

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa, No. 137 June 2023



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Enhancing our Masonic Journey

As archaeologists steadily discover more of old Jerusalem, so do the Masonic degrees under the Orders of the Royal Arch, the Cryptic Rite and the Knights of Captivity become more relevant. The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa is a separate but integral part of our Grand Lodge and it is therefore important for you, our members, to know how you can enhance your Masonic journey after obtaining your third or Master Mason's degree in your Craft Lodge. There is a logical progression of Masonic degrees from the Apprentice degree, dated at the start of the construction of King Solomon's temple in Jerusalem in about 974 BCE, through its destruction by the Babylonians to the construction of the second temple in Jerusalem about 400 years later.

Three of these degrees are grouped under the Royal Arch Order, four under the Cryptic Rite and three under the Knights of Captivity. All these degrees fall under our Supreme Grand Chapter. The degree of Mark Master Mason, being the first degree in our Royal Arch Order, complements the Fellowcraft degree and is based on a date between 974 and 967 BCE, being the accepted period during which King Solomon's temple was constructed. It teaches us about Masons' Marks and their importance in the construction of the temple. As records were lost and memories faded, some of the further Masonic degrees were originally based on legends. One legend held that while the first temple was being built, King Solomon ordered the construction of a secret vault where its treasures could be hidden in the event of an enemy

attack. The craftsmen who laboured on this project were carefully selected and were sworn to secrecy. After the death of Hiram Abif and later King Solomon, the knowledge of this secret vault was eventually lost.

The next logical degree is the first degree in the Cryptic Rite, being that of Select Master. This is based on a date about 969 BCE and deals with the construction of the secret vault beneath the temple. The next logical degree is the second degree in the Cryptic Rite, being that of Royal Master and deals with the death of Hiram Abif and the consequences thereof. The next logical degree is the third degree in the Cryptic Rite, being that of Most Excellent Master and this deals with the completion of King Solomon's temple and its dedication during or about 967 BCE.

More than three centuries later and during or about 605 BCE the Babylonians attacked Judah and eventually succeeded in defeating it. The next logical degree is the fourth degree in the Cryptic Rite being that of Super Excellent Master. This degree is dated to the final conquering of Judah and the destruction of King Solomon's temple by the Babylonians during about 586 BCE. This war and its consequences are related in several books in the Volume of the Sacred Law and referred to in Psalms 19 and 137. The lyrics of the well known song, *Rivers of Babylon*, are based on these Psalms.

The next logical degree is the second degree in the Royal Arch Order being that of Excellent Master and this deals with the return of the Judeans (Jews) from Babylon to Jerusalem to commence with the rebuilding of the temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel. This degree is complemented by the first degree in the Knights of Captivity series, being that of Knight of the Sword. The next logical degree is the third degree of the Royal Arch Order, being that of Royal Arch Mason and deals with the discovery of the secret vault under the ruins of King Solomon's temple and the consequences thereof. The building of the second temple presented its own challenges and the next two degrees in the Knights of Captivity series, being that of Knight of the East and that of Knight of the East and West explain these challenges and the results thereof.

Like a true love story, our Masonic journey will never end. There is however much to look forward to as a member of the Grand Lodge of South Africa in enhancing our Masonic journey.

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master**

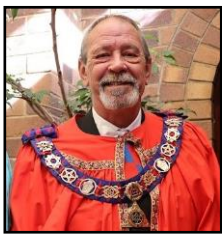
Note: MW Bro John Smith's term of office as Grand Master is now coming to an end and, of course, he will no longer write the front page of S&C. We thank him for his input over the past 3 years and for his ongoing enrichment of our Masonic journeys.



The 3 Grand Principals, 4L – MEC Brandon Topham (2nd), 5L – MEC John Smith OSM MSA (1st), 6L – MEC Alf Brönnner (3rd), 7L surrounded by the senior Officers, visiting dignitaries and members of our Royal Arch Chapter.

Royal Arch AGM Weekend a Great Success

Saturday 3 June was a very important date in our 2023 Royal Arch calendar, for this was not only the Northern Division Annual Meeting but was also that of our Supreme Grand Chapter.



The Northern Division meeting took place on the Saturday morning and sadly, after reading his very positive report, the time had arrived for MEC Brian Masenkamp to retire. Brian performed extremely well in his leadership role but health challenges dictated his future.

MEC John Smith OSM MSA, the First Grand Principal, then installed MEC Marius Mostert as the new Grand Superintendent. Marius has an impressive Masonic record and there is every reason to believe that he will be more than effective in his new role.



EC Gerald Bosch (Assistant Grand Superintendent), EC Michiel Victor (EH), MEC Marius Mostert (GS), EC Martin Gray (EJ).

After a short lunch break, it was time for the Supreme Grand Chapter Annual Meeting. After opening the meeting, MEC John Smith OSM MSA welcomed the various guests, including a most welcome Benin brother, MEC Matthieu Lawson. Maatthieu is a regular visitor to our shores and his very presence always enriches our events.



MEC John Smith then

continued with the items on the Agenda. The Annual Report was a most encouraging one and the finances are in good order. After MEC Smith had announced his Officers, they were duly obligated and invested, with the 3 principals being MECs John Smith OSM MSA, Brandon Topham and Alf Brönnner.



MECs Brandon Topham, John Smith OSM MSA, Alf Brönnner

MEC John Smith then awarded the trophy for the Scribe E of the year to EC Dino Kyriazis.



MEC John Smith OSM MSA with EC Dino Kyriazis



MEC Marius Mostert (2L) seen with Excellent Companion Godfrey Place, Simon Nash and Xavier Greyling



To commemorate the "battle of Magersfontein, from which they got their name, the Lodges sword-bearers carry rifles instead of swords. The new Master, Wor Bro Peet Louw (3L) with PGM RW Bro Frans Appelgryn (2L) and the Lodge's Brethren

Kimberley Installations a success

On Saturday 17 June Lodge Magersfontein, based in Kimberley, re-installed Wor Bro Peet Louw as their Worshipful Master. The ceremony was well conducted by Wor Bro Marcell de Kock whose address entitled "Verandering" was well received. The PGL delegation was led by the PGM, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn.

The Lodge Peace and Harmony Installation also took place on Saturday 17 June. Wor Bro Francois Dauth was reinstalled by RW Bro Frans Appelgryn (right), whose Installing Officer's address was entitled "Tevredenheid".



Bro David van Deventer passed to Fellowcraft

On Thursday 8 June 2023, De Broederband passed Bro David van Deventer to Fellowcraft. In a combined working which took place at the Brits Temple, Wor Bro Pieter Pretorius and his Brits team opened the working and Wor Bro Fritz Ganz, assisted by 9 De Broederband Brethren, performed the 2nd degree ceremony itself. Brits then closed the Lodge.

The meeting was also attended by 2 Assistant PGMs, in Wor Bros Gerald Bosch and Wikus Steyl, as well as 3 visiting Worshipful Masters and members of Lodges Orange, Koh-I-Noor and President Burgers.

There's something special about Lodges working together and enjoying the Masonic camaraderie!

GLSA Online Shop

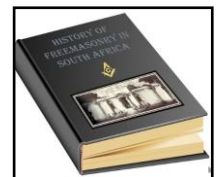
If you want to purchase GLSA or Masonic items or memorabilia, log into our GLSA Online Shop and explore our offerings. The link is below:

[GLSA Online Shop](#)

There are various items available, but 2 well worth your consideration are:

The Heritage Book

In 2022, South Africa celebrated 250 years of Freemasonry. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book which explored our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. A few remaining copies of the A4 book are still available.



GLSA and RA Ties

If you wear ties to work or for any other purpose, you really should include these handsome additions in your collection. The GLSA tie is navy blue, while the RA tie comes in navy blue or red.



"Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory." *General George S Patton*



Bro David van Deventer (5L), Wor Bro Fritz Ganz (6L) and Wor Bro Pieter Pretorius (7L) surrounded by the Brethren of Lodges Britz and De Broederband and their visitors. Wor Bros Wikus Steyl and Gerald Bosch are at the back.

Consistory de Goede Hoop have 2 new 28^os

On 28 June Consistory de Goede Hoop advanced Ven Bros Bradley Bordiss and Marco Petronio to the 28th degree. V Ill Bro Ron Smith was in the chair.



Almoner's Report

Over the past few months we have fallen out of the habit of updating our members on those Brethren or their close families who are ailing or need our physical or moral support. As from next month we will be looking to bring this column back but, in the meantime, please know that we care.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Herman Roos	082 3184238
Central Wor Bro John Meyer	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey	076 912058
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Wor Bro Gary Hendricks is Perseverance WM

On 15 May Wor Bro Gary Hendricks was installed as Master of Perseverance. As most of us are very aware, he has more than excelled in his efforts to feed more than 200 disadvantaged children on a twice a week basis. The Lodge is optimistic that his time as Master will be just as successful. He is seen above with Wor Bros Raymond Eyiomen and Cobis Wilson.



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de Goede Verwachting raise Martin Carstens

On 15 June Bro Martin Carstens was raised to Master Mason by de Goede Verwachting. Wor Bro Cobis Wilson was in the chair for the working.



Comrades (or is it Brothers) in Arms

The new Acting PGM of Southern Division, Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, dreamed of completing the Comrades. This he achieved on Sunday 11 June – with the support of Eastern PGM, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe.



Trichardt raise Bro Anton Froneman

On 10 June Bro Anton Froneman was raised to Master Mason in the same Temple and Lodge in which his father was Initiated and his grandfather, Wor Bro Z Froneman, was Master in 1973. It was Trichardt's first working in 4 years and was excellent.

Ven Bro Herdus Snyman new Settlers MWS

It seems normal for us to include somebody from Jeffreys Bay in our Newsletter. In June it is Ven Bro Herdus Snyman, the new MWS of Chapter Settlers, He is pictured here with M Ill Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren, Eastern Cape's ESGIG,



Bro Anton Froneman (centre with beard) with the WM and Brethren of Trichardt and their visitors