

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 121 February 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

How Freemasonry started in South Africa

This year, in 2022, we are celebrating 250 years of Freemasonry in South Africa. Most Freemasons know or have heard that Freemasonry existed in Scotland from at least the late 1500s, that four Masonic Lodges formed the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 and that the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland and France were formed shortly thereafter. We accept and enjoy the presence of hundreds of Masonic Lodges around South Africa today, but not many Freemasons know where or how it all started in our country.

The first Masonic meeting in Holland was held at The Hague in 1729 but it was only in 1734 that the first Lodge in Holland obtained a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England. Several further Holland Lodges were established during the next 20 years and in 1756 the National Grand Lodge of the Netherlands (NGLN) was formed with 10 Lodges under its jurisdiction. Stemming from the activities of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), the NGLN also established Lodges in Bengal, Ceylon and Paramaribo. The first Lodge established south of the equator was *Losie Ster in Het Oosten* in Batavia in 1759. In 1770 the Grand Lodge of England and the now National Grand Lodge of the United Provinces of the Netherlands (GEN) reached an agreement, *The Convention*, in terms of which these two Grand Lodges agreed not to constitute any new Lodges within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

In 1771 Bro Abraham van der Weijde, a captain of one of the VOC's ships sailing between Holland and the East, was vested with the authority from the GEN

to form a Lodge at the Cape of Good Hope. He arrived at the Cape on 24 April 1772 and called a meeting of all Freemasons living there. On Saturday, 2 May 1772 ten Brethren met with van der Weijde as chairman. They decided to form a Lodge, to be called *Loge St Jan de Goede Hoop*. The Presiding Master and the officers were elected and van der Weijde issued a provisional Charter (warrant) for the Lodge. On 1 September 1772 the Grand Master issued a permanent Charter and the Lodge was enrolled as No 12 on the GEN's register.

Bro Abraham Chiron, who had been affiliated to a Lodge at Frankfurt am Main and held the Rose Croix degree and who had been a resident at the Cape since 1769, was elected as the first Presiding Master. Bro Jacobus Alexander le Febre was elected as Senior Warden and Bro Pieter Soermans, who had been a Cape resident since 1764, was elected Junior Warden. Bro Jan Coenraad Gie, a Cape resident since 1756, was elected as Secretary and Bro Christoffel Brand was elected as Treasurer. The following Brethren were received as Entered Apprentices: Petrus Johannes de Wit, Johannes Adrianus van Schoor, Barend Hendrik van Rheede van Oudtshoorn, Olof Godlieb de Wet and Johannes Sniijders. These were the founder members of this Lodge and Freemasonry in South Africa.

There is no record of any formal consecration of the Lodge or the Installation of the first Presiding Master. It seems that he and the elected officers immediately assumed office upon being elected. Three days later these Brethren drafted a petition to the GEN wherein they recorded that the colour of the Lodge would be green and that the seal of the Lodge would be Hope, represented by a maiden leaning on an anchor at the foot of a mountain on the summit of which the sun shines and whereto the figure endeavours to ascend, with the legend: *Spes vincit omnia impedimenta* - "Hope overcomes all obstacles". The apron was a shield pattern and not with square corners, as of today.

On 9 May 1772 the first meeting of the Lodge was held in the Apprentice Degree. Three candidates were proposed and balloted and Jan Stammer was initiated. The Lodge was then closed and opened in the Third Degree and Bro Marthinus Bergh, a Fellow Craft, was raised to the degree of Master Mason. On 21 May the Lodge adopted a code of by-laws and in June the Master decreed that the Lodge would not raise more than one Brother at the same meeting. In July Bro Van Oudtshoorn was appointed as the Lodge's Sword Bearer because the sword of the Worshipful Master was considered, not only to be a symbol of his exalted office but also of dignity.

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master

Perseverance Reignited!

Over the past few years a number of Lodges have found themselves in a situation where a decline in their numbers has seen them reach a point where they battle to function effectively and to the required standard. To address this, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, PGM of Southern Division, proposed combining Perseverance, Johan van Riebeek and Simon van der Stel into a new look Perseverance. This was agreed to by all the parties involved and the appropriate ceremony took place on Monday 7 February in the de Goede Hoop Temple.



Wor Bros Raymond Eyiomen and Lucas van der Schyff, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, Wor Bro Louis Krige, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman and Wor Bro Cobis Wilson.

The Installation of Wor Bro Louis Krige as the new Master was done by Wor Bro Tommy Hardiman and his team and, as always, was well performed.

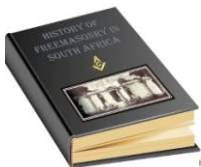


Prior to the commencement of the ceremonies, the PGM installed Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Raymond is a dedicated Freemason with a sound track record. He is also an excellent ritualist.

The Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith, also took the opportunity to recognise various Brethren for their contribution to our Grand Lodge and to hand out certificates to those of the 2021 appointed Officers who had not yet received them. He is pictured with RW Bro Brian Rossouw, who is doing an exceptional job of compiling the Heritage Book, which is available to all Brethren.



The Heritage Book - place your Order NOW!



In 2022, South African Freemasonry celebrates its 250th birthday. To mark this event, we are publishing a Heritage Book relating our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. The A4 book will be published in hard cover (R500) and leather bound (R800) versions. Only pre-ordered and paid for books will be printed. This is a book that no local Freemason can afford to be without. To reserve your Collector's Item, click on:

[Purchase the Heritage Book](#)

Please be aware that the book's content has been finalised. It is now having the type-setting done and then goes to print - so you must purchase **NOW!**

Alpha's unforgettable Installation

On Tuesday 1 February, we had our first formal Grand Lodge call-out of 2022 and it was to Alpha at Orange Grove. The Provincial delegation was headed by PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place, while Grand Lodge was led by Deputy GM, RW Bro Brandon Topham.



The new Master, Bro King Armstrong, was going into the chair for the first time and this was, almost inevitably, an extremely important occasion on his Masonic journey. Life has treated him well of late and he decided to share his good fortune with those in need. He donated R75,000 to the GLSA Charity fund and is pictured being awarded a Charity jewel by RW Bro Brandon Topham.

The Installation was done by Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi, and the Board of Installed Masters by Deputy PGM, VW Bro Simon Nash - and both were excellent!

At the end of the evening there was a sumptuous festive board which is still being talked about by those who were privileged enough to be there. The food was extraordinary and the ambience was unforgettable.



RW Bro Johan Britz, RW Bro Brandon Topham, Wor Bro and Mrs King Armstrong, RW Bro Godfrey Place.

The Rademeyer's keep Masonry in the Family

One of the proudest experiences in any Masonic father's life, must be sharing in his son's initiation, For it to happen twice within 4 months, is almost surreal. That, however, is precisely what has been experienced by Wor Bro Hendrik Rademeyer of Jeffrey's Bay.

On Saturday 12 February at the Port Alfred Temple, Bro Adolf Rademeyer was initiated - shortly after his 18th birthday. His "older" brother Schalk, also still a teenager, was initiated last October.



Bro Adolf, Wor Bro Hendrik and Bro Schalk Rademeyer

Grand Master joins AASR for South Africa

Wednesday 16 February was a very big day for Cape Town's Consistory de Goede Hoop. For the first time in almost 2 years we were able to meet again and perform a live working - and what a way to start! We advanced Ill Bros John Smith and Evangelos Doucas to the 31st degree of the AASR for South Africa. The standard of the working was excellent and our veterans really delivered their ritual work extremely well.



Ill Bro Smith who is, as you know, the Grand Master of the GLSA, had belonged, for several years, to the

Ill Bro Smith, M Ill Bro Edwards MA Supreme Council of Scotland and was now simply returning to his roots.



The Consistory team with Ill Bro Ron Smith at back centre.

Dagbreek Install Wor Bro Paton as new Master

On 29 January 2022, Losie Dagbreek in Bloemfontein conducted the GLSA's first Installation for the new year. The incoming Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Ruan Paton had rejoined the Lodge after a spell with a Sister Constitution and he is extremely committed to making quite certain that his year in office is a more than successful one.



The Installation ceremony was conducted by the Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Marcel de Kock, while the Board of Installed Masters was performed by Central PGM, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn. Overall, the day was a great success.

Tolerance Welcome Bro Angelo Primmer

As with all of our Divisions, Eastern Cape have been desperate to get really going again. They have, of course, seen Jeffrey's Bay taking off with much excitement and activity, and are all very enthusiastic about their new Temple, but in general their Lodges have been waiting to get really started.

Anyway, that all seems to be changing pretty quickly right now. On Monday 7 February, Lodge Tolerance, with Wor Bro Paul West in the chair, initiated Bro Angelo Primmer into the Order. As far as his background is concerned, Angelo describes himself as a Medical Representative whose interests include running, reading and exploring. He has joined a fine Lodge and we have every confidence that these interests will serve him well as he progresses.



At the Dagbreek Installation with Wor Bro Ruan Paton (centre) and Wor Bro Marcel de Kock on his right



Tolerance with RW Bro Keith Hutton (2R), Wor Bro Paul West (3R) and Bro Angelo Primmer (4R)

Almoner's Report

Wor Bro Francois Dauth (Peace and Harmony) is currently in hospital having a hernia operation. Recover well, Brother, you are important to us.

Wor Bro Alan Tyrer (Theophilus) fell and badly injured his knee and may need a replacement. Vasbyt, Alan, we worry about you!

Wor Bro Theoniel Pieterse (Dagbreek) has lost his sister. Our sincere condolences to him and the family. May their fond memories help them as they grieve.

We still receive reports about Brethren recovering from Covid, but they haven't been severely affected. Wor Bro Eric Scholtz (Theophilus) and his wife are recent examples. Wor Bro Frank and Frederique Begot (de Goede Hoop) also have mild doses at present. Let's pray that things stay this encouraging.

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Star of the East) spent a few days in hospital recently. While it was mainly for monitoring purposes we still get concerned. Boet does an exceptional job as Sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR and we need to look after him!

Brethren, while things do appear to be quiet at present, I fear that there are a number of other Brethren who need and would appreciate our support. The problem is that we are simply not being updated on them. It is the Almoner's duty to keep in touch with their Lodges and to update us. Please Brethren, do so!

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

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| Southern | Wor Bro Cobis Wilson | 083 2844684 |
| Northern | Wor Bro Paul Nash | 083 3774843 |
| Central | Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis | 083 9865397 |
| Eastern | Wor Bro Marais Viljoen | 083 4413670 |
| E Cape | Wor Bro Ian Hetherington | 082 9545297 |

Coming Events Highlights

Brethren, this list encompasses major events and all Grand Lodge call-outs to Installations.

- Fri 4 Mar - 09h00 @ Bloemfontein
GLSA Chain's Conference
- Sat 5 Mar - 9h00 @ Bloemfontein
Losie Dagbreek 1st Degree working
- Sat 5 Mar - 14h00 @ Bloemfontein
GLSA Central Division AGM
- Tue 15 Mar - 14h00 @ Park Lane
Lodge Star of the Rand Installation.
- Sat 26 Mar - 9h00 @ de Goede Hoop
AASR for South Africa AGM
- Sat 2 Apr - 9h30 @ Port Alfred
RA Chapter Fiat Lux
- 50 year Rededication & Installation
- Sat 2 Apr - 14h00 @ Port Alfred
Lodge de Vereeniging Installation.
- Sat 23 Apr - 11h00 @ Rustenberg
Lodge Orange Installation.

Vereeniging rises like a Phoenix!

It was in 1954 that Lodge Vereeniging was originally consecrated. Over the next few years the progress was sound but, sadly, the 1990s saw a decline in membership and, in 1995, the Lodge was forced to return its charter and go into recess.

Much to our delight, however, there has been an upswing in Masonic activity in the area and, like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, Lodge Vereeniging has re-opened its doors and recommenced its labours.

On Saturday 19 February, a Grand Lodge delegation led by MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, attended the Lodge's big day and, to formally get things going again, the Grand Master and his team performed a rededication ceremony. During the course of this the Lodge's charter was returned to the PGM of Northern Division, RW Bro Godfrey Place, so that he may hand it back to the Lodge at the appropriate time.

After a break for lunch, it was time for the Installation. The new "founding" members, with all of their combined enthusiasm were about to take over.



Lodge Vereeniging with Wor Bro Johan Wolfaardt centre

The Installation ceremony itself was conducted by RW Bro Godfrey Place, assisted by his Deputy PGM, VW Bro Simon Nash, and Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi. It was well performed by the PGL team. During the course of this ceremony, the updated charter was returned to the Lodge.

Inevitably at such times, family histories are recalled and we were particularly interested to hear that a member of Danie and Deriek Vosloo's family was a founder member in 1954 and that their father was the Master in 1971. Make them proud, Brethren!



RW Bro Godfrey Place, Wor Bro Danie Vosloo, Bro Deriek Vosloo and MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA