent Office refused permission on the ground that, "...there can be no doubt that this device, so commonly worn and employed by Masons, has an established mystic significance which is universally recognized." Indeed, nearly everywhere in Masonic ritual, as in the public mind, the Square and Compass are seen together as never being far apart. Since the Compass is an instrument composed of two arms, some Masonic jurisdictions refer to it as a "Compasses."

It is elementary to even the youngest Entered Apprentice that the Square is an emblem of morality, and that the Compass teaches men to circumscribe their desires and keep their passions in due bounds toward all mankind. While Masonic interpretations are well known, tracing the origin of Masonic use of these symbols is much more problematic. To simply attribute Masonic use of those instruments to tradition is not at all satisfying to the inquiring mind. As is so with most symbols in Freemasonry, nothing definitive is written about the Square and Compass in Masonic history. Therefore, one is required to use logic and intuition in conjunction with what Masonic history that does exist to discover the probable truth.

While some may disparage conclusions necessarily based upon a belief that the Knights Templar were "founders" of Freemasonry, it is undeniable that in today's Craft, Freemasonry honors Knights Templar and, likewise, Knights Templar venerate Ancient Craft Masonry. Thus, some well recorded early Templar history is useful when considering the origin of the Square and Compass.

One of the oldest symbols known to the ancient Knights is the Seal of Solomon, also more popularly known as the Star of David. The Seal held special significance to the old warrior monks, accounts of whom are articulately set forth elsewhere in writings by prominent Masonic authors. Since Bibles were generally unavailable during the Middle Ages, it is deemed quite likely that the ancient Templars took their oaths while placing their right hands upon the Seal.

Even before the French and Papal persecution compelled the fleeing Templars to institute secret "modes of recognition" as a life saving measure, the old Knights veiled the deeper meaning of relevant symbols, such as the Seal, in allegory. (Interestingly, Freemasonry, too, has adopted allegory as its tool of secrecy, providing yet another piece of evidence that the Templars and Freemasons have some common source of origin.) In its most recognizable form, the Seal appears as two interwoven equilateral triangles. Being equilateral, each side of each triangle is of

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contact us

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619-291-0465**

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619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

In the past Blackmer Lodge had a Book Drive to donate to a local school. We would like to know what the feeling of the members is in reference to this book drive. Please call the Master or me and let us know

We still have several people who have not paid their dues for 2006. If your dues card does not read 31 December 2006 you are in arrears. Please take a few moments and send in your dues payment.

Congratulations goes out to Nicholas Prodanovich, as he took his Entered Apprentice Degree last Monday. His father is Worshipful Gary Prodanovich who is a Past Master of Blackmer.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR OUR STATED MEETING DINNER. CALL THE LODGE (619) 291-0465 OR CALL ME AT (619) 239-1900.

The ladies have a good time visiting with each other while we are in our meeting. So Please come to the meeting and be sure to bring your lady.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary



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the same precise length as each other side. The secret meaning of the Seal would correctly have been veiled to appear one way to the outside world, while representing something quite different to the initiated. For example, consider many of Da Vinci's artworks, the most famous of which is "The Last Supper." To the initiated, the character pointing heavenward with his index finger has a very significant esoteric meaning. The uninitiated simply sees it as a finger pointing upward.

To do so, thereby completely changing the Seal's appearance, nothing more is required than omitting the horizontal bars from the interwoven triangles. If you draw the remaining figure for yourself, it should not escape your notice how similar the symbol is to Freemasonry's Square and Compass. Although not definitive as to its origin, by any means, this similarity may not simply amount to random coincidence when it is recalled that each institution venerates the other.

In order for the occurrence to be a coincidence, it would also have to be a coincidence within a coincidence. For, if you have drawn your figure correctly, you will note the position of the "legs" of the "compass" derived from the Seal, with one "leg" above the "square" and one beneath it. That precisely copies the position of the Square and Compass as it is used in the Fellowcraft degree, which was once regarded as the degree of full membership in the brotherhood of Freemasons.

Assuming, arguendo, that the Square and Compass derive from the Seal, it is also logical to wonder why the Seal would have been so significant to ancient Templars. The use of the Seal, or Star of David, as a Jewish symbol is of fairly recent vintage. Early rabbinic literature has found no historical support for the claim that it represents the shape of King David's shield, as once was thought to be true. Nevertheless, the interwoven equilateral triangles have appeared in very ancient literature and artworks, some predating the arrival of the Templars.

Wholly apart from Judaism, the symbol was quite common during the Middle Ages as a sign of good fortune. Furthermore, various scholars have identified a deep theological meaning hidden within the symbol: the top triangle strives upward toward the Supreme Architect of the Universe, while the lower triangle strives downward toward the real world. That symbolism is common in Hermeticism – "as it is above, so shall it be below." When accepted in this context, Freemasons will surely recall the fraternity's special call for universality which permeates all Masonic ritual.

If the Holy Bible is the rule and guide of our faith, as all Freemasons are taught, the Square used as an emblem of morality in conjunction with the Compass representing regulation of conduct consistently displays implications of universality. Is it not so that the three Great Lights of Masonry suggest, promote and inculcate faith, hope and charity? Nothing can be more universal.

May the blessing of the Supreme Architect of the Universe be with you.
John Heisner, PM

(note: This article has been repeated by special request.)

WE HAD THE PLEASURE

We had the pleasure of hosting the Worshipful Frederick Klein, III, Inspector of the 493rd Masonic District at our February Stated Meeting. He brought greeting from the Grand Master and spoke briefly. We had the pleasure of conferring the First Degree upon Nicholas Prodanovich on February 13th. The Degree was particularly special because the Candidate's father is Worshipful Gary Prodanovich and he opened the Lodge and had the pleasure of obligating his son. What a thrill that must be. We look forward to Nicholas' proficiency and Second Degree very soon.

Blackmer Lodge

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A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA. Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA

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FROM THE EAST

Reading some papers from **The Southern California Research Lodge**, I came across the following notes about Brother Edwin Markham. He was made a Mason in Acacia Lodge No. 92 at Coloma, one of the Mother Lode Lodges which is no longer in existence. He moved to New York and there published many volumes of poems. He became recognized as one of America's greatest poets. Markham was an enthusiastic Mason throughout his long life. Many of his poems express beautifully the teachings of the Craft and the theme of brotherhood runs like a golden thread through his poems.

BROTHERHOOD

The crest and crowning of all good,
Life's final star, is Brotherhood;
Foe it will bring again to Earth
Her long-lost Poesy and Mirth;
Will send new light on every face,
A kingly power upon the race.
And till it comes we men are slaves,
And travel downward to the dust of graves.
Come, clear the way, then, clear the way:
Blind creeds and Kings have had their day.
Break the dead branches from the path:
Our hope is in the aftermath –
Our hope is in heroic men,
Star-led to build the world again.
To this event the ages ran:
Make way for Brotherhood - make way for
Man!
It was his CREED that:
There is a destiny that makes us brothers:
None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

MAN MAKING

We are all blind until we see
That in the human plan
Nothing is worth making if
It does not make the man.

Why build these cities glorious
If man unbuilted goes?
In vain we build the world, unless
The builder also grows.

I hope brethren that we continue to learn so that
we may better be enabled to teach.
Mihailo O'Zdravkovic, Master 2006

REPEAT - DINING OUT

Building on the success of our first Dining Out Night, we will REPEAT with an Asian flavor, Our Brother Tiler, Harry Besnoy, has arranged for us to dine out in February at the GREAT MOON BUFFET. It is located at 1840 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach (858-273-6868). Johnny says it is behind the Bagel Shop.

Please join in the dining-out experience and be with the group of Brethren, family and friends at 6:30 p.m. for what should be a very enjoyable evening. Call Harry if you have any questions or need additional information.



HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

NOON

Thursday, May 25, 2006

A superb menu has been planned
and guaranteed to favor your taste
buds.

Call in reservations
619-291-0465

**SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND
ITS PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED
AND ENCOURAGED!**

BIRTHDAYS

Francis Adams	3/10
Norman Alpert	3/12
Jonathan Blayman	3/03
Thomas Bossert	3/05
George Brassfield	3/27
Buford Broadway	3/12
Werner Dreifuss	3/12
Lou Dunst	3/11
Oberlin Evenson	3/26
Morey Feldman	3/07
Matt Foulger	3/18
Scott Gould	3/25
Justin Hammerlun	3/27
Carmi Hodge	3/13
Jim Hom	3/07
Saul Klein, PM	3/03
Ray Krum	3/24
Albino Navasca	3/01
Laurence Plummer	3/09
Richard Saldano, PM	3/01
Emeterio Salindong	3/03
Robert Smith	3/17
Frederick Swenson	3/29
Konstantin Swerilas	3/30
John Voring	3/19

Happy Birthday to these Brethren! We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.



BULLETIN BY EMAIL

A growing number of your fellow members of Blackmer Lodge in receiving your copy of the Bulletin electronically. To join in, just drop an Email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net to begin receiving your Bulletin in an Email.

Be on the cutting edge, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2006.

Please be considerate and make your dinner reservations early. If you are going to come to one of our dinners, make reservations. Two days in advance is sufficient, but please reserve.

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United We Stand, Together we can
 Make a Difference,
 The Family of Freemasonry

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MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

March

Thurs 2nd **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465. **Business Casual**
Mon 6th **DINE OUT NIGHT of the year at Great Moon, 6:30 p.m.**
Thurs 9th Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Mon 13th Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Thurs 16th Officers' Practice - Deacons, Marshal, Stewards
Mon 20th Officers' Practice - Deacons, Marshal, Stewards
Thurs 23rd Dark - San Diego Chapter, Royal Arch meeting
Mon 27th Inspector's School of Instruction - 837 works - First Degree, First
 Section and Lecture options, 574 Hosts, 7:00 p.m. - All officers
 to attend unless excused by the Inspector, call him at 619-461-
 5724
 Thurs 30th **Second Degree**, tentative, pending candidate

April

Mon 3rd **DINE OUT NIGHT - Location to be determined, 6:30 p.m.**
Thurs 6th **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

MARCH STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Beef Kabobs and Roast Turkey with Cranberry Sauce
 Scalloped Potatoes and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
 Spring Mix Salad and Apple Crumb Cake
 Beverages and rolls



Call your reservations to Johnny at 619-291-0465

