

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 132 January 2023



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSAI MSA.

What is Masonic Amity?

The word “Amity” is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as *friendly relations* and in the Webster Dictionary as *friendly relations between nations*. The “Tweetalige Woordeboek” has “*vriendskaplikheid*”. In Masonic terms, it means: *acceptance for an active relationship*. Amity is an interesting subject and this article is a summary of the lecture which I will present at the 18th World Conference of Grand Lodges in Israel during May 2023 and which was initially compiled and presented by MW Bro Geoffrey Edwards OSM to a number of Lodges, both locally and internationally.

There are a large number of Grand Lodges in the World with sizes ranging from approximately 200,000 members in more than 6,500 Lodges to Grand Lodges with less than 100 members in only 3 or 4 Lodges. Before considering the question of Amity however, it is important to first determine what a Grand Lodge is. The internet defines a Masonic Grand Lodge or Grand Orient as the governing body that supervises and governs the individual Lodges of Freemasons in any particular geographical area or jurisdiction, which usually corresponds with a national boundary or other political unit. While this definition explains where a Grand Lodge's physical boundaries may be located, it does not tell us what makes a Grand Lodge Masonic and it could also apply to any international or regional organisation, which usually has a regional and / or international controlling body. Each Masonic Grand Lodge is totally independent. There is no central body to which they can or do report and each Grand Lodge makes its own rules and regulations. To determine

what makes a Grand Lodge Masonic, we must refer to the defined and accepted Ancient Landmarks.

Percy Jantz stated that the Masonic term “Landmark” was derived from the Book of Proverbs in the VSL, Chapter 22 verse 28. The KJV states: *Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set*. The NLT versions states: *Do not move the ancient boundary markers set up by previous generations*. According to Wikipedia, Masonic Landmarks are a set of principles that Freemasons consider to be the ancient and unchangeable precepts of Freemasonry. Issues regarding the regularity of a Masonic Grand Lodge have been and still are judged in the context of these so-called Landmarks. As each Grand Lodge is self-governing and as different Masonic jurisdictions may choose to adhere to different Landmarks, the interpretations of these precepts or principles can and do vary which could affect the recognition of and the impact on Amity between Grand Lodges. It is important to remember that these Landmarks go back to the very roots of Freemasonry and it seems that the first use of the term “Landmark” was in Payne’s “General Regulations”, which were published with Anderson’s Constitutions in 1718. It appears that all the early Grand Lodges had their own defined Landmarks and upon considering them, we find some intriguing differences.

During the next century, there were various attempts to define the Masonic Landmarks and the number thereof. Renowned Masonic writers like Joseph Newton determined 4; Roscoe Pound - 6; Woodford - 18; Mackey - 25; the Grand Lodge of New York - 31 and the Grand Lodge of Kentucky - 54. All saw their list as complete and correct, even if such Landmarks as *Fellowcrafts are required to attend church every Sunday*, appeared amongst them. Mackey’s list, included the Landmark that *the Grand Master has the right to make a Freemason on sight*. When Nelson Mandela passed away, a press article stated that he had been a Freemason. The Mandela family denied it and as the South African Freemasons were not aware of him ever being initiated in any Masonic Lodge, it was accepted to be fake news. We subsequently discovered, however, that Mr Mandela had been made “a Freemason on sight” by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. In terms of their Landmarks, they did not need him to progress through the 3 Craft degrees and we have often wondered how we would have reacted if this iconic Statesman had approached us for recognition as a Freemason.

Despite several inconsistencies, the lists of Landmarks also had much in common, for example: a belief in a Supreme Being / the belief in the immortality of the soul / a “book of sacred law” as an indispensable part of the “furniture” of the Lodge / the legend of the Third Degree / the modes of recognition /

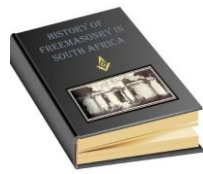
the symbolic ritual of the Lodge and, that a Freemason must be a male person, who is freeborn and of a lawful age. In 1929 the United Grand Lodge of England introduced their “Conditions for Recognition of Grand Lodges” which comprised the following conditions: the regularity of origin, i.e. that each Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognised Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges / a belief in the GAOTU and His revealed will, being the VSL, shall be an essential qualification for membership / all initiates shall take their obligation on or in full view of the open VSL by

which is meant that the revelation from above is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is to be initiated / the membership of the Grand Lodge and individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of men / each Grand Lodge shall have no masonic intercourse of any kind with mixed Lodges or bodies which admit women as members / the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control / the Grand Lodge shall be a responsible, independent governing organisation with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft Symbolic Degrees being the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason within its Jurisdiction / the Grand Lodge shall not be subjected to or divided in authority with a Supreme Council or any other Power claiming any control or supervision over the 3 Craft degrees / the 3 Great Lights of Freemasonry being the VSL, the Square and the Compasses shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its subordinate Lodges are at work / the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited / the principles of the Ancient Landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.

These conditions are still the basic internationally accepted criteria and most Grand Lodges approaching us for recognition will state whether they have been recognised by the UGLE. While our Grand Lodge is recognised by and is in Amity with more than 150 Grand Lodges throughout the World and while it has certain additional local Landmarks as set out in the preamble to its Constitution, it strictly adheres to these Conditions of Recognition. Should any Grand Lodge or any members thereof decide that it or they will reject or ignore these generally accepted Landmarks, then that Grand Lodge runs the risk of losing its recognition and being out of Amity with the main stream of Grand Lodges, which will then preclude any interaction between it and most other Grand Lodges. Masonic Amity is therefore a very serious matter and every Freemason should be fully familiar with the Landmarks of his own Grand Lodge as well as the internationally accepted recognition criteria as Amity offers the extraordinary benefits of being a Freemason. Amity is very important to Freemasons throughout the World and is the envy of many other international organisations which do not subscribe to these basic principles and consequently do not enjoy international fraternal relationships such as those we Freemasons do.

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

The Heritage Book – Orders still being taken!



In 2022, South African Freemasonry celebrated its 250th birthday. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book relating our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. A few copies of the A4 book are still available through our GLSA online Shop - click on:

[Purchase Heritage Book](#)

Visiting Sister Constitutions

One of the most tangible benefits of having 3 Sister Constitutions operating with us in South Africa, is that we are able to visit them and enjoy watching them perform the craft rituals in a very different way to us. The 4 Constitutions in South Africa have always been extremely close and Masonic friendships across these boundaries are common and much enjoyed.

It is our practice to attend each other’s Installation ceremonies and to support each other’s functions.



RW Bro Chris van Gaalen, District GM for UGLE Northern, greets Wor Bro Wikus Steyl, Assistant PGM, Northern.

Losie Senekal’s Christmas Dinner

As a Grand Lodge, it is our firm belief that, for Freemasonry to be really relevant, our Lodges have to establish themselves as part of their community.

Losie Senekal provide an excellent example of how this can be applied. Each December they have a Christmas party for the needy in their Free State town. The children are all invited, along with their parents and grandparents, and all are provided with a full, special sit down dinner. Father Christmas is also in attendance and he hands out gifts to all of the local children.

Inevitably, the day is extremely popular and is now greatly looked forward to by the very appreciative local community.



Wor Bro Marcel de Kock stirs the pot



At the Diamond Installation: RW Bro Johan Britz MSA (4L), RW Bro Frans Appelgryn (5L), Wor Bro Marcel de Kock (6L) and Wor Bro Jan Coetzee (7L) surrounded by Grand Lodge, PGL, Sister Constitution, Lodge members and Visitors.

Diamond Installation a great success

Jagersfontein is a small Free State town in which is to be found a refurbished Masonic Temple – and that’s Losie Diamond’s current home.

In early December RW Bro Frans Appelgryn was reinstalled as their Presiding Master by Assistant PGM Wor Bro Jan Coetzee. RW Bro Johan Britz led the Grand Lodge delegation and Wor Bro Marcel de Kock, Deputy PGM, led the Provincial team.

The Installation was followed by a formal festive board and I’m assured that the food and the ambience was right up to the usual high country town standard.

Jeffrey’s Bay will arrive in style!

I’ve always believed that “Freemasonry should be fun!” and the Brethren of Jeffrey’s Bay make certain that, in their Lodge, it certainly is.

They are renowned visitors, often arriving with every member of their Lodge present and they’ve now come up with a plan to make it even more enjoyable. The Lodge has acquired an abandoned 1986 Mercedes limo (type 1W126 300 SE) and are restoring it for use as their Lodge transportation. After 9 years of standing, the “old girl” started on the first attempt. It will now be fully restored under the supervision of Bro Herdus Snyman.

It will, of course, be suitably decorated with Lodge and Masonic insignia and, as it



can seat some 8 people, will be very suitable for the J Bay Brethren to show up in style. I can’t wait to see it in action!

Consistory de Goede Hoop start 2023

After a period of calm, the South Western region of the AASR got started on its 2023 program with the elevation of Ill Bro Anthony van Dijk to the 30°. The working saw the Consistory de Goede Hoop’s new Eminent Commander, V Ill Bro Ron Smith, in the chair.



M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards MA, Ill Bros Jacques Maritz and Anthony van Dijk, V Ill Bros Ron Smith, Mike Burchell and Monty Gold, Ill Bro Seppi Ricci

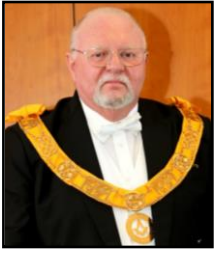
Prins Frederik

On 24 January Lodge Prins Frederik performed their first 2023 working and raised Bro Bradford Pevrett to Master Mason. RW Bro Godfrey Place was in the chair and was extremely well assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge and a couple of well known visitors.



RW Bro Jacques Markantonis, Wor Bro Dimoss Markantonis, Bro Eric Houniet, Wor Bros Wikus Steyl, Colin Morris, RW Bro Godfrey Place, Bro Bradford Pevrett

Almoner's Report



It was with much sadness that we received the news of the passing to the Eternal East of Wor Bro Eric Scholtz (Theophilus) after a long stay in hospital. Eric was Deputy PGM of Eastern Division and a pillar of strength in our Natal South Coast activities. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his loved ones.

Our Grand Almoner, Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop), is currently going through a course of radiation treatment. While feeling the strain, he refuses to allow it to get in the way of his Masonic duties and continues to set a fine example to us all. Be strong Andre. You are in our prayers.

It is my intention to bring back the more complete Almoner's Report in our next issue, so please make sure that you update us with the news. Please make a special point of keeping in touch with our widows and elderly Brethren. They have earned our support.

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 Kevin Smith	082 8883890
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Andrew Pover	084 2597108
E Cape	Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

AASR Chapter Fiat Lux is growing on

The AASR Division in the Eastern Cape is going from strength to strength. They are currently led by ESGIG Ill Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren and have a strong group of highly committed members. As can be seen from the picture below taken after a recent multiple 18th degree ceremony, the Chapter is vibrant and the members enjoy their AASR activities. At this working Ven Bros Eric Dyer, Damian Marais, Angus Venter and Ian Hetherington were advanced. The Chapter's MWS is Ill Bro Dennis Nienaber



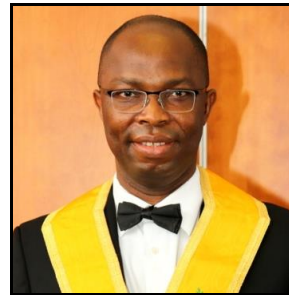
AASR Chapter Fiat Lux in the Eastern Cape with MWS Ill Bro Dennis Nienaber in the centre.

The Installing Officer's Addresses

A while ago I was interacting with a senior member of one of our Sister Constitutions. He told me that he really liked our Installation ceremony. He was particularly complimentary about the inclusion of the Installing Officer's address which, as you will know, is very much part of our Installation working.

We agree with him and have been delighted by the standard of some of the 30 addresses which were delivered in 2022. We duly asked the members of Grand Committee to each select their 5 favourites. Of the responses that we received, each and every one of them included the following 2 Addresses:

- Masonic Burnout – Perception or Reality
Wor Beo Ike Ezeuduji (Eastern)
- The Mosaic Floor; the Masonic Concept of Ubuntu
Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi (Northern)



Wor Bro Ike Ezeuduji



Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi

Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi, in fact had 2 other addresses which received multiple commendations, while RW Bro Tommy Hardiman also had 2 papers included on our list. Other Brethren commended were Wor Bros Raymmd Eyiomen and Marcel de Kock. The truth is that there were a number of really interesting addresses to choose from, however, and an address not being on the short list should certainly not be construed as inferior in any way. Most of them are excellent!

Brethren, the good news is that all of the 2022 Installing Officer's Addresses are being made available to our Brethren on GrandView. To access them, log into GrandView, click on "My Portal", click on "Resources", click on "Apprentice" and scroll down to "2022 Installation Addresses". Read and enjoy them!.