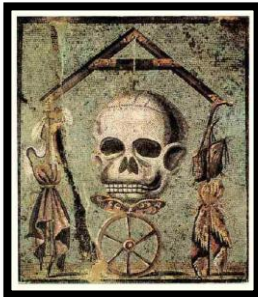


You are cordially welcome to attend the meetings of the
Southchurch Masonic Study Circle
The Saxon Hall, Aviation Way
Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6UN
Contact the Secretary : Pierre Waddoups for more information
Email: pwaddoups7798@yahoo.co.uk

Tracing Board or Decorative Altar - Found at Pompeii in 1874



In the National Museum at Naples there is a remarkable mosaic tabletop, or altar top which was situated in the centre of a rectangular room exactly as Masonic Altars have ever been erected in Lodge rooms. The workmanship is excellent, and the colouring when the discovery was made was bright and fresh, but has in all probability faded, as all the Pompeii colours have done. Mural paintings, of which so many have been found in the ruins, have suffered the same fate. Pompeii was buried - although not, as we now know destroyed when the nearby, supposedly extinct, volcano Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, covering the town and its inhabitants in many tons of pumice and

volcanic ash. The disaster remained in people's minds for many years but was eventually forgotten, until the exploration of the ancient site started in an area called 'Civita', in 1748. This was found to be a comparatively easy task, because the debris that had caused such chaos was light and not compacted. Giuseppe Fiorelli (pictured right) 1823 -1896 directed the Pompeii excavation from 1863 to 1875 -introducing an entirely new system for the project. Instead of uncovering the streets first, in order to excavate the houses from the ground floor up, he imposed a system of uncovering the houses from the top down - a better way of preserving everything that was discovered. This beautiful mosaic, which is believed to be the top of the Altar, shows a large square above death's head with a plumb-line from the angle of the square to the middle point of the crown of the head. From each arm of the square there is a suspended a robe of which one was scarlet and the other purple which are distinctive colours used in the Royal Arch degree. Below the chin of the head is a beautifully coloured butterfly (or moth), and under the butterfly is a circle, that Masonic emblem of Divinity without beginning or end. There was also found in the same room several articles inherent in Blue and in Royal Arch Masonry a little urn which is believed to be the pot of manna, a setting maul, a trowel, a spade, a small chest thought to be an imitation of the "Ark of the Covenant" and a small staff thought to be a phallus. This evidence, compelling as may be are confirmed by the inscription over the door of the house which is "DIOGENESEN" which means "Diogenes the Mason". Bro. Allan de Luca



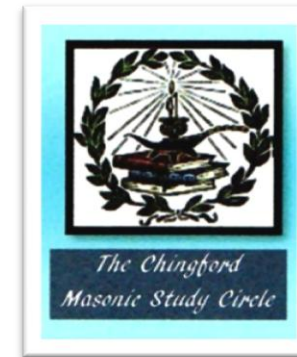
Acknowledgements

[1] The Builder – January 1915 – MasonicDictionary.com

[2] Hainault Lodge – Newsletters 1969-1977 – original idea for the article

This article by Bro. Allan De Luca has been seriously abridged to make it fit

Chingford Masonic Study Circle



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Chairman: W Bro Dennis Jane PPGStwd
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Email: Brianjames1b@hotmail.co.uk
The Cottage, Warlies Gardens,
Horseshoe Hill, Waltham Abbey
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You are cordially invited to our Study
Circle meeting on

Wednesday 28th July 2010

The Chingford Masonic Hall

Forest Approach

Chingford, London E4 7AZ

At. 7.30 p.m.

Guests are Welcome

Secretary: W Bro Brian James

Chingford Masonic Study Circle

Agenda

1. To welcome visitors and prospective new members
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To read and if approved, confirm the Minutes of the Inaugural meeting held on Thursday, 30th June 2010
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Objects of Masonic Interest
6. W Bro Allan de Luca to give a talk on “Sir Francis Columbine Daniel and the formation of the RMIB”.
8. To present on permanent loan an artefact of Masonic Interest to W Bro Pierre Waddoups, Curator of the Province of Essex Library and Museum for the benefit of our Masonic heritage.
9. Questions and Answers
10. Any Other Business
11. To Close the meeting

CHINGFORD MASONIC HALL WEBSITE

chingfordmasonichall.org.uk

All the Study Group information is also available on the web-site, please follow the link of the Chingford Masonic Hall when you log onto the site.

Do you have an interesting Talk or have artefacts to present to the Chingford Masonic Study Circle? Please contact a member of the committee who will be pleased to hear from you and arrange a meeting date for you to present your paper on your Masonic specialist subject

Future Diary Dates

You are cordially invited to our meetings and please bring a guest.

Monday 20th December 2010

Study Circle meeting followed by a cheese and wine buffet.

A nominal charge of £5.00 will be made to each member and guest attending the December meeting.

Please notify the Secretary of your intention to attend the Study Circle Meeting so that the caterers can be advised of the numbers for the buffet.

Wednesday 23rd March 2011

Study Circle meeting and A.G.M., a full agenda with a guest speaker.

Wednesday 27th July 2011 – regular Study Circle meeting with a guest speaker

Monday, 19th December 2011

Study Circle regular meeting with a cheese and wine buffet with a guest speaker

Provincial Library and Museum

The Library and Museum came into existence over four years ago and is continuing to expand. It is a valuable resource, not just for Freemasons who wish to research the subject of Freemasonry, but also for members of the public who are curious about the craft and such things as, if a relative of theirs was a Freemason, and the name of the Lodge to which they may have belonged.

The Library and Museum of the United Grand Lodge of England is also an excellent source of research, and I have personally spent many hours in the Library and Museum doing research on many subjects, and have found the Library Staff to be most helpful. If you have not visited UGL and taken the Tour of Grand Lodge, I would suggest you make a visit, you will find of much interest. *Allan de Luca – Fiducial Lodge No.8753*