

Ex Oriente Lux — Light from the East



THE FIRST PILLAR

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A newsletter of the American Administration of the Eastern Order of International Co-Freemasonry
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news from Latin America

THE GRAND MASTER PRESIDENT'S TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA

THE M. ILL. BRO. RADHA BURNIER 33°, Grand Master of the Eastern Order and President of its Supreme Council, was on a tour of Latin American countries between April 2 and May 17. During this tour she visited with Masonic Brethren from Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. And she also traveled in Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Mexico.

In Brazil, which, with New Zealand, is the largest Administration outside of India, Bro. Burnier met with the Representative, The V. Ill. Bro. Enide Borges de Resende 33°, and other Brn of the Order in that country. She addressed a special meeting held in the national capital of Brasilia, where she was received with honors.

In Argentina, Bro. Burnier likewise met with Brn of Logia Conde de St. Germain in the Orient of Rosario. They have a well-appointed Temple and are preparing for several initiations and advancements. Other Brn from Mendoza and Cordoba who had earlier become inactive are asking to have their Lodges reactivated under the Eastern Order. So we look forward to an increase of Light in the southernmost nation of the Western Hemisphere.

In Costa Rica, the three Lodges of that country met in a spirit of brotherly love and harmony at a special meeting held to receive The M. Ill. Grand Master. There was a consensus about the choice of a Representative from Costa Rica on the Supreme Council: Dr. María Eugenia Dengo Vargas 32°. She is Professor Emerita in Education at the University of San José and her nomination was subsequently ratified by the Supreme Council, which has welcomed her to its membership. And we all welcome Costa Rica as the most recent national Administration of the Eastern Order.

Bro. Burnier also met with the new R.W.M. of Logia Racokzi in the Orient of San Juan, Puerto Rico, R.W. Bro. Magaly Polanco 3°, who had traveled to Costa Rica. With the agreement of our Puerto Rican Brn, their Lodge will be transferred to the American Administration, whose Representative, The V. Ill. Bro. John Algeo, has already contacted Bro. Polanco. She has invited him to visit Puerto Rico in order to assist them in furthering the work there, and plans will soon be made for a future visit.

In Cuba, Bro. Burnier, accompanied by Bro. de Resende from Brazil, initiated five persons into Freemasonry. They are joining two other Brn already in that country in studying to prepare the new E.A.s for advancement, with an eye to the future development of the Order. There is great enthusiasm among the new Brn, for whose progress in seeking more Light we look forward to assisting as it is possible to do so.

PILGRIMS LODGE

PILGRIMS LODGE has been launched as an experiment in Masonic education and extension. This “virtual” Lodge is intended for Brn whose cable tow does not extend to any of the existing local Lodges but who want to be active in Masonry and the Eastern Order.

Members of Pilgrims Lodge may be Brn who have already been initiated into Freemasonry but who, not being near a local Lodge, choose to affiliate with this Lodge in order to participate in its activities. They receive a monthly study paper and have a Preceptor (in this case, a sort of Masonic “big brother”) to correspond with about the study papers and Masonry in general. The papers deal with the practices, purposes, ideals, history, symbols, and rituals of Freemasonry. Brn of the Lodge devote some time weekly to such study, as well as to meditation on Masonic themes and ritual. The first two such members of Pilgrims Lodge are Bros June Lennon 3° and Karis Post 2°, who demitted from the Grande Loge Feminine de Belgique, seeking a greater emphasis on the spiritual values and inner wisdom of Freemasonry in the Eastern Order.

Pilgrims Lodge also welcomes new initiates into Freemasonry. Because it is nonlocal, it performs no ceremonies itself, but a candidate for Freemasonry who has been well and worthily recommended, regularly proposed and approved, is initiated into Freemasonry by one of the existing local Lodges, to which the candidate must come for that ceremony. Upon the candidate’s Entry into Freemasonry, he or she is assigned to Pilgrims Lodge for guidance and direction in the Craft. Such new Brn receive the same study papers and follow the same regimen as affiliated Brn who are already Freemasons. Further progress in the Craft, as approved by the new Bro’s Preceptor and the overseers of the Pilgrims Lodge, will warrant advancement ceremonies, which are also carried out by one of the local Lodges. The first such Entering ceremony will be performed this summer.

WEB SITE

OUR WEB SITE has produced a large number of inquiries about Freemasonry and the Eastern Order. Several applications to join the Order have resulted from it, and more are in prospect. If you have not spent some time swinging on this Web, you will find it interesting and informative to do so. The Web site’s short URL is “CoMasonic.net” or “CoMasonic.com” (with capitals optional), and the full address has the form <http://comasonic.net/>.

We are contemplating the possibility of some revisions in the format of the Web site, so if any Brn have ideas or recommendations for improving the site, we urge you to send them to both the Representative (JohnAlgeo@aol.com) and the Web Master, Ill. Bro Ruben Cabigting 30° rubencabigting@cyberonic.com

LODGES

LOCAL LODGES in the continental United States are

- Sirius Lodge, No. 20, in the Orient of Wheaton, Illinois, whose R.W. Master is W. Bro. Ananya Rajan 3°, regularly meeting on the second Saturday of each month, and
- Atlanta Lodge, No. 21, in the Orient of Atlanta, Georgia, whose R.W. Master is W. Bro. Barbara Thames 3°, regularly meeting on the third Saturday of each month.

Both of these Lodges have been active with Enterings, Passings, and Raisings.

SECOND MEETING OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

IN DECEMBER 2002, the Supreme Council of the Eastern Order of International Co-Freemasonry held its first meeting on the twenty-second of that month, after the adoption of the Constitution of the reformed Order and its model General Regulations and Lodge Regulations. At that meeting, The Very Ill. Bro. Radha Burnier 33° was elected as Most Illustrious Grand Master, President of the Supreme Council, and The Very Ill. Bro. Desiree Collins 33° was elected as Most Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Vice President of the Supreme Council. In addition, Ill. Brn Amarnath Rao and C. Malathi 32° were appointed as Officers of the Secretariat of the Eastern Order of International Co-Freemasonry.

The Supreme Council now has Representatives from six countries, which are

- Brazil, The V. Ill. Bro. Enide Borges de Resende 33°,
- Costa Rica, The Ill. Bro. María Eugenia Dengo de Vargas 32°,
- India, The M. Ills. Bro. Radha Burnier 33°,
- New Zealand, The M. Ills. Bro. Desiree Collins-Turvey 33°,
- Spain, The V. Ill. Bro. Carmen César 33°, and
- United States of America, The V. Ills. Bro. John Algeo 33°.

The second meeting of this body will be held at the Zenith of Adyar in January 2005. A topic to be considered at this meeting will be the adoption of a standard “Tyler” or specification of signs, words, steps, grips, and other methods of recognition. Because our Lodges come from several different linguistic and Masonic cultures, differences in their traditions have come into existence. While some local variations are inevitable and indeed desirable, the basic elements of Masonic practice should be recognizable around the world. The adoption of a Tyler will be a step in that direction.

news from other Orders

GREAT BRITAIN

SINCE OUR LAST REPORT of its activities in *The First Pillar*, no. 3 (October 2003), our sister Order in Great Britain, the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry for Men and Women, has seen continued progress and development. A significant event was the passing of the baton of Grand Master from the first Most Worshipful Grand Master, J. Michael Westcott, to his successor, the second Most Worshipful Grand Master, Jeanne E. M. Heaslewood. The ceremony of her enthronement took place at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London, on February 15, 2004. Representatives from several other Orders attended, including, on behalf of the Eastern Order, The V. Ill. Bro. Enide Borges de Resende 33° from Brazil and The V. Ill. Bro. Carmen César 33° from Spain. The American Administration sent the following message:

To the newly Enthroned Most Worshipful Grand Master Jeanne E. M. Heaslewood:

Greetings and hearty good wishes for harmonious, faithful, productive, and progressive years of office, under the inspiration and watchful Eye of the Most High and with the dedicated cooperation of all Masonic Brethren throughout the World.

It is a special pleasure to extend to you and the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry for Men and Women in Great Britain the heartiest congratulations and fraternal regards of all Freemasons of the American Administration of the Eastern Order of International Co-Freemasonry. Close links have united our Orders from their beginnings, and were solidified by your and the Grand Secretary’s most appreciated attendance at the organizational meeting of the Eastern Order in the

Zenith of Adyar on 15–18 December 2002. Your fidelity to the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry has inspired us, and your cooperation has strengthened us.

On behalf of the American Administration, myself, and Bro. Adele Algeo, I wish you personally as well as your Grand Lodge the best of futures. We look forward to continued cooperation in the Great Work of Freemasonry to the Glory of T.G.A.O.T.U. and the Perfection of Humanity.

Cordially and fraternally yours, John Algeo, Grand Master

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Officers of the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry for Men & Women (Pearl King, Michael Westcott, Nick Ferrari, and Jeanne Heaslewood) with the Grand Master of the Eastern Order, Radha Burnier, in London.



Six Brn of Atlanta Lodge, No. 21: Jennifer Gariepy 2°, Janet Fink 3°, Barbara Thames 3° (R.W.M.), Adele Algeo 3°, Gayle Smith 18° (R.W.I.P.M), and Timothy Cuddington 3



Nine Brn of the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry for Men and Women in Great Britain on the occasion of their receiving the Thirty-Third and Last Degree of the Scottish Rite, with The M. Ill. Bro Radha Burnier, who conferred the Degree upon them, assisted by The V. Ill. Bro. John Algeo, in the London Temple.