

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



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SEPTEMBER 2003 –OCTOBER 2003



Enlightenment Gala

Wed. 11/12/03, 6 p.m.

Ashley Manor, Old Hammond Highway

Few people have studied the records of 18th-century European Masonic Lodges as comprehensively as has Professor Margaret Jacob, a **Professor of History at**

UCLA. Dr. Jacob holds the degree of Ph.D. from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York (1968). She also holds an honorary Ph.D. from The University of Utrecht, in the Netherlands. Prior to 1998, she was a **Professor of the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania**, and she has held **full Professorships at five other major universities**, including the University of South Florida.

She has held **Fellowships at Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, The University of Lieden, The University of Amsterdam, The University of Ulster, and L'ecole des Hautes Etudes** (The School of Higher Studies), in Paris.

In Living the Enlightenment, Professor Jacob points out that Masonic Lodges introduced to the men (and some women) of the Continent the concept of constitutional and representative governance. Masonry was,

...a new corporate entity...Freemasonry transformed a social phenomenon into politics and opinion into action... established a constitutional form of self-government... sought to...augment the order and harmony of civil society...More so than any of the other forms of private sociability, freemasonry wove enlightened ideas into a tapestry of rituals and oaths, rules of conduct intended to induce loyalty and civility....

Professor Jacob has served on the **editorial boards** of major journals of history, including "The American Historical Review", "The Journal of Modern History", "The Journal of British Studies", "Eighteenth Century Studies", and "Restoration", among others. Dr. Jacob points out that,

What draws the historian to freemasonry is not simply its secrecy...we are compelled by the content of the moral, ethical, and political prescriptions permeating masonic rituals and discourse.

Professor Jacob reasons that if we are to understand the relationship between Freemasonry and The Enlightenment, then we should go inside -- we should closely study all available records of European Lodges from that era (essentially comprising the Eighteenth Century). Further, by pursuing such a study, we can hope to gain an intimately **personal understanding of the experience of "Living the Enlightenment"**.

In pursuit of this "In Living Color" perspective on The Enlightenment, Dr. Jacob made an exhaustive study of the 18th-century records of the Lodge, "La Bien Aimée", in Amsterdam; the GL of the Netherlands; Masonic records in the "Bibliotheque Nationale", in Paris; and Masonic records in the Central Library of Dundee, Scotland.

Professor Jacob has authored **more than 40 articles in major journals**. Major addresses she has delivered -- too numerous to describe here -- include the **Plenary Address to the World History Association in 1996** and addresses in 2002 to the **All Ireland Humanities Conference** and the **Grand Orient of France**.

Alone or in collaboration, she has authored **ten major books, including most notably --**

Jacob, Margaret. Living the Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Europe. Oxford University Press. New York. 1991.

At 6 p.m. on 11/12/03, Professor Jacob will speak at Ashley Manor, in Baton Rouge. Her topic will be, "Freemasonry and the Complexity of Cosmopolitanism in Eighteenth-Century Europe"

We look forward to seeing you there.

See right hand column for ticket information.

PAST EVENTS

Sep. 4

Sep. 11

Sep. 18

Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)

(Special; 6 p.m.) Entered Apprentice Degree

Two Fellow Craft Degrees

Enlightenment Gala

Wed. 11/12/03, 6 p.m. Ashley Manor

Payment of \$50/person should be made by check **ASAP** to Bro. Bill Mollere, 10525 Rondo Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70815-4845. Full information at left -- "From the East".

The Future Of St. James Lodge And The Surrounding Area!

Our Lodge building is at the center of the "Downtown Development District". On 10/02/03, Mr. DAVIS ROHRER, Director of the Downtown Development District, will tell us the future of Downtown Development. Exciting news for us!

We will have "Past Masters Night", review our Lodge's past, and get a precious glimpse at the future.

This is an open meeting. Bring your wife and your friends. Delicious dinner at 6:30, catered by Frank's Smokehouse -- baked chicken and vegetables. with rolls. salad. and desert.

THREE MASTER MASON DEGREES

IN FULL REGALIA

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Saturday Morning, November 15, 2003

St. James Lodge

Breakfast at 7 a.m.; Ceremony at 8 a.m.

ALL REGULAR MASTER MASONS INVITED

FUTURE EVENTS

Oct. 2

Mr. Davis Rohrer + PM Night (Open/meal 6:30)

Oct. 9

(Special, 6:30) Examine EA; Confer FC Degree

Oct. 16

French Lodge EA Degree Demonstration

Nov 6

Shrine Presentation; Examine 3 FC Catechism

Nov 15

(Special, bkfst @ 7; degr @ 8) 3MM, Full Regalia

Nov. 20

Thanksgiving Feast (Open/meal 6:30)

Dear Brethren:

I have missed sitting in Lodge with my Brothers. My work has taken me away from home constantly since early June and there is no immediate end in sight.

WM: Wade has approved my request that I be relieved of my duties as Sr. Deacon. I feel it is in the best interest of the Lodge that I step out of the line before standing for election to the Jr. Warden's station.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Lodge and you, my Brothers. Hope to see you all soon.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Tom Bennett

Illness, News and Relief

Our condolences and prayers go out to Brother Dale Ducote on the sudden death of his wife, Gloria. She passed away early Sunday, 7 Sep, 2003.

In place of the usual "Old Tiler" piece, we present, with his permission, the text of Bro. Avadhesh Prasad's address to St. James Lodge, given on August 21, 2003 --

Worshipful Master. Dr. Larry Wade, And Brethren
Kindly accept my fraternal Greetings.

I also bring you the Greetings from the W.M and Brethren of Lodge Swarn Jayanti, #312 on the roll of the Grand lodge of India. It is situated in NOIDA. Mine is relatively a new Lodge. In fact we have yet to raise our own Temple, and wrought a healthy tradition.

It is my pleasure to meet with you all this evening. I can assure you that I have been looking forward to this meeting with a considerable anticipation. To that end my special thanks are addressed to Bro. Naresh Sharma for his invaluable support, inordinate patience and unflinching interest in my quest to discover Freemasonry and its finer nuances in the USA, especially the Scottish Rite. Thanks, Brother!

Now it is my turn to briefly introduce you to Free Masonry in India. Initially, the Freemasonry was introduced on the Indian sub-continent in the 18th Century, say around 1728 by mariners and soldiers of European origin. Soon afterwards, a variety of Lodges sprung up under various Grand Lodges of Europe all over the sub-continent. The affiliation of these Lodges was primarily determined by the origin of the local patrons. In those days, the indigenous gentry was conspicuous by its absence in the Lodges.

This reservation on the part of Indians was due to several reasons. Primarily, it was not prudent to mix with aliens for social and political reasons. Socializing as a group was repugnant to the contemporary Indian values. Club culture was unknown in those days. They met in a group only to celebrate an event, seldom otherwise.

Then, there was a wide gulf in life-style of these two diverse people. All those differences inhibited Indians from joining the Lodge. Merged in orthodoxy, the Indians had some very serious reservations about European eating habits. Even touching, let alone eating certain food items were absolutely prohibited, just as these were indulgently relished by the Europeans.

The segregation was further augmented by what was then presumed to be an exclusive, mysterious and secret conclave of foreigners by most Indians. Over and above, there was this barrier of language, which also discouraged the Indian gentry from joining the Order. In vernacular, Masonic Temples of that era often bore hideous, even sinister names: Venues of ghosts, house of black magic, you name it!

In short, esoteric practice of this new Order, called Free Masonry, must have appeared to be rather repugnant to the indigenous population. They were already distanced from the Order and its precepts by the barriers of language and custom. Nevertheless, by early 19th century while Napoleon was wresting with General Winter to occupy Moscow, the first indigenous Free Mason entered the scene. It was a hesitant beginning, but a start was made.

Here, I will slightly digress to highlight a fact. Indians actually had no real reason ever to dismiss Free Masonry. There is a remarkable similarity in Hindu ethos and the Masonic thinking. This perhaps is the reason why eminent thinker and Free Mason Albert Pike wrote as many as three treatise and commentaries relative to Hindu theosophy.

In the following years, like everywhere else in Free Masonry, we have had many illustrious personalities on our roll. Philosopher and thinkers like Swami Vivekananda and C. Rajagopalachari are just a few of them. The latter was the first and the last Indian Governor General of India as well. . .

Freemasonry proliferated profoundly in British India. The backbone of the Order was mostly the members of the Armed forces and the Civil

Administrative Services. In due time it also found favour with the Princes and Rulers of some of the Princely states. Their attendance made the institution even more popular and prestigious. This encouraged several industrialists to join its ranks as well. In the British days our Lodges continued to be a part of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland.

In 1947 India attained independence. Soon afterwards a strong need was felt to have an indigenous Grand Lodge of our own. The dream materialized in 1961; and on November 24, The Grand Lodge of India was formally consecrated. In the beginning, only a few existing Lodges opted to switch over their affiliation in favour of the new Grand Lodge. But slowly more and more Lodges joined the Grand Lodge of India. It would indeed be The Grand Lodge of India ultimately.

The new Grand Lodge inherited and adopted all essential values of its predecessor Lodges. It also modified some of the rituals to suit indigenous needs. Today there are more than 325 Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of India. There are four Regional Lodges under the Grand Lodge. These jurisdictions are organized and named after four cardinal points of the compass.

Our Rituals are generally same as any where else in a Free and Accepted Mason's Lodge. In India we are mostly, what is called, Craft or Blue Lodge. That is not to say that we do not have other degrees. Additional degrees that we work are: Royal Arch (Chapter), Mark Master Mason Lodge, Royal Ark Mariner, and the Order of Secret Monitor.

I would now like to add a few words about our charitable activities. We are ceaselessly trying to reach our citizenry through our charitable projects at all levels. Apart from many projects which are being pursued countrywide by various daughter Lodges independently, the Grand Lodge has its own program to pursue.

Gen. William's Masonic Charitable Polyclinic in New Delhi is the hub of our service to the community. It is run on no-profit-no-loss basis. There are over twenty four doctors, medical specialists and dentists attending the patients every working day. Besides there is a full fledged diagnostic department equipped for the whole range of pathological testing, In addition we also do ECG, CATSCAN and sonography on the premises. There are two satellite clinics and three pathological samples collection centres which are interspersed in the East and the West Delhi and NOIDA - a sub-urban township near Delhi. In NOIDA we are also running a spastic's school for physically impaired children.

Good education for children at affordable cost is another area that is being supported by the Grand Lodge. We are addressing this issue by building a school in South Delhi. In addition, several scholarships are also awarded to deserving students to promote healthy spirit of competition.

Finally, I would like to sum up the overall health of the Craft in India. In my humble opinion we do have some way to go. Ours are same problems which afflict Free Masonry universally; and just, as are faced in any Lodge, anywhere. The usual ones: Like casual attendance; lack of interest; aging membership; poor management, and poor motivation to appreciate and practice the essence of the Order. I am in search of a better understanding for revival of that Masonic spirit which I have always revered. I am here in a hope to discover the better means to involve the community, and to serve it better in India.

Thank you

[WM Note -- Bro. Prasad, Captain, Indian Navy, Ret., delivered the above address to the membership of St. James Lodge on the evening of August 21, 2003. Bro. Prasad was in this country for the purpose of attending the Masonic Renewal seminar in Woodworth, LA, on August 23. Brethren, he came all this way in hope of learning how he might best serve The Craft. "Swarn Jayanti", I am advised, translates to "Golden Jubilee" and refers to the fact that their Lodge was chartered in 1997, the 50th anniversary of Indian National Independence.]

Visit <http://www.calodges.org/no442/Old%20Tiler%20Talks/OldTilerTalksMenu.htm> to read "OldTiler" stories.

Thanks to those who have commented on the 'Old Tiler' stories. --bz-
Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu



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