

## **SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN**

### **Section 1**

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **Introduction**

It may surprise some to learn that not only does the Craft exist in South America, but that regular Freemasonry is to be found in every country of the continent. In some, such as Brazil, its overall membership is quite large. As in Europe, the development of the Craft in South America has been greatly affected by its political history. It has often faced repression, or at least opposition, but it has nevertheless survived and developed. However, this development has not been without discord, although these problems have been largely absent in more recent times. How this has occurred, and how it may affect the Masonic visitor, will be examined shortly. In terms of an overview, the main point to note is that South American Masonry tends to be more secretive than to other places in the Masonic world, although perhaps not quite as exclusive as that in Europe. Regardless, it will be readily seen that provided the correct approaches are undertaken, the travelling Freemason will receive a most warm and hospitable welcome in his sojourn amongst his South American brothers.

### **A Masonic & Historical Perspective**

In considering the highly individual and complex societies of South America, one needs to consider its Masonic history in the context of its political, social and economic history. The introduction and expansion of its Masonry is intricately entwined with the struggle of South American countries to achieve political unity and nationhood.

During the Colonial period it was Spain that came to dominate most of the continent, with the Portuguese holding sway in Brazil. The English made brief incursions in some countries, notably Argentina. As the colonial period progressed, colonial settlements scattered in the north west near to the mineral wealth of Upper Peru, in the west across the Andes to Santiago in Chile, and in the East to the Rio de la Plata.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, the Spanish Crown unified these regions under the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata based at Buenos Aires. Spanish Rule was very repressive, discouraging individual and economic initiatives and suppressing freedom. Clearly, Masonry cannot exist under these conditions. The problem was balanced to some extent by the British influence, under which the propagation the Masonic ideals was not discouraged.

In 1751, a Royal Edict issued by the King of Spain, Ferdinand VI, declaring the practice of Freemasonry illegal, pronouncing the death penalty for any person engaged in it. This decree certainly extended to the Spanish colonies of South America. Existing Masonic lodges were forced to move underground, or close.

It was not until after the Wars of Independence from Spanish rule that subsequently crossed the continent, that Masonry was in a position to expand. Freemasons did suffer sustained persecution during the pre-independence era, as much due to the association of individual Masons with the South American freedom movements of the eighteenth century as to anti-Masonic Papal Bulls. As will be appreciated, Freemasonry normally prospers proportionally to the amount of political democracy in each country, while it does not survive under totalitarian governments.

Totalitarianism has certainly had its outing in South America, even in recent times. In Columbia, in June 1953, the National Constitutive Assembly worked on a government project to proscribe *all secret societies including Freemasonry*. A vigorous campaign against Masonry followed, extending after a short time to the Protestant Churches and their parishioners. The persecution ended with the fall of the dictator, Rojas Pinillas, but still some attacks were perpetrated afterwards.

In Guatemala, the government of Castillo Armas issued a decree on 26 August 1954 declaring the Grand Lodge of Guatemala illegal. Happily, this decree was later reversed, but not without adverse results. In Bolivia, on 9 November 1956, Masonry was banned and its members were not allowed to work in the Public Service. Again, this degree was subsequently reversed, but it didn't assist Bolivian Masonic development. In Argentina, under the Peron regime, Masons were persecuted and bombs placed at the Grand Lodge building. Police kept continuously harassing members by entering lodge rooms during regular meetings. They were not alone in this persecution. Between 1953 and 1955 the clergy were also persecuted and many churches burned. Even in the year after the fall of Peron from power in September 1955, another bomb exploded at the doors of the Grand Lodge building (27 July 1956). In Chile, members of the official church were suspected and accused several times of burning Masonic buildings.

The Craft has not been alone in attracting religious and governmental opposition and persecution. Within the last thirty years organisations such as the YMCA, Rotary and Lions Club were branded as *anti-church* and *satanic* in various areas of South America.

The result of this long-term antipathy towards Masonry in many parts of South America has tended to make it more secretive than in most other places in the world, to the extent that in some lodges even today it is not uncommon for members not use their own names in lodge documents such as minute books, but adopt symbolic names such as Socrates, Plato, Mozart, etc., with those names used for the term of their Masonic lives.

Happily, at least in the last twenty to thirty years, with the progressive adoption of political democracy in South American countries, coupled with the relative decline of the social influence of the Roman Catholic Church, Masonry has enjoyed a relatively tranquil existence. This has, in turn, allowed significant Masonic expansion in most South American countries. Nonetheless, memories of the past remain, with its attendant cautions.

### **An Overview of South American Freemasonry**

There are two Craft ritual streams that encompass virtually all South American Masonry: the Scottish Rite and the York Rite. The former accounts for approximately 90% of lodges. The York Rite is used by a relatively small number of South American Craft lodges, except in Peru where the majority use it. Effectively, the term 'York Rite' is a generalist term applied in Central and South America to describe any Craft workings that are *not* of the Scottish Rite form. While, for the most part, Scottish Rite workings are quite similar across the continent, those of the York Rite most certainly are not. For example, in Peru, the Craft ritual is derived directly from workings under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In some other countries, the 'York Rite' workings are more closely analogous to English ritual practices or, in a few cases, even United States practices. Indeed, some Grand Lodges describe their 'York Rite' workings as 'Emulation'. This certainly does not necessarily mean that the 'local' York Rite ritual is identical to that of Emulation, as used by many lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England.

### **Scottish Rite Craft lodge practices in South America**

The ensuing overview provides a general picture of Scottish Rite Craft Freemasonry in South America. However, the customs and practices described below are largely generalised. Different countries do have their own idiosyncrasies, although practices are somewhat similar.

#### ***The Grand Lodge (Grand Orient)***

Grand Lodges working the Scottish Rite-form system meet variously. Some convene quarterly, often on or about the Winter and Summer solstices, and the Spring and Autumn equinoxes (March, July, September and December), such as most of the Brazilian State Grand Lodges. Others meet half yearly or annually, and a few biennially or triennially. Under the Scottish Rite system a Mason is not a 'full member' of a lodge until after he takes the third degree.

Thus, Grand Lodge communications are conducted in the third degree. Usually, Grand Lodge membership falls into two categories: *permanent* and *temporary*. Permanent members are all Past Masters who have completed a full term as Master of their lodge, while temporary members are presently-serving Worshipful Masters. Permanent members are entitled to vote, but this right can be voided if they fail to

attend a requisite number (often two) of consecutive Grand Communications without valid excuse, or if their attendance at their own lodge falls below a certain percentage (often set at 50%).

Elections for Grand officers, depending on the Grand Lodge/Grand Orient, come up at intervals of between two to four years. The actual Grand officers usually number about eleven or twelve. Invariably, the Grand Lodge (or Grand Orient) will possess seven senior Grand officers, viz: The Grand Master (in some cases termed *The Supreme Grand Master*), Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Orator, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer. Some Grand Lodges, such as Chile, do not have a Deputy Grand Master. In this case, in the Grand Master's absence, the Immediate Past Grand Master will assume the role. The other ('Junior') Grand officers, appointed to varying extents in most South American Grand Lodges, mirror the officers of constituent lodges, viz: the Grand Expert, the Grand Master of Ceremonies, the Grand Almoner, the Grand Inner Guard, and the Grand Librarian (and/or Grand Archivist). The conferral of Past Grand Rank, common under many English-speaking Grand Lodges, is largely unknown.

Under some Grand Lodges, the Senior Grand Warden has an overall role for the Masonic education of Fellow Crafts, while the Junior Grand Warden has the same role for Entered Apprentices. Elections in the Grand Lodge are conducted either by secret ballot, or in some cases by mail.

### ***Constituent lodges***

Lodges working the Scottish Rite Craft degrees usually elect their Master and other officers annually or every two years. In Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay, for example, elections are annual. In some countries, it is not uncommon for officers to be elected (or re-elected) for several years. Only Master Masons can vote or be elected to office. Invariably, an important qualification for office is regular attendance, and a 60% (or higher) attendance factor at meetings is a prerequisite for election. Usually, to secure election as Master-elect, a minimum five years standing as a Master Mason is necessary. Most lodges meet weekly, although under some Grand Lodges it is permitted to meet fortnightly. Most lodges recess for two or three months over the December, January and February period each year.

### ***Lodge officers***

The officers of a Scottish Rite Craft lodge, and their responsibilities, are as follows:

*The Worshipful Master* is seated in the East of the lodge, and is possibly even more 'powerful' (at least in theory) than his counterpart in an English-form lodge. During a meeting, Master Masons cannot leave without the Master's permission, nor speak. The Senior Warden has the same authority with respect to Fellow Crafts, and the Junior Warden for Entered Apprentices. The Master is also the guardian of member's morality outside the lodge, and has the right to demand the highest standards. He has the power to terminate the membership of any member for improper behaviour either in or out of the lodge, or for infrequent and unjustified absences from lodge meetings.

*The Senior Warden* is seated in the West, and is in charge of the *column* (seating) in the West and the instruction (Masonic education) of Fellow Crafts. The Junior Warden is seated in the South, is in charge of the *column* in the South, and controls the instruction of Entered Apprentices.

*The Orator* sits in the East, usually to the left of the Worshipful Master. He is the official spokesman of the lodge, and is usually a senior Past Master. His duty is to guard and preserve Masonic law, and he must oppose any procedure against the usages, customs or landmarks of the Order. If any offence occurs, he cannot overrule the Worshipful Master, but he has the right to voice his disapproval, have the same entered in the lodge minutes, and require a copy to be immediately forwarded to the Grand Master. He also often acts as effective 'Lecture Master' of the lodge, and leads discussions on Masonic subjects.

It should be noted that in some South American countries the Worshipful Master is not an 'Installed Master' as English-speaking Masons would understand the term. He is not installed (receives the 'secrets of the chair') until after his term of office is completed. Thus, the Orator assumes an important role in the lodge because of his status (as an experienced Installed Master).

*The Secretary* is seated in the East to the right of the Worshipful Master. The Treasurer's location is usually at the head of the first row in the South (at the south-east corner). Interestingly, under some Grand Lodges, the Treasurer is personally responsible for any debts to the lodge, if he fails to notify the lodge that a member has been in arrears for more than a set period (often three months).

*The Master of Ceremonies* sits in front and to the right of the Junior Warden, and his duties are similar to a Director of Ceremonies in an English-type lodge. The Expert sits in front of the Master of Ceremonies and is responsible to the Worshipful Master for the examination of visitors and for the preparation of the temple prior to meetings. He also arranges balloting, and prepares and initially conducts the candidate during degrees. The office can be loosely compared to a Deacon in English-type lodges.

*The Almoner* normally sits in the NE corner of the lodge, opposite the Treasurer. He is responsible for the lodge benevolent funds, which generally must be independent of lodge funds. His role is otherwise analogous to the Almoner of English-type lodges, visiting and assisting brethren and their families when in need. Interestingly, under some Grand Lodges, the Almoner also has the responsibility, in the case of a brother's extreme illness, to ensure that all his papers, regalia and rituals, etc, are passed to a Masonic relative or friend. When that is not possible, the Almoner will take charge of his personal Masonic effects for safekeeping by the lodge until the brother recuperates.

*The Inner Guard* sits within the door of the lodge, and his role is similar to English practice. The Librarian/Archivist usually sits to the right of the Junior Warden and is responsible for the lodge's collection of books, objects and papers. Some South American jurisdictions also have a lodge officer known as *The Master of the Banquet* who, where appointed, ordinarily sits to the left of the Senior Warden and is responsible for the festive board.

### **Workings**

The lodge Council (consisting of the lodge officers) normally meets shortly after the lodge Installation, whereupon it proposes a 'Program of Work' for the ensuing year or two years. The program is then submitted to a Master Mason's lodge for discussion and approval. Sometimes it is then submitted to the first available meeting conducted in the first degree. Ritual work, in many Craft lodges using the Scottish Rite, is read from manuscripts on the Masters' and Wardens' pedestals.

In a normal five-week period, the meeting schedule will usually consist of two meetings in the first degree, two in the second degree and one in the third degree. Scottish Rite Craft lodges do not normally raise and lower the lodge between degrees at a single meeting as is English-type practice, but rather open straight into the degree designated for any particular meeting. Indeed, the actual working of a degree ceremony is a less common reason for opening a lodge meeting in any particular degree than for imparting Masonic instruction in that degree to those members aspiring to promotion.

Generally, to open a lodge in the first degree, a minimum of five Master Masons and either two Fellow Crafts or Entered Apprentices must be present. The minimum numbers for the second and third degrees are Five Master Masons and two Fellow Crafts, and seven Master Masons, respectively. (*See also the case study under Argentina, below*).

### **Candidates**

Candidates must be proposed in a Master Mason's lodge, and not uncommonly at least twelve months will elapse, following exhaustive inquiries and interviews, before a petition for membership comes to ballot. Under most South American Grand Lodges, candidates must be at least 18 years of age, and three or more black balls reject at balloting. Usually, not more than three candidates can be initiated at the same meeting. For the second and third degrees the maximum number is generally two.

The names of candidates for promotion to Master Mason are proposed by the Senior Warden and for promotion to Fellow Craft by the Junior Warden. The minimum time lapse between degrees is commonly two years, during which time candidates must have attended a high percentage (often at least 60%) of lodge meetings, and of Lodges of Instruction. The latter are held frequently, normally concurrently on the same night when the lodge is opening in a higher degree, but extra such gatherings are not uncommon. In addition, often a candidate for the third degree is required to have attended at least four (under some Grand Lodges more) Passing ceremonies to be eligible for promotion. Each candidate must present, before his next degree is conferred, an essay on what he has learned from the previous one. A lodge can normally pass or raise candidates for other lodges, if officially requested. It needs to be added that under more than a few South American Grand Lodges, meetings are regularly given over to Masonic education sessions, instead of degree work.

**Visitors**

Visitors are always warmly received. They will be Masonically examined when unknown, and normally enter as noted below. If of high rank (and in South American Freemasonry that is a Worshipful Master, and above), a visitor may be invited to enter with the Worshipful Master and his senior officers. There are two methods, depending on the Grand Lodge, or sometimes on the individual lodge concerned. In the first case, the Master and his senior officers (and invited visitors, if applicable) will assemble in the lodge. When the Master is ready, the Master of Ceremonies will then bid the brethren 'of the columns' to enter, whereupon the lodge will be opened. In the second case, the brethren 'of the columns' will assemble in the lodge, whereupon the Master, his senior officers, and invited visitors, will enter and the lodge opened. If the Grand Master, or a Grand officer, is attending the lodge, he is met by a *reception committee* and admitted under an 'arch of steel'.

**Other points of interest**

In areas where no lodges yet exist and the necessary minimum number of Master Masons (usually 13) is not available to form one, a group of at least three Masons can request the Grand Master to permit the formation of a 'Masonic Triangle' (*Triangulo*, plural *Trianguloes*). This request will usually be accompanied by the Masonic data of the proposed members and a program for at least the first year of meeting. Not surprisingly, a primary task is to work towards the formation of a lodge. The *Triangulo* may (and does) recommend the names of candidates to the nearest lodge and these new brethren will, in time, form sufficient numbers for the new lodge to be created. *Trianguloes* consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer. They must meet at least monthly, and under many Grand Lodges are subject to at least annual inspection by the Grand Master or (more normally) an inspector appointed by him.

It needs to be appreciated that lodges using the Scottish Rite Craft forms are quite usually not numerically large. Indeed, thirty members is considered to constitute a sizeable lodge. As a result of (commonly) weekly meetings and 'compulsory' attendance, large memberships are neither necessary, nor seen as particularly desirable. The belief is that the lodge's primary roles of Masonic education and fraternalism are best served by smaller memberships.

**The Scottish Rite beyond the Craft degrees**

While this book is restricted to worldwide *Craft* Freemasonry (a discussion on additional Masonic Orders in the world, complicated at best, would require a tome of its own), it is nonetheless fruitful in a South American context to look briefly at the Scottish Rite 'beyond the Craft'.

About 95% of Craft lodges in South America work forms of the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, with the balance using the York Rite Craft degrees (mostly English or American-type rituals). The Scottish Rite is the main avenue of 'higher' Masonic advancement in most countries, and stems directly or indirectly from Europe and the United States.

Under all Grand Lodges, one cannot seek advancement to the Scottish Rite (beyond the Craft degrees) until one is a Master Mason. In most, certainly in South America, further qualifications are required. Usually, a prerequisite is that a Mason needs to hold senior office in a Craft lodge. Often, to advance to the 18°, he must by then be a Past Master in a Craft lodge as well.

In some continental-type countries and areas (such as South America), historically, the Scottish Rite Supreme Council has either set up, or come to control, the Craft lodges and the three Craft degrees, with the Craft Grand Lodge (where it existed, often titularly) controlled by the Supreme Council. In terms of normal regular Freemasonry, this occurrence is considered grossly irregular, and where it occurs the Craft Grand lodge so 'controlled' is never widely recognised as regular by other Grand Lodges. It is only when the Craft Grand Lodge and the Scottish Rite Supreme Council in any country or area are completely separate that the former is likely (other requirements of regularity being equal) to be recognised by other Grand Lodges. Happily, most Grand Lodges in South America are not so controlled, though in the past this has not always been the case. Even today, there are 'grey areas' in this regard.

It is as well to note that, while many Grand Lodges in South America are recognised as regular by the Craft Grand Lodges of the British Isles, North America and Europe, many South American Scottish Rite Supreme Councils are not. Thus, most Masons visiting South and Central America who may be members of

the Scottish Rite in their home countries, while they can *legally* visit Craft lodges, may not *legally* be able to visit Scottish Rite lodges beyond the Craft degrees.

## ARGENTINA

### A The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Argentina

[*Gran Logia de la Argentina*]

*Founded:* 1857. *Descent:* Uruguay, England.

*Address:* Masonic Temple, Pte. J D Peron 1242, 1038 Buenos Aires.

*Postal Address:* Casilla de Correo 4193, Correo Central, 1000 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

*Telephone:* (54-1) 382 2585, *Fax:* (54-1) 382 1894.

*Email:* <GranLogia@Masoneria-Argentina.org.ar>.

*Website:* <<http://www.Masoneria-Argentina.org.ar>>.

*Lodges:* 85. *Membership:* 2540.

*Ritual:* largely Scottish (Craft) Rite.

*Main Publications:* *Constitutions*, *Annual Proceedings*.

*Periodical:* *Masoneria Simbolo* (bi-monthly).

### *History*

The first lodge in Argentina was formed in 1795, under the Grand Orient of France. The first English lodges were established in 1806, and Pennsylvania warranted a lodge in 1825. However, survival was short, with all lodges being suppressed by the Government in 1846.

By 1853, the United Grand Lodge of England had managed to charter Excelsior Lodge #617 and several of the earlier Spanish-speaking lodges were revived about this time. In 1857, six lodges holding warrants from the Grand Orient of Uruguay formed a sovereign Grand Lodge. At this stage a Supreme Council was erected, also sponsored from Uruguay. In 1935, another Scottish Rite Supreme Council was formed, called *Federal Argentino*. This body claimed control over the Craft degrees, and developed Craft lodges.

In 1860, the United Grand Lodge of England entered into a Treaty of Amity with the Grand Lodge of Argentina, similar to the one later promulgated with the Grand Orient of Brazil. In return for perpetual English recognition, Argentina gave England the right to warrant and maintain English-speaking lodges in its jurisdiction. In 1957, the Grand Lodge of Argentina merged with the *Federal Argentino* Supreme Council, thus forming one Sovereign Grand Lodge for the whole country.

Unhappily, the serious economic problems of Argentina in more recent years has adversely effected its Freemasonry. In 1984, the Grand Lodge of Argentina possessed 75 lodges and 7,150 members, but by 1993 the number of lodges had reduced to 68 and membership to 2,150 - a fairly severe decline. Happily, this position is improving. In 1997, 83 lodges were working in Argentina, and membership has climbed to 2,540.

### *Notes for Visitors*

Argentinian lodges use a variety of rituals, with both the Scottish and York Rites represented, although the former greatly dominates. While most Argentinian lodges work in Spanish, there are four that work in German, while a few work in Italian. Argentine lodges largely meet twice monthly, while English lodges meet once per month. English-speaking lodges in Buenos Aires usually start at 7 pm, while those elsewhere sometimes tyle at 8 pm. Spanish-speaking lodges also more commonly meet at 8 pm. Some English lodges follow their meetings with a light sit-down supper, but all offer at least snacks and drinks at the bar. The practice of dining is less prevalent in Argentinian lodges. Dress for all lodges in Argentina is a dark lounge suit, and it is appreciated when visitors bring their own regalia. As English-speaking visitors will probably be attracted to English-speaking lodges, those working in the country are listed under (B), below.

### THE SCOTTISH RITE CRAFT DEGREES IN ARGENTINA

#### —A CASE STUDY

The Scottish Rite Craft workings of lodges in Argentina, as noted in the historical sketch above, stem more directly from France than those of most other South American countries, yet are also an interesting amalgam with English-type ritual practices. Nonetheless, the differences are not huge and, local idiosyncrasies excepted, Argentinian workings are not that dissimilar from those prevalent across Central and South

America. The portrait below centres on the Argentinian first degree ceremony and, while not exhaustive, does give an overall impression. Space does not readily permit a description of the other two degrees, but the forms are, of course, consistent.

### ***The layout of the Temple, and Opening***

The Temple consists of the East, West, North and High Noon. In English-form lodges High Noon is named as the South. Any Mason will readily recognise the symbolic convergence in this terminology. The central mosaic pavement is the same as found in English-style temples, but the ceiling represents a starry sky, painted light blue in the East, where the sun rises to illumine the day, getting much darker towards the West with many white clouds painted on the sky. There is a lack of windows in the temple room on the premise that the candidate receives his light from the Masonic teachings.

On the wall, at the top and behind the Worshipful Master, is a golden triangle engraved with the Hebrew name for God. To the right of the Worshipful Master, also on the East wall, is the National Flag and to the left, the flag of the Order or the standard of the lodge. The tables of the Orator and Secretary are on the dais in the South and North respectively. The Wardens are in same places as in English lodges, with the same elevation of steps, but there is a small difference. The Senior Warden is positioned at the northwest side of the entrance door. In the west wall, the Column B is located on the left side coming in and the Column J on the right side.

The Almoner's seat (with table) is located in the North, with the Director of Ceremonies' chair between him and the Worshipful Master. In the South (*High Noon*), is the Treasurer (with table). The Expert sits between the Almoner and the Worshipful Master. The seating arrangement for members is the same as in English lodges.

The Tracing Board is located at the west of the Mosaic Pavement, and during the workings of the third degree another symbolic artefact is placed between it and the steps to the dais. A Rough Ashlar is placed in front of Column B and a Perfect Ashlar (or Pyramidal Stone) in front of Column J. The Pedestal is covered with a piece of red fabric or velvet bordered with gold. A purple velvet cushion sits on top with the three Great Lights, together with both the (political) National Constitution of Argentina and the *Book of Constitutions* of the Grand Lodge. The ballot box is always located on the Worshipful Master's table.

Prior to 1957, the degree ritual was not dissimilar from the English form, but after amalgamation with the Federal Argentino Supreme Council in that year, significant changes were made. During the opening, the Worshipful Master asks the Senior Warden 'what is the first care of every Mason'. The Senior Warden then makes the same inquiry of the Junior Warden, who then asks The Expert to perform the duty. As will be noted, the offices of Inner Guard and Deacons no longer exist. The Expert checks with the Outer Guard or Tyler and communicates by the reverse chain to the Worshipful Master. When the Worshipful Master calls the lodge to order, the Wardens leave their respective places to check and recognise all present to ensure each is entitled to be in the lodge. The Worshipful Master is responsible for the brethren occupying the dais in the East.

Not surprisingly, after the lodge is opened; the first business is the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, but with a difference. After their reading by the Secretary, the Wardens ask the brethren under their respective columns if it represents a faithful record or if it requires any amendment. On the negative, the Wardens notify the Worshipful Master that 'silence reigns in their respective columns'. As is customary in Scottish Rite forms, the Junior Warden is in charge of the South side and the Senior Warden of the North side, with no seats being available on the west side of the Temple. The Orator is then asked by the Worshipful Master for his opinion, and if everything is correct, the minutes are confirmed.

### ***Reception of Visitors***

Visitors normally await the opening of the lodge prior to being received. The Worshipful Master asks the Director of Ceremonies to retire to bring in the attendance book, together with the certificates and other Masonic documents of visitors not vouched for. The document signatures are checked against the ones in the attendance book by the Worshipful Master and the Orator. The Director of Ceremonies and the Expert then retire to examine the visitors not vouched for and, everything being correct, they return to the Temple with all the visitors, who salute the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden respectively. They are then invited to take their appropriate places in the lodge. As Argentinian lodges do not normally print notice papers, the Worshipful Master informs the visitors of the work of the evening.



### ***Sack of Propositions***

At this stage the Worshipful Master announces that the 'sack of propositions' is about to be circulated by the Director of Ceremonies. Every Mason present, visitors included, has an obligation to put his closed right hand into the bag and remove it open. The 'sack of propositions' is used to delineate some of the work of the evening, such as suggestion of candidates, motions, petitions for affiliation, or any other proposition *for the good of the lodge*. Once the 'sack' has been circulated among the brethren, the Director of Ceremonies empties the contents on the Worshipful Master's table for him to select the ones appropriate to the degree to be worked. After the selection of the propositions and the sequence to be adopted according to priority, the Worshipful Master passes them to the Orator, who reads the propositions, making suggestions as he deems necessary. The Worshipful Master will then retain those items he considers appropriate the ballot. In the case of a petition for initiation, if it is accepted, the Worshipful Master selects three brethren to investigate the candidate, to make an assessment and report to the lodge individually without consultation with each other. A ballot is always verified by the Orator, who then notifies the Worshipful Master of its result.

### ***Initiation***

On a candidate being 'suggested' to the lodge by his nominator, he is often questioned appropriately by senior members, as after initiation he becomes the perpetual 'Godfather' of the candidate and must look after him through his Masonic life.

On his Night of Initiation the candidate is accompanied by his nominator to the Masonic Centre, as his role is prepare him for the ceremony. After preparation, the Expert takes charge of the candidate, placing him in a room called *The Chamber of Reflection*, with painted inscriptions on the wall for him to meditate upon. In some lodges, the candidate's nominator acts as the Expert. The Expert removes the candidate's jacket and all money and metallic substances, such as watches, rings, etc., and explains to the candidate that he must enter the lodge without the emblems of vanity. He then gives him a triangular piece of paper containing printed questions with spaces for replies. The questions deal with his opinions towards mankind, himself, and God.

The Expert asks the candidate to answer these questions to the best of his ability and to append his signature to the replies, advising him to meditate on the great step he is about to take. On his return to the Temple, the Expert places the candidate's belongings on the Worshipful Master's table.

### ***Reception of the Candidate***

After a certain period of time, the Expert returns to the *Chamber of Meditation* and on the point of his sword takes the piece of paper (with the responses) to the Worshipful Master, who reads the answers and asks if there is any objection from the Brethren. At this stage anybody can object to the answers given by the candidate before the acceptance is put to the vote of the members. If the vote is favourable, the Worshipful Master instructs the Expert to conduct the candidate to the door of the Temple.

Upon his entering the lodge, the Worshipful Master asks the candidate several questions that he must answer in his own words and at length regarding his impressions from the *Chamber of Reflection* and Freemasonry in general, including if he is willing to ratify the written answers signed by him. The Worshipful Master, if not satisfied, could at his own discretion, ask for clarification of the answers given by the candidate.

The candidate is then conducted outside the lodge by the Expert to allow the brethren of the lodge to present any objection to the Worshipful Master before the final submission to the ballot. At this stage, if the brethren were not satisfied with the answers given, the ballot would likely be in negative and the candidate denied admission for initiation. If there is no objection, the candidate re-enters the lodge to be seated in a triangular seat in the middle of the lodge room before commencing the three perambulations required in the first degree.

During the first perambulation, the candidate is reminded of the obstacles to be encountered in life. During the second, he is purified with water and becomes aware that with perseverance some of these obstacles can be overcome. Finally, on his third symbolic trip, he is purified by fire and realises that with faith in the Fatherhood of God and in the Brotherhood of Man, many of the obstacles of life are removed. The final test is the *Cup of Bitterness*. It is symbolic of the bitterness of life, and is followed by the presentation of the *Sweet Cup*, symbolising that the sweet taste of a valuable and satisfying life can come to him through the help of his brethren.

The candidate, still in a state of darkness, is taken to the Pedestal, where he takes an Obligation and is given the light in a manner similar to English ritual, except that occurrences at this point would be more familiar to those accustomed to Irish-type workings.

The Worshipful Master then proceeds to constitute the candidate as an Entered Apprentice Freemason. The Director of Ceremonies, the Expert, and the Worshipful Master form an *Arch of Steel* over the candidate, with the Worshipful Master striking his sword with the gavel with the appropriate symbolic knocks of the degree. The candidate is then invested with the apron and received as a Brother of the Order with what is known as the *Triple Fraternal Embrace*.

The Director of Ceremonies takes the candidate to the West for Proclamation, after which he is taken to the NE corner of the lodge. There his main possessions are returned to him by the Director of Ceremonies who then, on the point of his sword, burns the paper with the answers given by the candidate in the *Chamber of Reflection*. The Worshipful Master explains to the candidate that after his Obligation the piece of paper is not required, and that now that he is a Brother of the Order, that status alone is sufficient proof of his sincerity.

The Worshipful Master then calls the lodge to recess to allow the Expert to take the candidate outside the lodge room to a convenient room, where he is instructed in the signs, token and word necessary to gain admission to an Entered Apprentices' lodge. On re-entering the lodge appropriately, the candidate is conducted to the Rough Ashlar, where he is required to perform symbolic work with a gavel and chisel by striking the stone three times. Thereafter, the Orator addresses the candidate in a lecture of the first degree, similar to the Final Charge under English-type ritual. This concludes the Ceremony of Initiation.

### ***Closing the lodge***

Prior to closing the lodge, the Almoner circulates with 'The Sack of the Widow', directly analogous to the collection of Alms in an English-type lodge. It is expected that every brother should contribute to the sack and any absent brother is equally expected to ensure before the meeting that a contribution is made on his behalf. This is the form in which apologies for non-attendance are noted in Argentinian lodges. The lodge is closed in a manner somewhat similar to, and in reverse to, the Opening.

## **B The District Grand Lodge of South America (Southern Division)**

(under the United Grand Lodge of England).

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle Peru 1134, 1068 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Telephone: (54 -1) 361 0211, Fax: (54 -1) 307 0446.

Lodges: 13 (11 Argentina, 1 Chile, 1 Uruguay).

### ***English-speaking lodges***

The history of English lodges in Argentina and general notes on visiting are outlined in (A) above.

Under the English District Grand Lodge, both the number of lodges and membership has declined in recent decades, in line with the size of the British community in general. Second and third generation Anglo-Argentines, though bilingual, tend to use Spanish as their normal language. In 1984 the English District Grand Lodge possessed 18 lodges, but by 1997 only 13 remained. Most of the lodges becoming extinct were in Buenos Aires, which in the early 1980s had 14 lodges compared with 6 still working in 1997. English-speaking lodges are listed hereunder.

### ***Buenos Aires***

Lodges meet at the Masonic Hall, Calle Peru 1134, Buenos Aires, unless otherwise stated.

Excelsior Lodge #617	Meets 3rd Thursday, April to November. Inst: June.
Lodge Star of the South #1025	Meets 1st Monday, April to November. Inst: June.
The Pampa Lodge #2329	Meets 4th Friday, March to October. Inst: October.
Trevor Mold Lodge #3293	Meets 4th Wednesday, May, August & November. Inst: August.
Belgrano Lodge #3466	Meets 3rd Friday, April, June, August & October. Inst: August.
Columbia Lodge #4682	Meets 3rd Tuesday, April to November. Inst: May.
Old Georgian Lodge #5104	Meets 2nd Friday, April to November. Inst: September.
River Plate Lodge #7888	Meets Paseo Victorica 156, Tigre, Buenos Aires, 2nd Tuesday, April to November. Inst: May (at Calle Peru 1134, Buenos Aires)

*Cordoba*

Southern Cross Lodge #1750 Meets at 'Bellmont', 5178 Cruz Grande, Cordoba 3rd Saturday, April, May, June, September, October, & November. Inst: November

*Lomas de Zamora*

St. John's Lodge #2517 Meets at Calle Colombres 146, Lomas de Zamora, 1st Tuesday, April to November. Inst: July.

## BOLIVIA

### The Grand Lodge of Bolivia

*Founded:* 1929. *Descent:* Chile.

Address: Masonic Hall, Calle Obispo Cardenas 1480, La Paz.

Postal Address: Casilla Postal 564, La Paz, Bolivia.

Telephone: (591-2) 329 840, or 329 544, Fax: (591-2) 392 462.

Lodges: 46. Membership: 2338.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, York Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution*.

### History

Unlike many South American countries, Bolivia does not possess lodges warranted by foreign Grand Lodges. However, it does have an active mainstream Grand Lodge, with one of its constituent lodges working in the English language.

Bolivia is named after Simon Bolivar, the liberator of northern South America, and himself a noted Freemason. While, traditionally, the Craft is supposed to have come to Bolivia in 1875, no positive proof of an extant lodge prior to 1928 appears to be available. Nonetheless, the Craft must have been established in some form prior to that date, as the Grand Lodge of Bolivia was sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Chile in late 1929, using seven Chilean lodges. The oldest extant lodge in Bolivia is *Logia Honradez y Trabajo #3*, founded at Sucre in 1885. Two other Bolivian lodges have higher numbers, despite being younger than *Honradez y Trabajo*, but how this anomaly occurred is not clear. The apparent lack of extant early Masonic history can possibly be put down to the turbulent politics of the area well into this century.

Unfortunately, Bolivia also possesses an irregular 'Grand Lodge', known as *The Grand York Rite Lodge of Bolivia*. It has eight lodges, one of which has female membership. It is not recognised by any mainstream Grand Lodge.

### Notes for Visitors

Of Bolivia's 46 lodges, 16 work in the Bolivian capital of La Paz, while the remaining 30 operate at provincial locations. All lodges work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees in Spanish with the exception of eight lodges which use the York Rite. In Bolivia's case the York Rite ritual used is the English Emulation working. Seven of these eight lodges work it in Spanish translation, while one lodge, Anglo Bolivian Lodge #7, uses the original English. All lodges meet weekly, except Anglo Bolivian Lodge, which meets monthly. All lodges in La Paz open at 7 pm. Bolivian lodges recess from mid-December until their annual lodge elections in mid-January. The only exception is again Anglo Bolivian Lodge which elects its Master and officers at its November meeting, installs in early December, and re-opens in January.

Visitors are usually admitted after the confirmation of minutes, again except in Anglo Bolivian lodge, where they are admitted for the opening. Dress for Bolivian lodges is a dark business suit, although dinner suits are commonly worn for Initiation ceremonies.

In Scottish Rite Craft lodges, Entered Apprentices use a plain white apron with the flap pointed upwards. Fellow Crafts use a white apron with a red border, and Master Masons have the same but with the square and compasses embroidered in the centre with the letter 'M' on one side and 'B' on the other. There is a difference of opinion in Bolivia as the meaning of these letters. One school of thought holds that they stand for *Masoneria Boliviana*, while another believes they indicate certain words applicable to the third degree. The latter is more likely, as Chilean aprons also bear the M & B (as do those of several other South

American countries, such as Colombia), and Bolivian Masonry is descended from Chile. A Master Mason also wears a blue sash with a red border and the square and compasses embroidered in red. Aprons are worn outside the jacket.

In terms of regalia, the York Rite lodges use English regalia, while in Scottish Rite Craft lodges the apron is similarly designed, through a grey colour. York Rite lodges install their Masters in an Installed Board (similar to English practice) at the beginning of their year in office. Masters of Scottish Rite Craft lodges are, normally, installed after their year of office, using the York Rite (Emulation) Installed Board ritual, at a special lodge of Past Masters, convened at the Winter Solstice Grand Lodge meeting by the Grand Master. A 'Past' Master is not automatically 'installed'. After a Master served his twelve month term and at least six months as Immediate Past Master, each lodge's *Council of Past Masters* will write to the Grand Master stating that the 'past' Worshipful Master has behaved satisfactorily, and requesting his Installation.

An interesting custom observed in Bolivia during the closure of lodge meetings, is the *Chain of Friendship*. After regalia and gloves have been removed, all *members* from a circle and cross there hands over their chest, right over left, and hold hands, with the Worshipful Master at the top (east) end and the Senior Warden at the bottom (west) end. The Master then passes a 'word' which is whispered, mouth to ear, down both sides to the Senior Warden, whereupon it is passed back similarly to the Master. Once the Master has received the word back, all *visitors* are invited to join the ring. Thereafter, the words 'health, stability, and power' are repeated three times, whereupon all present shake hands and return to their places for the exit of the Master. The 'word' used is changed each six months at the solstice meetings of the Grand Lodge. The *Chain of Friendship* is somewhat analogous to the *Chain of Union* used in Scottish Rite Craft lodges in Europe, but quite uncommon elsewhere in South America.

Visiting a Bolivian lodge is an interesting experience. In Bolivian Scottish Rite Craft lodges, as is common generally, the Senior Warden sits at the back of the Entered Apprentice column, in the north, while the Junior Warden sits at the back of the Fellow Crafts column, in the south. Upon entering the lodge, it is customary to stand between the columns, advance with the steps of the degree, then salute the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden in turn, and proceed to an appropriate seat.

Most Bolivian lodges hold a Ladies' Night annually, called *Tenidas Blancas* (White Meetings). After the lodge is opened and called off, the ladies are invited in, whereupon each is presented with a rose and various speeches are made. Then they retire and the lodge is resumed and closed.

The Grand Lodge meets twice per year at the Grand Temple in La Paz, which has the distinction of possessing the highest Masonic building in the world in terms of geographical elevation, at 11,733 feet above sea level.

### **List of lodges**

#### *La Paz*

Lodges meet at the Grand Masonic Temple, Calle Obispo Cardenas 1480, La Paz. All lodges work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, unless otherwise noted.

Mondays	Logia Obreros de Provenir #16 (York), Renacimiento #32, Unidad y Acción #33, Fuerza y Esplendor #41
Tuesdays	Logia Universo #13, Logia Hispano Boliviana #17, Rafael Indaburu Gonzales Integracion #44 (York)
Wednesdays	Logia Mariscal de Ayacucho #6, Fenix #34 (York)
Thursdays	Logia Renovación #12, Logia Mariscal de Zepita #20 (York), Hermandad #40
Fridays	Logia Illimani #2, La Paz #24, Hector Ormachea Zalles #25
Second Monday	Anglo Bolivian Lodge #7 (York—English).

#### *Other locations*

The meeting places in other principal Bolivian population centres are as follows:

Sucre	Masonic Temple, Calle San Alberto, Sucre. (2 lodges)
Potosi	Masonic Temple, Calle Matos 111, Potosi. (2 lodges)
Santa Cruz	Masonic Temple, Calle Ayacucho 431, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (5 lodges)
Cochabamba	Masonic Temple, Calle Ayacucho 5924, Cochabamba. (5 lodges)
Oruro	Masonic Temple, Calle Ayacucho 754, Oruro. (3 lodges)

## BRAZIL

### Historical Overview

The Craft in Brazil resembles a pot pourri. The oldest and largest Grand Lodge in Brazil is the Grand Orient of Brazil, with a subordinate Grand Orient in each state. In addition, there are 27 Grand Lodges, based on the boundaries of the Brazilian states; and 17 independent State Grand Orients; plus a District Grand Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England; and some other bodies not recognised by any of the foregoing. There are, therefore, *three* main streams of Craft Masonry in Brazil, represented by the Grand Orient of Brazil; the various Grand Lodges based on the Brazilian States; and the independent State-based Grand Orients.

The earliest of the State Grand Lodges were made up of lodges which broke away from the Grand Orient after 1927, during various periods of internal problems. These, in turn, chartered lodges in other parts of the country, and progressively, each State gained its own 'State' Grand Lodge. Needless to say, historically, the Grand Orient took a dim view of this development. Clearly there was a territorial problem, with the Grand Orient claiming Masonic authority for the whole country. However, following a 'general conclave' of all then existing Grand Lodges in 1957, *Treaties of Fraternal Friendship* were signed between most of the parties. This did not extend to full mutual recognition, but did allow intervisitation and ongoing dialogue. Today, the Grand Orient of Brazil currently maintains friendship treaties with all state Grand Lodges, it would seem, except the Grand Lodges of Acre and Amapá.

The Grand Orient of Brazil is something of an 'apex' Grand Lodge, controlled by a 'General Grand Master' and Grand officers, with its lodges in each Brazilian state coming under a 'Federato' (somewhat analogous to a British-style *Provincial Grand Lodge*), each with its own Grand Master and Grand officers.

In addition, there is a 'third stream' of Brazilian Masonry in the form of independent state-based Grand Orients (GOIs). These all descend from past schisms within the Grand Orient of Brazil or the state Grand Lodges. GOIs exist in seventeen Brazilian states, namely: Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraná, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo. In at least some states, all three Grand bodies (the local Grand Orient of Brazil 'Federado', the state Grand Lodge and the GOI) are generally on good terms, and Masons can commonly transfer from one to another without re-doing degrees.

Outside of Brazil, other Grand Lodges have taken 'sides'. The situation is that most of the US and Canadian Grand Lodges tend to recognise an assortment of the state Grand Lodges but not the Grand Orient of Brazil (as of 1996, only ten USA Grand Lodges maintained fraternal relations with it) whereas the English, Irish and Scottish Grand Lodges only recognise the Grand Orient. The GOIs tend to be totally unrecognised outside Brazil. The various European Grand Lodges, for the most part, recognise the Grand Orient, plus varying selections of the state Grand Lodges. Thus, it depends entirely upon which Grand Lodge a visitor comes from, as to what Brazilian lodges he may legally visit.

In addition to the above, there are several lodges in Brazil holding warrants from the United Grand Lodge of England. This results from a treaty between England and the Grand Orient of Brazil, which is discussed below.

### A THE GRAND ORIENT OF BRAZIL

[*Grande Oriente do Brasil*]

*Founded:* 1822. *Descent:* France.

Address: Freemasons' Hall, Avenida W-5 Sul - SGAS 913 - Módulo H, Brasília.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 12-2612, Brasília, Brazil.

Telephone: (55-61) 245 4555. Fax: 245 4614.

Website: <<http://www.rudah.com.br/gob>>.

Lodges: 1745. Membership: 97,754

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications. *Anuario* (Annual Proceedings), *Constitution & History, Introducing the Grand Orient of Brazil* (colour booklet).

Principal City Temple Addresses:

Palacio Maçônico, Rua Lavradio 97, Rio de Janeiro. Telephone: (55-21) 222 3102.

Edifício Maçônico, Rua São Joaquim 457, São Paulo. Telephone: (55-21) 279 5288.

## **B THE STATE GRAND LODGES OF BRASIL**

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Acre**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Acre*]

*Founded:* 1973. *Descent:* Amazonas.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Epaminondas Jácome, 332, Altos, Rio Branco.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 56, 69.908-970 Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil.

Telephone: (55-68) 224 6842

Lodges: 10. Membership: 650.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Grand Lodge of the State of Alagoas**

[*Grande Loja do Estado do Alagoas*]

*Founded:* 1958. *Descent:* Bahia.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Voluntario da Patria 205, Maceio, Alagoas.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 252, 57.020-510 Maceió, Alagoas, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-82) 221 2551.

Lodges: 20. Membership: 700.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Amapá**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Amapá*]

*Founded:* 1988. *Descent:* Pará.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Raimundo Alvares da Costa, 340, centro. Macapá, Amapá, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-96) 222 2752.

Lodges: 5. Membership: 370

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of Amazonas**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Amazonas*]

*Founded:* 1904. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Commendador Clementino 296, Manaus.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 162, 69.025-000 Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-92) 622 4188, Fax: 622 1681.

Lodges: 40. Membership: 6572.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **The United Grand Lodge of Bahia**

[*Grande Loja Unita da Bahia*]

*Founded:* 1927. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Carlos Gomes 108, 40.060-330 Salvador, Bahia, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-71) 243 1849. Fax: 243 3994.

Lodges: 129. Membership: 6000.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of Brasília**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica de Brasília*]

*Founded:* 1963. *Descent:* Goiás

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Sgan 909-Modulo 'A', Brasília, DF.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 03648, 70.084-979 Brasília, DF, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-61) 340 7272, or 349 2796.

Email: <[glmb@conectanet.com.br](mailto:glmb@conectanet.com.br)>.

Website: <<http://www.geocities.com/athens/7056/index.html>>.

Lodges: 28. Membership: 1062.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Ceará**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Ceará*]

*Founded:* 1928. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida do Imperador 145-147, Fortaleza.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 76, 60.015-052 Fortaleza, Ceará, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-85) 212 1212, or 212 4096.

Email: <[glomec@ultranet.com.br](mailto:glomec@ultranet.com.br)>.

Lodges: 117. Membership: 11,139.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, Schroeder, York.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Espírito Santo**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Espírito Santo*]

*Founded:* 1970. *Descent:* Rio de Janeiro.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Santo Antônio 224, Volta de Caratoíra, Vitória.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 01-919, 29.001-970 Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-27) 322 2771. Fax: 322 2639.

Lodges: 70. Membership: 3700.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Goiás**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Goiás*]

*Founded:* 1951. *Descent:* São Paulo.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua J-52 Qd. 142, Lt. 21, Setor Jaó, Goiânia.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 332, 74.001-910 Goiânia, Goiás, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-62) 207 1020, 207 1788, 261 7979. Fax: 207 1558.

Lodges: 111. Membership: 3068.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Maranhão**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Maranhão*]

*Founded:* 1960. *Descent:* Pará.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua 44, No. 23 - conjunto Bequimao, São Luiz, Maranhão, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-98) 236 7402.

Lodges: 108. Membership: 4500.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Mato Grosso**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado de Mato Grosso*]

*Founded:* 1978. *Descent:* São Paulo.

Address: Edifício Marechal Rondon Bandeirantes, Rua General Valle 321 - Salas 1203/1204, Cuiabá.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 321, 78.010-100 Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-65) 624 7939. Fax: 624 1786.

Website: <<http://www.solunet.com.br/glemt>>.

Lodges: 29. Membership: 705.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Mato Grosso South**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado de Mato Grosso do Sul*]

*Founded:* 1962. *Descent:* Mato Grosso.

Address: Vila Frederico Portinho Pache, Rua do Sucre 275, Campo Grande.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 611, 79.051-380 Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-67) 742 3333. Fax: 742 3334.

Lodges: 56. Membership: 2200.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

Periodical: *Consciencia* (quarterly).

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of Minas Gerais**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica de Minas Gerais*]

*Founded:* 1927. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Brazil 478 - Santa Efigênia, 40.140-001 Belo Horizonte.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 005, Aarão Reis, 30.161-970 Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Telephone: (55-31) 274 1577. Fax: 222 9013.

Website: <<http://www.glmmg.org.br>>.

Lodges: 251. Membership: 7427.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, York.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of Pará**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Pará*]

*Founded:* 1927. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Almirante Tamandare 1114, Belém.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 333, 66.023-000 Belém, Pará, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-91)250 5126. Fax: 250 5332.

Lodges: 60. Membership: 2920.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, Schroeder, York.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Paraíba**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado da Paraíba*]

*Founded:* 1927. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Severino Massa Spinelli 390 - Tambaú, João Pessoa.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 3006, 58.039-210 João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-83) 226 4574. Fax: 226 1654.

Lodges: 38. Membership: 1616

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Grand Lodge of Paraná**

[*Grande Loja do Paraná*]

*Founded:* 1941. *Descent:* São Paulo.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Brigadeiro Franco 4173, Curitiba, Paraná

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 17-501, 80.251-991 Curitiba, Paraná, Brasil.

Telephone: (55-41) 332 1909. Fax: 332 7124.

Email: <[1Masonica@super.com.br](mailto:1Masonica@super.com.br)>. Website: <<http://www.glp.org/br/>>.



Lodges: 92. Membership: ,800.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, Schroeder, York.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Grand Lodge of Pernambuco**

[*Grande Loja do Pernambuco*]

*Founded:* 1932. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.  
Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Imperial 197, Recife, Pernambuco.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 1415, Recife, Pernambuco, Brasil.  
Telephone: 224 2476.  
Lodges: 40. Membership: 1400.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Grand Lodge of Piauí**

[*Grande Loja do Piauí*]

*Founded:* 1948. *Descent:* Rio de Janeiro.  
Address: Rua Riachuelo 1164, Parnaíba, Piauí.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 176, 64.200-280 Parnaíba, Piauí, Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-64) 200280.  
Lodges: 31. Membership: 1840.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Rio de Janeiro**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Rio de Janeiro*]

*Founded:* 1944. *Descent:* Guanabara (Grand Orient of Brazil).  
Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Professor Gabizo 129, Maracanã, 20.271-063 Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-21) 569 1597, or 567 1157. Fax: 234 6814.  
Lodges: 134. Membership: 8711.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, Schroeder, York.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Grand Lodge of the State of Rio Grande North**

[*Grande Loja do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte*]

*Founded:* 1974. *Descent:* Paraíba  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 610, 59.022-970 Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brasil.  
Telephone/fax: (55-84) 231 2753.  
Lodges: 18. Membership: 500.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Rio Grande South**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado de Rio Grande do Sul*]

*Founded:* 1928. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.  
Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Praia de Belas 560, Porto Alegre.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 683, 90.110-000 Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-51) 224 3293. Fax: 224 1421.  
Lodges: 105. Membership: 3503.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, Schroeder, York.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Rondônia**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado de Rondônia*]

*Founded:* 1985. *Descent:* Amazonas.  
Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Dom Pedro II No. 1404 - Altos - Sala 4, Porto Velho.

Postal Address: Caixa Postal 1331, Porto Velho, Rondônia, Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-69) 223 1173.  
Lodges: 17. Membership: 455.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Roraima**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Roraima*]

*Founded:* 1981. *Descent:* Amazonas.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Coronel Pinto 396 - centro, Boa Vista.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 25, 69.301-150 Boa Vista, Roraima, Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-95) 625 2164.  
Lodges: 7. Membership: 394.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Grand Lodge of Santa Catarina**

[*Grande Loja de Santa Catarina*]

*Founded:* 1956. *Descent:* Rio Grande do Sul.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Avenida Hercílio Luz 617, Florianópolis.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 247, 88.010-970 Florianópolis, Santa Catarina.  
Telephone: (55-48) 222 5577, 222 0722. Fax: 222 6425.  
Email: <glsc@iaccess.com.br>.  
Website: <<http://www.iaccess.com.br/~glsc>>.  
Lodges: 68. Membership: 1879.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of São Paulo**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado de São Paulo*]

*Founded:* 1927. *Descent:* Grand Orient of Brazil.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua São Joaquin 138 - Liberdade, São Paulo.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 2774, 01.065-970 São Paulo, SP—Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-11) 270 8399. Fax: 277 7732.  
Website: <<http://www.Mason.com.br>>.  
Lodges: 434. Membership: 15,535.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, Schroeder, York.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.  
Periodical: *A Verdade* (bi-monthly)

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Sergipe**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado de Sergipe*]

*Founded:* 1983. *Descent:* Bahia.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua Oscar Valois Galvão 359 (corner Rua Senator Leite Neto), Aracaju.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 611, 49.-027-220 Aracaju, Sergipe, Brasil.  
Telephone: (55-79) 231 6375.  
Lodges: 12. Membership: 313.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Tocantins**

[*Grande Loja Maçônica do Estado do Tocantins*]

*Founded:* 1989. *Descent:* Pará.

Address: Edifício Maçônico, Rua dos Macons 543 - centro, Araguaína.  
Postal Address: Caixa Postal 63, 77.804-970 Araguaína, Tocantins, Brasil.  
Telephone & Fax: (55-63) 821 3721.

Lodges: 29. Membership: 735.  
 Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
 Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **History**

The earliest Masonic groups in Brazil appeared in 1796 in Minas Gerais and Pernambuco, and in 1798 in Bahia, but these were short lived. The first recorded lodge was *Reunion*, founded in 1801 under the Grand Orient of France, and three lodges were erected under the Grand Orient of Portugal in 1803. All these lodges were proscribed in 1806, and forced to close. By 1815, the political climate had changed sufficiently to allow Lodge *Comércio e Artes* (Commerce & Arts), to be warranted. Its charter came from the Grand Orient of France via Ile de France (Ile Maurice, or Mauritius in English). It was closed in 1818, but re-established on 24 June 1821. On 17 June 1822, its members decided to split it into three lodges, the extra two being *União e Tranquilidade* (Union & Harmony) and *Esperança de Nichterói* (Hope of Nichteroi), in order to form the Grand Orient of Brazil. All three lodges still exist, and work happily in Rio de Janeiro.

Interestingly, the future Brazilian Emperor, Dom Pedro I, was initiated into Lodge *Comércio e Artes* on 2 August 1822 and raised on 5 August in the same year, just before Brazilian independence was proclaimed on 7 September. He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Orient on 4 October—certainly a rapid promotion. However, shortly after his accession as Grand Master, the Emperor closed these lodges because he considered them political, and they remained dormant for the next ten years. After the Emperor's abdication in 1831, the Grand Orient was revived, although several schisms soon split it into discordant factions. Even so, by 1857, the Grand Orient possessed 121 lodges throughout Brazil. In this era there were also Masonic incursions from the Supreme Council of Belgium, which greatly aided the disunity of the Brazilian Craft. The schismatic nature of Brazilian Masonry continued until 1883, whereupon Craft lodges largely united under the Grand Orient, following sustained attacks from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Brazilian Craft remained relatively united until the 1920s, whereupon a serious dispute arose within the Grand Orient concerning the control of the Craft degrees by the Grand Orient's Supreme Council. By 1927, many lodges had seceded from the Grand Orient to form various State Grand Lodges. This breach has never been healed, although as noted above, the Grand Orient and most State Grand Lodges co-exist happily enough. The Descent of the State Grand Lodges is charted below.

The United Grand Lodge of England maintains a District Grand Lodge in Brazil, with ten constituent lodges. Ten of these lodges were originally warranted by the Grand Orient of Brazil, the earliest in 1891, with an eleventh (Santo Amaro #7250) chartered directly under England in 1953. However, one of the original ten (Lodge of Friendship #5563) ceased operations in 1991, returning the number to ten lodges.

The United Grand Lodge of England was amongst the first Grand Lodges to recognise the Grand Orient of Brazil, which it did in 1881. England renegotiated its fraternal relations treaty in 1912, and in 1935 the two Grand Bodies signed a 'Treaty of Fraternal Alliance', whereby England agreed to recognise the Grand Orient in perpetuity as the sole Masonic power in Brazil. In return, English-speaking lodges were permitted to exchange their charters. All were promptly re-warranted under England, with England being ceded the sole right to maintain English-speaking lodges in Brazil. This is the only occasion that a group of lodges have transferred to the United Grand Lodge of England from another Grand body in this manner.

As a result of this treaty, England has never considered itself able to recognise any of the State Grand Lodges, and probably would not be in position to do so unless the treaty were revised. As the Grand Orient perceives the treaty as giving it Masonic legitimacy, combined with the fact that it fervently desires the State Grand Lodges to return to its umbrella, it is doubtless unlikely it would agree to any variance in the treaty provisions.

### **Notes for Visitors**

While the Grand Orient of Brazil has lodges in most corners of Brazil, its largest concentration of lodges is in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil's two largest cities. The addresses of the main Masonic Temple in each is noted above. Indeed, the magnificent *Palacio Maçônico* ('Masonic Palace') in Rio de Janeiro is registered by the Brazilian National Heritage Department for its historic value.

Dress for all Brazilian lodges is a dark business suit, and visitors are welcome to wear their own regalia. Grand Orient lodges convene either weekly or twice monthly, with a few meeting monthly. The Grand Orient officially recognises the use of seven Craft lodge rituals, namely: the Scottish Rite Craft degrees

(about 80% of all lodges), the Adonhiramite Rite, The Modern (French) Rite, the Brazilian Rite, the York Rite, the Schroeder Ritual and the Lusitanian Rite. The York Rite ritual is the English Emulation ritual translated into Portuguese. English lodges largely meet on a monthly basis. The early evening provides the commencement time for English lodges, with most opening at around 7.30 pm. Grand Orient of Brazil lodges usually open at 8 pm. Dinner is sometimes taken in association with meetings, but visitors are never expected to contribute. Most Grand Orient lodges work in the Portuguese language, and officially recess between 21 December and 20 January.

Under the state Grand Lodges, meetings are mostly held on a weekly basis, usually at 8 pm, with a few operating fortnightly. Most lodges under the state Grand Lodges in Brazil tend to recess in the months of December, January, and July. A few lodges meet on Saturdays, opening in the morning, often at 10 am. Virtually all lodges work in Portuguese. Most use the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, but six states possess a few lodges working in the Schroeder Ritual and/or the York Rite (Emulation), namely Ceará, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, and São Paulo. As with the Grand Orient from which they all directly or indirectly descend, the state Grand Lodges are governed under versions of the *Modified Grand Orient* system, and generally meet quarterly on the Winter and Summer solstices, and the Spring and Autumn equinoxes (in March, July, September and December). Most elect their Grand Master every three years at the Summer solstice Grand Lodge meeting.

The state Grand Lodges are all members of the Confederation of Symbolic Masonry in Brazil (*Confederação de Maçonaria Simbólica do Brasil*), a loose coordinating body which meets every year or so. They are also all members of the Inter-American Masonic Confederation (*Confederación Masónica Interamericana*), whose constituent members include most Central and South American Grand Lodges. Grand Masters under the Grand Orient of Brazil serve five-year terms, and under the state Grand Lodges four-year terms. In both cases, a Grand Master cannot serve more than two terms (ten years or eight years, respectively).

There is frequent inter-visitation between Freemasons and lodges in Brazil, and in many places the same Masonic Temple is used by Grand Orient of Brazil lodges, and lodges under the relevant state Grand Lodge. In addition, mutual charitable and philanthropic pursuits are not uncommon. While the Grand Orient has long desired unity of all Brazilian Freemasons (preferably under its banner) it has quite a pragmatic attitude.

There are currently three lodges under the Grand Orient of Brazil that use the Schroeder Ritual. Two of these meet in Rio de Janeiro, namely *Loja Concordia et Humanitas #1745* (meets Tuesdays at 8 pm, at the Masonic Temple, Rua Santo Amaro 164), and *Loja Zur Eintracht #551* (meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8 pm, at the Masonic Temple, Rua Lavradio 97). The third, *Loja Humanitas #1419*, works in São Paulo (meets 2nd & 4th Fridays, at 8 pm, at the Masonic Temple, Rua São Joaquim 457). *Zur Eintracht* works in German, while the remaining two work in Portuguese.

While space clearly prevents even a partial listing of the lodges under either the Grand Orient of Brazil or the state Grand Lodges, listed below are the majority of those working in Brazil's capital city under the Grand Lodge of Brasília. Being the national capital, it can be assumed it will be a key destination for many Masonic travellers. All lodges meet at 8 pm, except one, as stated.

*Meeting at: SGAN 909 - Módulo A - Asa Norte - 70790-990 - Brasília-DF*

Mondays	Loja Tiradentes #2
Tuesdays	Loja Cruzeiro do Sul #9
Wednesdays	Loja Atlântida #6
Thursdays	Loja Templários de Brasília #21
Fridays	Loja Santuário de Adonai #4
Saturdays	Loja Antonia Francisco Lisboa #24 (at 8.30 am)

*Meeting at: AE 08 - Módulo G - Guará II - 71670-677 - Brasília-DF*

Tuesdays	Loja 13 de Maio #23
Wednesdays	Loja Cavaleiros da Ordem do Templo #12
Thursdays	Loja Jacques de Molay #17
Fridays	Loja Ação e Silêncio #20

*Meeting at: SEPN 509 - Bl. D - Ed. Isis - Asa Norte - 70750-540 - Brasília-DF*

Mondays	Loja Abrigo do Cedro #8
Wednesdays	Loja Isis #10
Thursdays	Loja União e Resistência #30

*Meeting at: AE V - QE 20 - Guar I - 71015-227 - Braslia-DF*

Mondays Loja Mutiro #11  
 Tuesdays Loja Juscelino Kubitschek #15  
 Wednesdays Loja Duque de Caxias #13

*Meeting at: AE 05 - Mdulo K - 3a. Avenida - Nucleo Bandeirante - 71705-030 - Braslia-DF*

Mondays Loja Alvorada #1  
 Tuesdays Loja Nascaente do Lago Sul #27

*Meeting at: AE 02 - Q. 08 - Sobradinho - 73060-020 - Braslia-DF*

Tuesdays Loja Accia Brasiliense #5  
 Fridays Loja Renascena #18

*Meeting at: CSB 02 - AE 02 - Taguatinga Centro - 72015-525 - Braslia-DF*

Tuesdays Loja Mario Behring #19  
 Fridays Loja Filhos de Davi #25

**C The District Grand Lodge of South America (Northern Division), EC**

*Founded:* 1935.

Lodges: 10.

Postal Address: District Grand Secretary, Rua Jorge Lemgruber 212, Petropolis, RJ, Brazil.

**List of lodges**

The English Constitution lodges in Brazil have seen declining numbers over recent decades. As noted above, one lodge surrendered its warrant in 1991, and several others have adjusted the frequency of their meetings. Of course, in a Portuguese-speaking country, there is clearly a finite English-speaking population upon which to draw membership. One English lodge (as noted below) now works in the Portuguese language. The details of the ten English-speaking lodges, which all use the Emulation Ritual, are as follows:

**Rio de Janeiro**

Both lodges meet at the Masonic Temple, Rua de Matriz 76, Rio de Janeiro (entrance via Rua Real Grandeza 99)

Eureka Lodge #5557 Meets 1st Thursday, April, June, August and October. Inst: April.  
 Royal Edward Lodge #5566 Meets 1st Thursday, May, July, September and November. Inst: November.

**So Paulo**

All lodges meet at the Masonic Temple, 1120 Rua Lisboa; So Paulo.

Duke of Clarence Lodge #5558 Meets 1st Thursday, March, June, September and November. Inst: March.  
 Lodge of Unity #5560 Meets 3rd Monday, February, April, June, August and November. Inst: Last Saturday, September.  
 St George Lodge #5561 Meets 5th Mondays, except December. Inst: 3rd regular Meeting.  
 Centenary Lodge #5564 Meets 1st Monday, March to October. Inst: 2nd Saturday, November.  
 Campos Salles Lodge #5565 Meets every 2nd Monday, except December & January. Inst: April. Works in Portuguese.  
 Santo Amaro Lodge #7250 Meets 4th Monday, February to November, except August. Inst: 3rd Saturday, August.

**Belo Horizonte**

Morro Velho Lodge #5559 Meets at the Masonic Temple, Rua Itambe 73. 1st Friday, Monthly, except January, May, and July. Inst: 1st Saturday, May.

**Santos**

Lodge of Wanderers #5562 Meets at the Masonic Temple, Rua 7 de Setembro 73. 2nd Wednesday, April to November. Inst: 3rd Saturday, March.

**CHILE****A The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Chile**

*Founded:* 1862. *Descent:* France.

Address: Masonic Temple, Marcoleta 659, Santiago de Chile.

Postal Address: Casilla Postal 2867, Santiago de Chile.

Telephone: (56-02) 633 5692

Additional Main Temples: 179 Calle Wagner, Valparaiso.  
560 Calle Castellón, Concepción.

Lodges: 178. Membership: c. 14,000.

Ritual: mainly Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: Annual *Proceedings*, *Constitution*.

### **History**

Chile, a geographically elongated country, comprises a good portion of the coast of western South America. It possesses a strong Grand Lodge dating from 1862, plus three lodges holding charters from Massachusetts, one English lodge, and three Scottish lodges.

The first lodge in Chile was warranted at Valparaiso in 1850, by the Grand Orient of France, and the first Massachusetts lodge followed four years later. In 1862, four French-warranted lodges formed the Grand Lodge of Chile. Scotland weighed in with its first lodge in 1871. England granted a warrant for Lodge of Harmony #1411 in 1872; while the Grand Lodge of Hamburg chartered two lodges, *Lessing* in 1877 and *Drei Ringe* in 1894. At the closure of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg with the coming of the Second World War, these lodges transferred their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Chile. Three more German-speaking lodges were subsequently chartered by the Grand Lodge of Chile after the War: *Goethe* in 1948, *Mozart* in 1949, and *Humboldt* in 1963, bringing their total to five. A further German-speaking lodge, *Zu den drei Bergen*, was chartered in 1985.

The first Scottish-chartered lodge in Chile was Lodge Star & Thistle #509, erected in 1871 at Valparaiso, with the latest being Lodge Britannia #1033 in 1907. Prior to 1986, the four Scottish lodges working in the country came under the administration of a Scottish Grand Superintendent. Unfortunately, in that year one of the lodges, Pioneer #643 (dating from 1879) at Antofagasta, was forced to surrender its warrant. It had been seeing a decline in membership for some years. Subsequently, no new Scottish Grand Superintendent was appointed and the remaining three Scottish lodges in Chile now report direct to Edinburgh.

The Roman Catholic Church was, from the outset, rigorously opposed to the Craft in Chile, and resorted to all means to exterminate it, including, it is reputed, the burning of lodge buildings. The temples in both Santiago and Valparaiso have been burnt to the ground in the past (only to be rebuilt), but fortunately this religious opposition has largely abated since the Second World War. Nevertheless these past persecutions have made Masonry under the Grand Lodge of Chile relatively introverted in nature. Regardless, the visitor with a prudent understanding of Chilean Masonic history can be assured of a warm and hospitable welcome. The overview on Scottish Rite (Craft) lodge practices in South America, given at the beginning of this *Part*, is largely applicable to Masonic practice in Chile.

As of 1997, fifty-eight lodges meet in Santiago, and on any night the visitor will have a large selection from which to choose. The other main centres are Valparaiso and Concepcion, with seven lodges each. There are very few towns in Chile without at least one lodge, and many possess several.

### **Notes for Visitors**

The lodges of the Grand Lodge of Chile largely work in Spanish, and meet weekly. Spanish-speaking lodges use a Scottish Rite Craft ritual, while German-speaking lodges use the Schroeder Ritual. The three Massachusetts lodges naturally use their home Webb-form ritual, the English lodge uses Emulation, while the Scottish lodges, not surprisingly, use Scottish rituals. Dress for all lodges is a dark business suit. The regalia worn in Chile varies between lodges according to their allegiances and to cover all contingencies, visitors are best advised to wear their own. Again, depending on individual custom, lodges dine either before or after meetings, or not at all. Chilean lodges occasionally dine prior to meeting, opening lodge at about 8 pm. The English and Scottish lodges largely arrange for sustenance after meetings, while the Massachusetts lodges often break for a repast in the middle of proceedings. The English-speaking lodges usually open at around 7.30 pm. Visitors to Chile can readily attend the Masonic Temples in Santiago or Valparaiso, where they can be assured of every assistance.

The Grand Lodge building in Santiago de Chile is a splendid edifice, and possesses an excellent library & museum and a restaurant. Chilean lodge dues are relatively high, compared with some other South American countries, at approximately US\$40 per month. In Bolivia, for example, lodge dues average US\$40 per year.

It is interesting to note that, in common with Freemasonry everywhere, Chilean Masonry is very much into charitable pursuits. The Grand Lodge runs an excellent hospital, various retirement homes, and in 1990 it sponsored a new university which was heavily over-subscribed by students when it opened!

### **German-speaking lodges**

Meeting details of the five German-speaking lodges under the Grand Lodge of Chile are as follows:

Drei Ringe #92	Meets Masonic Temple, Marcoleta 659, Santiago, Tuesdays, at 7.30 pm
Goethe #91	Meets Masonic Temple, Castellón 560, Concepción, Mondays, at 8 pm
Lessing #95	Meets Club Social Lessing, Valparaiso, Thursdays, at 8.30 pm.
Humboldt #114	Meets Masonic Temple, M. A. Matta 1116, Osorno, Wednesdays, at 7.30 pm.
Zu den Drei Bergen #155	Meets Masonic Temple, Decher 992, Puerto Varas, Mondays, at 8 pm.

### **B Other lodges**

United Grand Lodge of England: 1 lodge.

Grand Lodge of Scotland: 3 lodges.

Grand Lodge AF&AM Massachusetts: 3 lodges.

Notes on the history and visiting practices of these lodges are included in (A), above. The lone English lodge in Chile is governed by the District Grand Lodge of South America (Southern Division) based in Argentina. The Scottish and Massachusetts lodges report directly to home Grand Lodges. The details of all English-speaking lodges working in Chile are as follows:

#### *English lodge*

Lodge of Harmony #1411 Meets at 179 Calle Wagner, Valparaiso, 2nd Tuesday May to December. Inst: 2nd Saturday, April.

#### *Scottish lodges*

Lodge Star and Thistle #509 Meets at 179 Calle Wagner, Valparaiso, 3rd Saturday, October to May, at 7 pm.

Lodge Progress #812 Meets at Freemasons' Hall, 2262 Calle Latorre, Antofagasta; last Monday, March to November, at 7.30 pm

Lodge Britannia #1033 Meets at the Masonic Temple, 659 Marcoleta, Santiago, 3rd Thursday, March to November at 7 pm.

#### *Massachusetts lodges*

Bethesda Lodge Meets at 179 Calle Wagner, Valparaiso; 2nd Wednesday monthly.

Huelen Lodge Meets at the Masonic Temple, 659 Marcoleta, Santiago; 2nd Thursday, monthly.

St. John's Lodge Meets at 560 Calle Castellón, Concepción, 2nd Monday, monthly.

## **COLOMBIA**

### **A The Most Revered National Grand Lodge of Colombia (at Barranquilla)**

[*Muy Respetable Gran Logia Nacional de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1918. *Descent:* Supreme Council of New Granada.

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle 39, #41-56, Barranquilla.

Postal Address: Apartado Aéreo 2378, Barranquilla, Colombia.

Telephone: (57-5) 8311 255

Half yearly meetings: January and July.

Lodges: 8. Membership: c. 300.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution*.

### **B The Most Serene National Grand Lodge of Colombia (at Cartagena)**

[*Serenísima Gran Logia Nacional de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1920. *Descent:* Supreme Council of New Granada.

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle San Juan de Dios #3-25, Cartagena.

Postal Address: Apartado Aéreo #1969, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Telephone: (57-5) 664 6180. Fax: 664 2955.

Email: <[granlog@cartagena.cetcol.net.co](mailto:granlog@cartagena.cetcol.net.co)>,

<[esergrig@col3.telecom.com.co](mailto:esergrig@col3.telecom.com.co)>.

Half yearly meetings: January and July.

Additional Temples: Calle de la logia, Magangué (3 lodges)

Calle 24, #54-56, El Carmen (1 lodge)

Carrera 19, #13A-39, Sincelejo (2 lodges)

Lodges: 13. Membership: 241.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution*.

Periodical: *Lux Colombiana* (quarterly)

### **C The Grand Lodge of Colombia (at Bogotá)**

[*Gran Logia de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1922. *Descent:* Supreme Council of New Granada.

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle 18 #5 - 49, Santa Fe de Bogotá D. C.

Postal Address: Apartado Aéreo #6672, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia.

Telephone: (57-1) 341 0491, or 334 4605. Fax: (57-1) 281 1984

Annual meeting in August.

Additional Temples: Calle 36, #48-33, Of. 304, Medellín (2 lodges)

Calle 39, #4, C-08, Ibagué (1 lodge)

Lodges: 28. Membership: c. 700.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **D The Western Grand Lodge of Colombia (at Cali).**

[*Gran Logia Occidental de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1935. *Descent:* Supreme Council of New Granada.

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle 3 No 23, B 63 Moraflores, Cali.

Postal Address: Apartado Aéreo #4020, Cali, Colombia.

Telephone & Fax: (57-2) 558 4212.

Half yearly meetings: February and July.

Additional Temples: Carrera #24-45, Pereira (4 lodges)

Calle 8, #6-35, Cartago (1 lodge)

Lodges: 13. Membership: Circa 350.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **E The Eastern Grand Lodge of Colombia 'Francisco de Paula Santander' ( at Cúcuta)**

[*Gran Logia Oriental de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1945. *Descent:* Barranquilla.

Address: Masonic Temple, Avenue 2E 0-33N, Qta. Beach, Cúcuta.

Postal Address: Apartado Aéreo #595, Cúcuta, Colombia.

Telephone: (57-7) 574 2075.

Annual meeting in July.

Lodges: 8. Membership: 169.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### **F The Grand Lodge of the Andes of Colombia (at Bucaramanga)**

[*Gran Logia de los Andes de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1972. *Descent:* Cúcuta.



Address: Masonic Temple, Carrera 16, #37-53, Bucaramanga  
Postal Address: Apartado Postal #040064, Bucaramanga, Colombia.  
Telephone: (57-7 ) 642 5447.  
Additional Temples: Carrera 13, No.20A-29, Barrancabermeja (3 lodges)  
Calle 10, No. 8-63 (401), San Gil (1 lodge)  
Lodges: 11. Membership: c. 250.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publications: *Constitution*.  
Periodical: *Solidaridad* (quarterly)

### **G The Grand Lodge of Benjamin Herrera of Colombia (at Santa Marta)**

[*Gran Logia de Benjamin Herrera de Colombia*]

*Founded:* 1984. *Descent:* Barranquilla.

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle 19 No. 6-69, Santa Marta.  
Postal Address: Apartado Aéreo No. 1375, Santa Marta, Colombia.  
Telephone: (57-5) 423 3833,  
Additional Temples: Calle 5, No. 5-69, El Banco (1 lodge)  
Carrera 7, No. 23-137, Valledupar (1 lodge)  
Carrera 11, No. 13-13, Cienaga (1 lodge)

Lodges: 5. Membership: c. 125.  
Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.  
Main Publication: *Constitution*.

### ***History***

Colombia is an extremely mountainous country which possesses no fewer than seven Grand Lodges, most of which are widely recognised. It possesses probably the most confused Masonic history of any country. Grand Lodges, Grand Orients, and Supreme Councils have risen and fallen with great rapidity, at least up until the 1920s. The first lodge in Colombia appears to have been *Concord Lodge #792*, warranted from England in 1824, followed by a Scottish lodge; neither of which survived. The Grand Orient of New Granada, based at Cartegena, appeared on the scene about 1827, but its origins are obscure. It is thought to have been formed under a warrant from a Supreme Council at New York, but evidence is scant.

The following sixty years saw the rise and fall of a succession of Grand Orients and Supreme Councils, with some merging, some splitting, and some simply fading away. By the 1920s, three Grand Lodges had more or less emerged in different parts of the country. All three managed to agree in terms of territorial jurisdiction, and to recognise each other. In turn, this has meant that each has been able to secure fairly wide recognition outside of Colombia. The other four Grand Lodges are not as widely recognised outside of South America, although the Grand Lodge at Cali gained the recognition of the United Grand Lodge of England within the last few years.

The first of these is the Western Grand Lodge of Colombia, founded at Cali in 1935 by lodges under the Supreme Council of New Granada. It reported twelve lodges in 1982. The second is the Eastern Grand Lodge of Colombia 'Francisco de Paula Santander'. This Grand Lodge was erected in 1945 by four lodges then under the Grand Lodge at Barranquilla. The third was the Grand Lodge of the Andes, founded by three lodges then under the Santander Grand Lodge, in 1972. It is centred on the city of Cucutá. The fourth, and newest, is the Grand Lodge Benjamin Herrera. It was formed at Santa Marta in 1977 by lodges then chartered under the Grand Lodge at Barranquilla. All seven Grand Lodges work in harmony, and are members of the *Confederación Masónica Colombiana*, set up in 1985 as a coordinating body.

### ***Notes for Visitors***

The first, and most important, point for the visitor to bear in mind is that there are great variations in Grand Lodge recognitions associated with the Colombian Grand Lodges. For example, while England recognises the Grand Lodges at Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cartegena, and Cali, the Grand Lodge of Ireland recognises only the one at Cartegena. Many other English-speaking Grand Lodges tend to recognise one or two of this group of four, but rarely all of them. The remaining three Grand Lodges are even more sparsely recognised. On

occasions, even the names of these Grand Lodges are confused, having similar titles. Therefore it is quite crucial that each visitor to Colombia be totally aware of just which Grand Lodge(s) is/are recognised by his own.

A visitor arriving in Colombia will probably enter via Bogotá, the capital city. Of the twenty-four lodges working under the Grand Lodge at Bogotá, all but two work in Bogotá itself, the remaining two operating in Medellín. One of the Bogotá lodges, *Welcome Lodge #6*, works in English using the Emulation Ritual. All other lodges in the country work in Spanish and use a Scottish (Craft) Rite ritual. Dress for lodges is a dark business suit. Lodges largely meet at 7.30 pm, although some commence at early at 7 pm or as late as 8 pm. All lodges meet at least monthly, but some meet fortnightly, or even more frequently. A few operate as daylight lodges, such as *Logia Union #9* at Cartagena, which meets at on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10 am. Visitors are well advised, in the first instance, to call at the appropriate Grand Lodge Temple, where assistance will readily be obtained, although as an additional assistance, the addresses of other temples are located above.

An interesting custom in Colombia, as in some other countries in South America, is to form a *Triangulo* (Masonic club) in a town where a warranted lodge doesn't exist. Once sufficient numerical strength is attained, the *Triangulo* can then gain a charter. The Grand Lodges in Colombia typically possess 16 Grand officers largely mirroring, in 'grand officer terms', the officers of a Scottish Rite Craft lodge. Grand Masters usually serve from two-year to four-year terms.

## ECUADOR

### The Grand Lodge of Ecuador

*Founded:* 1921. *Descent:* Peru.

Address: Masonic Temple, Calle P. Layaven 222, Guayaquil.

Postal Address: P O Box 932, Guayaquil.

Annual Communication, 2nd Wednesday, June.

Telephone: (593-4) 411 579. Fax: (593-4) 411 582.

Email: <granlogia@azuay.com>. Website: <<http://azuay.com/granlogia>>.

Lodges: 15. Membership: c. 500.

Ritual: mainly Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitutions*, *Annual Proceedings*.

### History

Ecuador is a relatively small Spanish-speaking country located in the north-west of South America. It possesses a mainstream Grand Lodge which is widely recognised.

The first lodge in Ecuador was probably formed at Quito in 1808 by the Supreme Council of New Granada (Colombia), but this is only scantily documented. By 1857, the Grand Lodge of Peru had established a lodge at Guayaquil, but the Catholic Church forced its closure. By the end of the nineteenth century, the government had closed all lodges that had sprung up, and arrested many Masons. The revolution of 1895 in Ecuador brought a more liberal government, and by 1898 Peru was again warranting lodges in the country. In 1921, three Peruvian lodges formed the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. The Grand Lodge has developed steadily, and is centred on the city of Guayaquil.

Unhappily, there was a schism in the Grand Lodge many years ago, whereupon several lodges (mainly in Quito) withdrew and formed *The Grand Lodge Equinocial de Ecuador*. This body still exists, and considerable enmity continues to reign between it and the Grand Lodge of Ecuador (based in Guayaquil). This schismatic Grand Lodge is not viewed as regular and is barely recognised outside its own orbit.

### Notes for Visitors

Of the fifteen Ecuador lodges, five meet at Guayaquil, four in Quito (the country's capital city), three at Cuenca, two at Santo Domingo, and one at Portoviejo. All work in Spanish, using the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, save one lodge at Guayaquil which works a York Rite ritual. All lodges meet in the evenings, at

8 pm, and dress is a dark business suit. English is understood and spoken by a number of members, so visitors should find no language problems. Visitors are welcome to wear their own regalia. All lodges meet weekly. In both Guayaquil and Quito, virtually every week night sees a lodge meeting. Lodges in Ecuador generally recess in December, January and February.

Ecuador also possesses a rather interesting Masonic museum at its Guayaquil temple, housing an exhibition of Masonic relics of General Elroy Alfaro, a former President of Ecuador (indeed, one lodge at Guayaquil bears his name), and General Jose Villamil, a leader of the Ecuador independence movement in the 1820s. Visitors are most welcome to inspect the museum.

### *List of lodges*

#### *Guayaquil*

The five lodges in Guayaquil meet at the Masonic Temple, Calle P Layaven 222, Guayaquil, as follows:

Logia Elroy Alfaro #13	Meets Mondays
Logia Sucre #10	Meets Tuesdays
Logia Cinco de Junio #2	Meets Wednesdays
Logia Luz de América #5	Meets Thursdays
Logia Luz del Guayas #1	Meets Fridays

#### *Quito*

The three lodges in Quito meet at the Masonic Temple, Quito, as follows:

Logia Galápagos #31	Meets Mondays
Logia Simón Bolívar #12	Meets Tuesdays
Logia Juan Pío Montúfar #23	Meets Thursdays

## FRENCH GUIANA

French Guiana is an overseas department of Metropolitan France, situated between Brazil and Suriname on the northeast coast of South America. Until 1944 the area was a penal colony, allowing for little Masonic activity. Nevertheless, the lodges now established there reflect the main divisions of the Craft in France: a Grand Lodge within the mainstream; a Grand Lodge which is not greatly concerned over mainstream acceptance, but whose regularity is strongly argued; and a Grand Orient rejected by the mainstream.

The mainstream French National Grand Lodge (GLNF) has warranted three lodges in French Guiana, at the capital city of Cayenne, in 1985, 1987 and 1989 respectively. All three lodges meet at the Masonic Temple, 48 Avenue du General de Gaulle, 97300 Cayenne. The first two listed work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, while the third uses Emulation. All three work in French, meet at 6.30 pm, and hold their installations at their regular meeting each March. Meeting details are as follows:

<i>Loge l'Etoile Equatoriale</i> #406	3rd Saturday, monthly, except July & August.
<i>Loge l'Astrolabe</i> #503	1st Friday, every month.
<i>Loge la Tradition Universelle</i> #587	4th Friday, monthly, except July & August.

The Grand Lodge of France has three lodges which work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, meeting twice monthly, *Loge la France Equinoxiale* #93, at Cayenne (1905), *Loge les Fils des Etoiles* #1081, also at Cayenne (1990) and *Loge Gaston Monnerville* #1232 at Remire-Montjoly (1996).

The Grand Orient of France warranted *Loge La Guyane Republicaine*, working at Cayenne, in 1906. Two further lodges have been erected in recent years, *Loge Trait d'Union* (1988) at Remire-Montjoly, and *Loge Fraternité Guyanaise* (1994) at Matoury. The first and third of these work the French Rite, and the other the Scottish Rite Craft degrees.

## GUYANA

### **A The District Grand Lodge of Guyana (English Constitution)**

Address: Freemasons' Hall, Company Path, Georgetown, Guyana.

Postal Address: P O Box 10600, Georgetown.

Telephone: (592-0) 265 664. Fax: 260 310.

Lodges: 16.

#### ***History***

Guyana, formerly the British Colony of British Guiana, possesses both English and Scottish District Grand Lodges, plus several lodges working under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean.

Guiana changed hands several times during its colonial history, and this in turn led to several Grand Lodges warranting lodges within its shores. The first lodge was chartered from the Netherlands in 1771, followed closely by an Irish lodge, both of which expired soon after. The Grand Lodge of New York chartered a lodge in 1801, which later merged with *Union Lodge #247*, warranted by England in 1813. Another twelve English lodges have followed, the latest (#9644) receiving its warrant in 1996.

#### ***Notes for Visitors (all constitutions)***

Attending a lodge meeting in Guyana poses no problems for the Masonic visitor. Both English and Scottish lodges meet in the early evening, usually about 7.30 pm and follow with a repast. Dress is a dark business suit, and the visitor should carry his own regalia. Prince Hall lodges tyle at 7.30 pm, apron supplied. The Guyana Lodge of Research meets quarterly.

#### ***List of lodges***

Thirteen English lodges work in Georgetown, meeting in Freemasons' Hall, Company Path, unless otherwise stated:

Union Lodge #247	Meets 3rd Tuesday monthly. Inst: February.
Mount Olive Lodge #385	Meets at the Masonic Hall, 86 Carmichael Street, Georgetown, 1st Thursday monthly. Inst: December.
Silent Temple Lodge #3254	Meets 2nd Friday monthly. Inst: January.
Concord Lodge #3508	Meets 2nd Wednesday monthly. Inst: March.
Roraima Lodge #3902	Meets 3rd Friday monthly. Inst: May.
Mount Everest Lodge #5868	Meets 4th Wednesday monthly. Inst: April.
Eureka Lodge #8515	Meets 4th Tuesday in January, March, May, June, July, September, October, November. Inst: November.
Guyana Lodge of Research #8525	Meets 4th Monday, in March, July and September. Inst: September.
Lotus Lodge #8735	Meets 3rd Wednesday monthly except February, May, August, and November. Inst: October.
Klubba Lodge #9103	Meets at The Georgetown Club, 208 Camp Street, Georgetown, 1st Tuesday in February, March, June, September & December; and 1st Monday in April, October and November. Inst: June
Guyana Wheel of Service Lodge #9431	Meets at the Masonic Hall, 86 Carmichael Street, Georgetown, 3rd Thursday in January, March, April, July, August, & October; and 2nd Tuesday in February & November. Inst: April.
Universal Lodge #9644	Meets at the Masonic Hall, 86 Carmichael Street, Georgetown, 4th Monday, monthly.

One further English lodge meets in the town of MacKenzie (Kara-Kara #8349) and two others in the town of New Amsterdam (Ituni Lodge #2642 and Phoenix Lodge #9517).

### **B The District Grand Lodge of Guyana (Scottish Constitution)**

Address: Masonic Hall, 12 Wellington Street, Georgetown, Guyana.

Lodges: 6

**History**

The first Scottish lodge in Guyana was formed in 1893. This was *Lodge Unity #767*. Six Scottish lodges now work in the country, the most recent (#1791) receiving its warrant in 1991. The Scottish lodges meet at Georgetown in the Masonic Temple, 12 Wellington Street, Lacytown, unless otherwise stated:

Lodge Unity #797	Meets 1st Wednesday, monthly, at 7 pm.
Lodge Harmony #1110	Meets 1st Monday, monthly, at 6.30 pm.
Lodge Victory #1203	Meets at the Masonic Hall, 86 Carmichael Street, Georgetown, 1st Tuesday, monthly, at 7 pm.
Lodge Alpha #1594	Meets 1st Friday monthly, at 6.30 pm.
Lodge Kyk-over-al #1672	Meets 4th Friday monthly, at 7 pm.
Lodge Irenaeus #1791	Meets at the Masonic Hall, 86 Carmichael Street, Georgetown, 4th Monday, January, March, April, June, August, October & November, at 7 pm.

**C Prince Hall lodges of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean**

*Founded:* 1993. *Descent:* Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York.

*Grand East:* Prince Hall Memorial Centre, Graeme Hall, Christ Church, Barbados.

Lodges in Guyana: 3.

Ritual: basically, New York Webb-form cipher.

**History and notes for visitors**

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York chartered *Mount Ayangana Lodge #103* in the late 1960s, shortly after Guyana gained its independence. It subsequently chartered two more lodges, *Tamarin #113* and *Celestial #119*. They formed part of the Ninth District of the New York jurisdiction, together with lodges in the Caribbean. In 1993, with the blessing of New York, the lodges of the Ninth District unanimously voted to form the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean, with its headquarters at Barbados. Consequently, the Guyana lodges were renumbered #2, #5 and #8, respectively.

Since then, the young Grand Lodge chartered a daylight lodge in Guyana, Roraima #12, but at the same time Tamarin #5 'went dark'. The latest news is that it is in the process of reconstruction as Tamarin Lodge UD. The Prince Hall lodges follow basically American Webb-form ritual and practices, and open on the third degree. They all meet at the Masonic Temple, 209 New Garden Street, Queenstown, Georgetown, Guyana.

Mount Ayangana Lodge #2	Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays, at 7.30 pm.
Celestial Lodge #8	Meets 4th Fridays, at 7.30 pm.
Roraima Lodge #12	Meets 1st Saturdays, at 4 pm.

**PARAGUAY****The Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay**

[*Gran Logia Simbolica del Paraguay*]

*Founded:* 1869; *re-founded* 1895. *Descent:* Brazil, Uruguay.

Address: Masonic Temple, 937 Palma Street, Asunción.

Postal Address: P O Box 1178, Asunción, Paraguay.

Telephone: (595-21) 447 730 or 447 794. Fax: 492 292.

Lodges: 19. Membership: 940.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution, General Regulations; Degree Ritual & Manual of Instruction.*

**History**

Paraguay is a small South American country, with an equally small Grand Lodge. It possesses no lodges warranted from outside the country. It is recognised by England and Scotland (but not Ireland), and half the mainstream US Grand Lodges, and a fair number of European Grand Lodges.

There is some evidence that a lodge existed in Asunción about 1845, named *Pitagoras*, whose creator was Italian, but details are scant, and its existence short-lived. Documentation exists suggesting several

Paraguayan nationals were initiated in 1854 by officers of a visiting British warship. A Scottish Rite Supreme Council was reported as operating by 1865, but it did not survive a war which beset the country from that year until 1870.

The first lodge for which definite records exist was *Logia Fé* (faith). It was formed by Masons belonging to the medical body of the Brazilian occupation force, under the auspices of the Grand Orient of Brazil. Two further lodges subsequently gained warrants from the Grand Orients of Argentina and Uruguay. These were *Logia Asilo de la Virtud* (Asylum of Virtue) and *Logia Fraternidad Masonica* (Masonic Fraternity). These two lodges, together with *Logia Fé*, formed the *Grand Orient of Paraguay* in August 1869. A Scottish Rite Supreme Council was erected by the Supreme Council of Brazil in 1871.

While there were Paraguayan nationals in existing lodges, most members, and the leadership, were Brazilian. Their members withdrew when Brazilian, Uruguayan and Argentinian troops retired from the country in 1876. The *Grand Orient of Paraguay* effectively collapsed as a result, although in following years several lodges were formed in Asunción and other cities under warrants from Brazil and Uruguay. The *Grand Orient of Paraguay* was re-formed by these lodges in June 1895, and in the following year the Paraguay Supreme Council was revived.

The United Grand Lodge of England recognised the Grand Orient of Paraguay in 1910. However, the relationship was evidentially strained by suspicions of the Supreme Council of Paraguay controlling the Craft degrees. On 13 May 1923, the Grand Orient re-constituted itself as the *Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay*, assuring its complete independence from the Supreme Council, and fraternal relations with England have been maintained ever since.

For many years following its re-foundation in 1895, Masonic progress in Paraguay was slow. The Craft was not without opposition in what still remains essentially a Roman Catholic country. In addition, a contributing factor to its slow development appears to have been that few native Paraguayans were members, with many local Masons being foreign nationals largely of British, Dutch, German and Argentinian origin. This balance has completely changed over the past twenty years, very largely accounting for its substantial expansion. Today, Paraguayan Masonry possesses few non-indigenous members. Some 32 lodges have been founded since 1895, but most did not survive. They worked various rites, including the Modern (French) Rite, the Scottish (Craft) Rite, and the York Rite (Emulation).

Happily, the Grand Lodge of Paraguay has progressed in leaps and bounds over the past few decades. By comparison, in 1950 there were only three Craft lodges operating in the country, with a total membership of 100. By 1960, Paraguay possessed five lodges with 120 members, and by 1970, seven lodges with 150 members. In the decade that commenced in 1980, expansion intensified, and by 1990 eleven lodges were at work with 600 members. Today, Paraguay boasts 19 lodges with nearly 1000 members.

### *Notes for Visitors*

Paraguayan lodges work in the Spanish language, and all use a Scottish Rite Craft ritual. While the French Rite Craft ritual, the Schroeder ritual, and York Rite ritual are also permissible workings, they are not in current use. Lodges meet weekly at 8 pm, and dress is a dark business suit, although in summer months black trousers and open-necked white shirts are permitted. Of its 19 lodges, 13 operate in the two Masonic temples of the Grand Lodge in Asunción, with the balance in other cities and towns in the country. Visitors attending the Grand Temple in Asunción (in the city's main street) will receive every assistance in visiting a lodge during their stay. The Grand Temple is a most impressive 'Greek style' building with a large flight of stairs leading up to it.

Masonic practice in Paraguay is quite similar to elsewhere in South America. Regalia for the first degree consists of a white apron with lapel lifted up, that of second degree is white with lapel down, and that of the Master Mason has five-centimetre red fringes, with the square and compass next to the letters M and B—in other words, very similar to the regalia described earlier for Bolivian Masonry. The lodge officers are seated as follows: the Immediate Past Master sits to Master's right (providing the Grand Master is not present), while the Grand Inspector sits to his left. The Secretary is located in the south-east and the Chaplain in the north-east. Master Masons sit in the first row in the two columns, with Fellow Crafts behind them in the north (J column) and Entered Apprentices behind in the south (B column). Both Wardens sit in the west, with the Treasurer in the north. Paraguayan lodges do possess deacons, who sit in the same positions as in English lodges.

*List of lodges*

Listed below are ten lodges working in the main Grand Lodge temple in Asunción (937 Palma Street). Meeting details of the other Paraguayan Craft lodges are readily obtainable from the Grand Lodge office.

Mondays Logia Aurora Del Paraguay #1, Logia Concordia #15  
 Tuesdays Logia Sol Naciente #2, Logia Pitagoras #17  
 Wednesdays Logia Federico El Grande #3, Logia Libertad #4, Logia Arandu #120  
 Thursdays Logia Paz y Justicia #12, Logia Bernardino Caballero #13, Logia Acacia #18.

**PERU****A The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Peru**

*Founded:* 1882. *Descent:* Colombia, Scotland.

Address: Masonic Temple, Avenida José Gálvez Barrenechea No 599, San Isidro, Lima 27, Peru.

Postal Address: P O Box 587, Lima 100, Peru.

Telephone: (51-14) 475 0994, or 475 0995. Fax: 475 0247.

Lodges: 162. Membership: 7131.

Ritual: York Rite and Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution*, *Annual Proceedings*.

**History**

Peru contains a strong regular Grand Lodge dating from 1882, as well as one lodge holding a charter from Scotland. A number of lodges, chartered from Colombia, sprang up in Peru after the country gained its political independence in 1820. A Grand Lodge (later Grand Orient) was formed in 1831, but it expired within ten years. Several competing Grand Lodges appear to have sprouted in the 1850s, only to face similar oblivion. In the 1860s and 1870s, the Grand Lodge of Scotland chartered twelve lodges in Peru. Of these, six subsequently expired, but five became founders of the Grand Lodge of Peru, while one (*Peace and Concord*) remained under Scotland.

In 1882, five Peruvian lodges and five Scottish lodges formed the current Grand Lodge of Peru. In 1897, the then Grand Master ordered the Sacred Volume removed from lodges—a move which was unpopular with Peruvian lodges and led to several overseas Grand Lodges severing fraternal relations. This error was internally rectified within a year, but it damaged the prestige of the Grand Lodge in world Masonic circles.

Scotland warranted two more lodges in Peru in 1911 (Lodge Roof of the World #1094) and 1912 (Lodge Unity #1109), bringing the total of Scottish lodges in Lima to three. Unfortunately, falling memberships saw #1094 become dormant in the late 1980s (it was erased in 1992) and #1109 become dormant in the mid-1990s (erased in 1993). The remaining membership from these two extinct lodges has swelled the sole remaining Scottish lodge, Lodge Peace and Concord #445 SC, ensuring its future.

In 1945, the Grand lodge split into two factions as a result of the outgoing Grand Master allegedly ‘*rigging*’ the vote for his re-election. This schism lasted two years until a general assembly of Masons met, leading to re-unification. Peruvian Masonic unity thereafter remained total until 1966, when four lodges working the Scottish Rite Craft degrees withdrew to form the irregular *Most Serene Grand Lodge of Peru* under Supreme Council aegis.

The Grand Lodge of Peru has expanded quite rapidly in recent years, and this continues apace. In 1982 it possessed 138 lodges and just over 5000 members. By 1997 it had reached 162 lodges, and over 7000 members.

**Notes for Visitors**

Peruvian lodges work in the Spanish language, with the exception of one lodge (*Eintracht* #74, dating from 1869) which works in German, using the Schroeder ritual. The York Rite enjoys more popularity in Peru than elsewhere in South America, largely as a result of Scottish influences. Approximately 75% of lodges use it, with the remaining 25% working the Scottish Rite Craft degrees. Metropolitan Lima (which includes the port of Callao) contains 88 lodges (as of late 1996) working in nine temples across the metropolis, with the balance operating in various provincial cities and towns. The frequency of meetings varies between

lodges, depending on the ritual used, but all meet at least monthly, generally commencing between 7 pm and 8 pm. Dress is a dark suit, and visitors are welcome to wear their own regalia.

Of course, given its descent, there are strong Scottish influences in Peruvian Masonry. The York Rite ritual used in the majority of lodges is similar to those used under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. A festive board follows most meetings, with a meal and alcohol served. Visitors are often exempted from paying but this should not be expected. A brief toast list is not uncommon, ending in the Tyler's Toast. Visitors enter the lodge before the opening, and will often have the opportunity of *conveying greetings* from their own lodge during the closing. A charity collection during lodge meetings is not unusual. Generally speaking, Peruvian lodges use the Installed Board for the annual Installation of Master, but this is optional under lodges using the Scottish Rite Craft degrees.

The locations of the Temples within metropolitan Lima are as follows:

Masonic Temple, 599 José Gálvez Barrenechea Avenue, Corpac, San Isidro, Lima (43 lodges)

Masonic Temple, 1125 Washington Street, Lima (30 lodges)

Masonic Temple, 1066 Alfonso Ugarte Avenue, Lima (4 lodges)

Masonic Temple, 31 Jose Huanta Street, Rufus, Lima (2 lodges).

Masonic Temple, 240 Pedro Ruiz Street, Callao (4 lodges).

Masonic Temple, 438 Santa Rosa Avenue, La Perla, Callao (1 lodge).

Masonic Temple, 521 Los Halcones Street, Surquillo (2 lodges)

Masonic Temple, Hill Place, Chaclacayo (1 lodge)

Masonic Temple, 293 Chucuito Street, Chosica (1 lodge)

Particularly at the first two on the list, there is rarely a night of the week when lodges are not meeting, and a visitor turning up will be unlikely to be disappointed. Nonetheless, for overseas visitors, a courtesy call at the Grand Lodge office at the San Isidro Temple is always appreciated.

Peru's German-speaking lodge, *Logia Eintracht #74*, meets at 8 pm at the San Isidro Temple on the second Tuesday of each month.

## **B Scottish lodges**

Peru's only Scottish lodge is Lodge Peace and Concord #445 SC, which meets at 7.30 pm at the San Isidro Temple on the third Monday (except January). The Installation is on the first Saturday of December at 5 pm.

## **SURINAME**

This small northern South American country was formerly known as Dutch Guiana, prior to its political independence from the Netherlands in 1975. While it does not possess a Grand Lodge, it does have several lodges warranted from the home country. The first Dutch lodge formed was *Concordia #10*, erected at Paramaribo in 1761, making it one of the oldest extant lodges in South America. Two further Dutch lodges were warranted at Paramaribo in 1964 (*De Stanfaste*), and in 1968 (*De Gouden Driehoek*).

All three lodges meet at the Masonic Temple, Kwattaweg 85b, Paramaribo, generally on a weekly basis, commencing at 8 pm. Loge Concordia #10 meets on Tuesdays, Loge De Stanfaste #328 on Mondays, and Loge De Gouden Driehoek #245 on Thursdays. Dress is a dark lounge suit. Naturally, the Dutch ritual and Dutch language are used. The postal address for the Dutch lodges is: P O Box 1173, Paramaribo, Suriname. The Secretary of Loge Concordia can be reached on telephone number (597) 490 418, and that of Loge Gouden Driehoek is (597) 464 373.

## **URUGUAY**

### **A The Grand Orient of Uruguay**

*Founded:* 1856. *Descent:* Brazil, Pennsylvania.

Address: Grand Temple, Dr Mario Cassinoni 1481, 11200 Montevideo.



Postal Address: Casilla de Correo 10691, Distrito 1, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Telephone: (598-2) 408 5556, or 400 0165. Fax: (598-2) 400 3092.

Email: <masarug@netgate.com.uy>.

Lodges: 59. Membership: c. 2600.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution*.

Periodical: *Revista Masonica del Uruguay* (quarterly).

### **History**

Uruguay possesses a Grand Orient of some age, plus one English lodge attached to the English District Grand Lodge of South America (Southern Division). The British 47th Regiment of Foot was stationed briefly in Montevideo in 1806–7, and its attached Irish military lodge, #142, initiated several Spanish colonists in 1807. Lodges were erected from Argentina (*Los Caballeros Racionales*) in 1814, and two from Portugal (*Los Aristocrates* and *Logia Imperial*) in 1819, but these were short-lived. In 1827, a group of French Masonic emigrés formed *Loge les Enfants du Nouveau Mond*, under a warrant from the Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. This lodge reputedly worked intermittently until about 1842, when it was reorganised as *Loge les Amis de la Patrie* under the Grand Orient of France. This lodge still exists today.

In 1830, a group of Uruguayan Masons, initiated in foreign lodges, obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for *Lodge Asilo de la Virtud*. It ‘warranted’ several other lodges in succeeding years, of which one, *Contante Amistad*, was still in existence when the Grand Orient of Uruguay was formed. Several lodges were also chartered from the Grand Orient of Brazil between 1835 and 1855, leading to the formation of the Grand Orient of Uruguay in 1856.

The first English lodge in Uruguay was *Acacia #1178* (later #876), founded in 1862. In 1909, a daughter lodge, *Silver River #3389*, was erected in Montevideo. While the Grand Lodge of Uruguay was happy with the erection of the first English lodge, the appearance of the second in its territory was viewed with some disfavour, and it was not until 1927 that the English and Uruguayan Grand Lodges reached a concordat, whereby Uruguay would recognise both English lodges, and that England, for its part, would not warrant any further lodges in the country.

In the early 1950s, the Grand Orient of Uruguay experienced some internal difficulties, which led to England withdrawing recognition. This posed problem for the two English lodges, whose members maintained warm relations with those under Uruguay. Happily, in 1991 England re-recognised Uruguay, and warm fraternal relations have been maintained since.

### **Notes for Visitors**

All 59 Uruguayan lodges work in Spanish, and used the Scottish Rite Craft ritual. Dress for lodges is a lounge or business suit. Of the lodges, 32 work in Montevideo, meeting at the Grand Temple, Dr Duvimioso Terra 1481, 11200 Montevideo. Uruguayan lodge meeting times vary, with some starting at 8 pm, and some as late as 9.30 pm. Two lodges operate as ‘daylight’ lodges, working on a Saturday. Lodge *Silencio #54* (at Pando) opens at 1 pm, while Lodge *Giordano Bruno #150* (at Shangrila) opens at 9 am. Uruguayan lodges recess every year from the Summer solstice (Christmas) until March. The only exception is Lodge *Obreros de la Verdad #137* (at Punta del Este), which meets every month.

Uruguayan lodges possess a few interesting idiosyncrasies. Visiting Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts must be accompanied by a Master Mason, and cannot speak in lodge. Craft regalia is not usually individually owned, but members pick up the appropriate apron from the lodge stock upon attendance. The Master Mason apron is lambskin with a red border.

### **List of lodges**

Listed below are the meetings details of all Uruguayan lodges working in Montevideo. All meet weekly and open at 8.30 pm.

Mondays	Logia Decretos de la Providencia #6, Logia Renacimiento #78, Logia Razon #80, Logia Derechos Himanos #85, Logia Hermes #100, Logia Gabriel Perez #116, Logia Verdad #146.
Tuesdays	Logia Asilo de la Virtud #1, Logia Fe #8, Logia Surcos #113, Logia Filidelfia #117, Logia F D Roosevelt #118, Logia XX de Setiembre #133, Logia Jose de San Martin #139.
Wednesdays	Logia Caridad #10, Logia Sol Oriental #11, Logia Garibaldi #50, Logia Libres Pensadores #73, Logia Luz del Cerro #114, Logia Victoria #147.

Thursdays Logia Dr. Julio Batos #96, Logia Rio de la Plata #121, Logia Ariel #123, Logia Jose Marti #125, Logia Libertad #126, Logia Caballeros Orientales #131.  
 Fridays Logia Fenix #69, Logia General Artigas #99, Logia Igualdad #128, Logia Estrella del Sur #138, Logia Antiguos Limites #140, Logia Tiradentes #141.

## B English lodges

The original English lodges in Uruguay, *Acacia #1178/876* and *Silver River #3389*, have not retained their individual identities. In the early 1980s, a membership decline saw them amalgamate, to become Silver City Lodge #876. Both original lodges had long been administratively attached to the English District Grand Lodge of South America (Southern Division), based in Argentina, which continued to have control of the amalgamated lodge. Silver City Lodge, which uses the English Emulation Ritual, meets at its own Masonic Hall, located at 1429 Canelones Street, Montevideo, at 7 pm on the third Monday from March to November, except for the Installation, which is on 24 June.

## VENEZUELA

### The Grand Lodge of the Republic of Venezuela

[*Gran Logia de la Republica de Venezuela*]

*Founded:* 1824. *Descent:* Obscure, possibly Spain.

*Address:* Masonic Temple, Jesuitas a Maturin (Este 3) #5, Caracas.

*Postal Address:* Apartado de Correos 927, 1010-A Caracas, Venezuela.

*Telephone:* (58-2) 819 548 or (58-2) 814 958. *Fax:* (58-2) 815 776.

*Email:* <104551.6142@COMPUSERVE.COM>.

*Website:* <<http://www.granlogiarv.com>>.

*Lodges:* 126. *Membership:* 2700.

*Ritual:* Scottish (Craft) Rite and York Rite.

*Main Publications:* Annual *Proceedings*, *Constitutions*.

### History

Venezuela has had a regular Grand Lodge since 1824. While English and Scottish lodges have been erected in the country in the past, none has survived. It has been claimed that the Craft came to Venezuela from Spain about 1808, and that lodges were warranted soon after from Vermont and Maryland, but proof appears to be thin. England and Scotland did warrant lodges in 1824, but these expired along with virtually all other Masonic activity in the country in 1827. In that year the Government issued an anti-secret society edict, with the ban remaining until 1838.

Subsequent to the lifting of the ban, the National Grand Lodge of Venezuela and a Grand Orient were erected. After several short-lived schisms in both Grand bodies, they united in 1865 to form a National Grand Orient. This latter body worked until 1916, when it voluntarily dissolved to allow the erection of an independent Grand Lodge, and a Supreme Council, both in amity with each other. Although there have been the occasional minor schisms since, the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Venezuela has developed steadily.

### Notes for Visitors

All Venezuelan lodges work the Scottish Rite Craft ritual, except for one lodges which work a York Rite ritual in English, and one which works in German. Three English-speaking lodges worked in Venezuela in the early 1980s, namely *George Washington Lodge #100* at Caracas, *Buena Vista Lodge #116* at Maracaibo, and *Lago de Maracaibo Lodge #120* at Tia Juana, Cabimas. Unfortunately, #116 disappeared from the Venezuelan roll of lodges in 1985, and #120 in 1990, leaving the sole English-speaking lodge at Caracas. The German-speaking lodge is *Humboldt Lodge #141*, which also meets at Caracas.

Venezuela also possesses one lodge located outside the country, on the island of Aruba in the Netherland Antilles. This unique lodge, one of the few in the world that works the Scottish Rite Craft degrees in English, is discussed under the appropriate heading elsewhere in this work.

Virtually every population centre of any size in Venezuela has at least one lodge working within it. Thirty-two lodges presently meet in Caracas (the capital city), compared with only twenty, barely a decade ago. The workings of lodges in Venezuela is similar to that common in other South American countries, although here lodges meet fortnightly rather than weekly. Each lodge has a Board (of elected Master Masons), invariably the lodge officers, which meets monthly. In most lodges the Board election occurs in November with the lodge Installation held in December shortly before the lodge recesses. All lodges recess in late December, some re-opening in January and some as late as February. Most lodges commence work at 8 pm, and the provision of a repast in association with a meeting is not uncommon. Dress is a dark business suit, and a visitor is welcome to wear his own regalia.

Venezuela also possesses several Masonic clubs known as *Triangulos*, in common with most other South American countries, as described earlier. Visitors can readily gain details of any lodge meeting when attending the Masonic Temple in Caracas.

## Section 2

## CENTRAL AMERICA

## BELIZE

Belize is located on the Gulf of Honduras, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala. While fairly sizeable geographically, it possesses a population of approximately 190,000. Formerly known as British Honduras, it achieved independence in 1981. An English-warranted lodge, *Amity #309*, was formed in Belize in 1763, but it had expired by 1813. Two further attempts to establish English lodges were made with *British Constitution Lodge #723*, in 1820; and *Royal Sussex Lodge #860*, in 1831. However, both had vanished by the early 1860s, and no successful attempts have been made since to establish an English lodge.

Two Prince Hall lodges were chartered at Belize City in the 1980s by Union Grand Lodge (Prince Hall Affiliation) of Florida (which consequently changed its name to *Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity Free and Accepted Masons PHA Florida & Belize, Central America Jurisdiction, Inc*), of which one survives. This is Steadfast Lodge #683; its Secretary may be contacted at P O Box 613, Belize City, Belize.

## COSTA RICA

**The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Costa Rica**

[*Gran Logia de Costa Rica*]

*Founded:* 1899. *Descent:* Colombia, Cuba.

*Address:* Templo Masónico, corner Central Ave and 19th Street, San José.

*Postal Address:* P O Box 10.060-1000, San José, Costa Rica.

*Telephone:* (506) 222 5064. *Fax:* 233 4755

*Meets:* last Friday, October, biennially.

*Lodges:* 9. *Membership:* 225.

*Ritual:* Scottish (Craft) Rite, and York Rite.

*Main Publications:* *Constitutions, Proceedings, Freemasonry in Costa Rica.*

*Periodical:* *Leyenda* (quarterly)

**History**

The Grand Lodge of Costa Rica has had a long and consistent history, unlike many of its neighbours. This happy state of affairs probably results from the relative political stability that Costa Rica has enjoyed in the past.

The history of the Craft on the 'Rich Coast' began in June 1865, when the first lodge in Costa Rica was warranted by the Supreme Council of New Granada (Colombia). This was *Logia Caridad #26*. The second to appear was *Logia Union Fraternal #19*, chartered from the Colon Supreme Council (Cuba). By the end of 1870 two more lodges had gained warrants from New Granada, namely *Esperanza #30*, and *La Fé #31*. A Supreme Council for Central America was formed at San José in 1871, and it took control of all existing Costa Rican lodges, plus most then extant in Central America.

Sustained difficulties with the Roman Catholic Church saw the Craft suppressed from 1875 until 1883, when the Supreme Council revived, but with all its Costa Rican lodges gone. The first lodge formed under the revival was *Logia Union #19*, later renamed *Logia Union Fraternal*. In 1887, the Supreme Council dissolved itself to form separate Supreme Councils in the various Central America countries, but

subsequently internal difficulties again closed down Masonic activity. Nonetheless, shortly thereafter four new lodges were formed; namely *Regeneración #6*, *La Luz #12* and *La Libertad #13* at San José, and *Union Fraternal #9* at Puerto Limón.

By 1899, the Costa Rican Craft was strong enough to form a Grand Lodge, with these four lodges meeting for that purpose. Since that date, there has been no interruption to Costa Rican Freemasonry, and the Grand Lodge has remained united, regular and unchallenged as the Masonic authority of the country. However, economic conditions have seen a decline in membership in more recent years, and in the past fifteen-year period two lodges have closed, one in San José and one in Cartago.

### **Notes for Visitors**

Costa Rican Freemasons have a reputation for hospitality towards visitors to their charming tropical country. The country itself has long remained a stable democracy and, indeed it is one of the few countries in the world that does not possess an army! Of its nine lodges, eight work the Scottish Rite (Craft) ritual in Spanish, while one works the York Rite (English-type ritual), in English. Six lodges meet at the main Temple in San José, while the remaining three meet in the provincial towns of Alajuela, Turrialba and Cartago.

The Grand Temple houses a pleasant Masonic museum, and the temple itself is picturesque internally. Two huge pillars behind the Warden's chairs dominate it. All lodges meet at 8 pm. A festive board arrangement is usually only held for Installations, but varying sized informal repasts are often held prior to lodge meetings. A 'Week of Brotherhood' is held annually in April, with associated social functions. Dress for lodges is a coat and tie. Visitors are welcome bring and wear their own regalia.

The following lodges meet at the Masonic Temple in the capital city, San José.

Regeneración Lodge #1	Meets every Wednesday
Union Fraternal Lodge #2	Meets 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays
La Luz Lodge #3	Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (English-speaking)
Hermes Lodge #7	Meets every Monday
Francisco Calvo Lodge #15	Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays
Caridad Lodge #16	Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 8 pm.

## **EL SALVADOR**

### **The Grand Lodge Cuscatlan of the Republic of El Salvador**

[*Gran Logia 'Cuscatlan' de la Republica de El Salvador*]

*Founded:* 1912. *Descent:* Costa Rica.

Address: Templo Masónico, corner Avenue Bernal and Calle San Antonio Abad #291, San Salvador.

Postal Address: P O Box 3009, San Salvador, El Salvador.

Telephone: (503) 26 8543.

Lodges: 12. Membership: 250.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, York Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitutions*.

Periodical: *Shittah* (published quarterly).

### **History**

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America. It possesses a widely recognised Grand Lodge which, while small, has remained active despite the adverse political situation the country has suffered in modern times.

Although El Salvador gained independence from Spain in 1821, it appears Freemasonry did not reach its shores until the 1850s. After repression by several successive governments, two lodges were formed in the 1880s from Costa Rica. In 1898, a Grand Lodge was established for both El Salvador and Honduras, with seven constituent lodges. This Grand body was subsequently destroyed by the war between El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala that broke out soon after.

In 1912, three lodges remaining in El Salvador erected a Grand Lodge, only to see a breakaway group form a schismatic Grand body. Happily, these two re-united in 1919 to form the present Grand Lodge. Since the Second World War Masonic expansion has been slow, picking up only in the last twenty years. By the 1970s, the youngest lodge in the country was *Resurrección #10* at San Salvador, founded in 1948. In May 1975 a new lodge, *Chaparrastique #11*, was constituted at San Miguel, although it subsequently expired, evidently a victim of the civil war which overtook El Salvador in the 1980s. This war affected the Craft in El Salvador, with a resultant depletion of membership and a loss of lodges. The Grand Lodge possessed fourteen lodges in 1984, but in the 1990s reported only twelve. However, four new lodges have been formed in recent years, undoubtedly a response to the cessation of civil war and calmer political conditions in the country.

### *Notes for Visitors*

Of the twelve lodges in El Salvador, eight work the Scottish Rite Craft ritual, and four practice the York Rite using an English-type Craft ritual. All lodges work in Spanish. El Salvador appears to have remained relatively free of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council domination that has often been seen in other Central American countries. Uncommonly for Central America, while most other Grand Lodges meet annually, the El Salvador Grand Lodge convenes five times per year. Of its twelve lodges, eight meet in the capital city, San Salvador, while the remaining four meet in provincial centres: one each at San Miguel, Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Usulután.

Dress for lodges is a coat and tie. While regalia is available for loan to visitors, they are welcome to wear their own. All the San Salvador lodges meet in the Grand Temple. While circumstances in the country in the past have been difficult, these conditions do not now apply and visiting El Salvador and its lodges now poses no problem. Any Mason travelling to El Salvador is invited to contact the Grand Lodge office, where a warm welcome and every assistance awaits him.

### *List of lodges*

Lodges in El Salvador meet weekly for most of the year, mostly starting at 8 pm. The following are the meeting days for all twelve lodges in the country. They meet in the Grand Lodge Temple in San Salvador, unless otherwise stated.

Mondays	Sihuatihuacán #1 (Santa Ana), Fénix #9, Libertad #13
Tuesdays	Resurrección #9, Emeth #16 (San Miguel)
Wednesdays	Excelsior #3, Reforma #4 (Sonsonate)
Thursdays	Fraternidad #6, Lux #8
Fridays	Morazán #7, Atenea #15
Saturdays	Hijos de Osiris #14 (Usulután).

## GUATEMALA

### **The Grand Lodge of Guatemala**

*Founded:* 1903. *Descent:* Colombia, and the United States.

*Address:* Templo Masónico, 27 Calle 12-45, Zone 5, Guatemala City.

*Postal Address:* Apartado Postal 34, 01901 Guatemala City.

*Telephone:* (502-2) 31 9470 ,or 32 5170. *Fax:* 31 9580.

*Meets quarterly* in January, April, July, and October.

*Lodges:* 30. *Membership:* 677.

*Rituals:* Scottish (Craft) Rite, York Rite, and Schroeder.

*Main Publications:* *Constitution, Proceedings.*

### *History*

Guatemala is a central American country that is not without its political difficulties, but nevertheless has a well-respected Grand Lodge with constituent lodges working in Spanish, German and English.

Guatemala has had a chequered political history, and this has affected its Masonic development quite markedly. The first lodge in Guatemala was *Constancia Lodge*, warranted from Colombia in 1881. By 1886,

this lodge had split into three, which in part formed the Grand Orient of Central America in the same year. Another, called *Union Lodge*, also joined this Grand body. It was supposed to have been chartered from America, but from which jurisdiction remains unclear. Nonetheless, this same lodge heads the Guatemala list of lodges today as number 1. It works a Webb-type ritual in English, adding credence to its putative American ancestry. By 1903, eight lodges were working in Guatemala, and they succeeded in forming the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Guatemala in that year.

By 1908, a dictator had come to political power and the Craft was rigorously suppressed, eventually leading to the destruction and ransacking of temples in 1917–18. The dictator was overthrown in 1920, whereupon the Grand Lodge re-formed. The year 1930 saw a new dictator assume power, and Masonic activity was again restricted until his demise in 1944. After a short peace, two new and opposing dictators arose—Armaz and Arbenz—with the Grand Lodge largely caught up in the power play. Armaz dissolved the Grand Lodge in 1954, and this allowed a dissident group to organise a new Grand Lodge and seize the main temple, although the old Grand Lodge continued to meet. By 1958, dictatorship was replaced by a restoration of democracy, and this has brought relative political stability to the country. A military government latterly came to rule Guatemala, but the Grand Lodge appears to have not been affected. It seems that the schism in Guatemalan Masonry was healed, whereby the Grand Lodge has expanded, reporting 28 lodges in 1984, and 33 in 1994. By 1997, this had reduced to 30, although two were in recess and another two subject to dissolution, effectively leaving 24 active lodges.

### *Notes for Visitors*

Of Guatemala's 24 active lodges, 18 work in Guatemala City itself, while the remainder are located at provincial population centres. Two lodges work the York Rite, using Webb-type rituals, one in Spanish (Mozart Lodge #20) and one in English (Union Lodge #1). Another Spanish-speaking York Rite lodge is Hiram Lodge #44. All three meet in the Masonic Hall in Guatemala City. All other Guatemalan lodges use a Scottish Rite Craft ritual in Spanish, with the exception of the Archimedes Lodge #35, which is a German-speaking lodge using the Schroeder ritual.

Guatemalan lodges mostly commence at 8 pm. Dress is a dark lounge suit, but shirt and tie are permissible in hotter months. December and January are recess months for most lodges. The majority meet twice monthly, but some lodges convene on a weekly basis.

Visitors to Guatemala wishing to attend a lodge are advised, at least in the first instance, to visit the main Masonic Hall in Guatemala City where they can be assured of full assistance. However, visitors should endeavour to remember not to turn up at the Temple during the siesta hours in the middle of the day, as it is unlikely that it will be staffed during these times.

## HONDURAS

### **The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Honduras**

[*Gran Logia de Honduras*]

*Founded:* 1922. *Descent:* Costa Rica, Colombia.

*Address:* Templo Masónico, 3a Avenue #717, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

*Postal Address:* P O Box 515, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

*Telephone & Fax:* (504) 32 2080.

*Lodges:* 13. *Membership:* 350.

*Ritual:* Scottish (Craft) Rite.

*Main Publications:* *Constitutions*.

### *History*

Honduras, with a population of over five million, has both Caribbean and Pacific coastlines, and borders Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. It possesses an active Grand Lodge dating from 1922.

There was reportedly Masonic activity in Honduras as early as 1819, yet the first lodge was not established until 1898. This was *Morazan Lodge #14*, warranted from the Scottish Rite Supreme Council of

Central America, but it subsequently became extinct. Three more lodges were erected under the same authority, and together they formed the Grand Lodge of Honduras in May, 1922. These were *Igualdad* (now #1) in 1911, and *Miguel Paz Baraona* (#2) and *Agustin Disdier* (#3), both in 1915.

After the formation of the Grand Lodge, the Supreme Council relinquished control over the three Craft degrees in Honduras, vesting them with the new authority. The Grand Lodge of Honduras continues to work happily. In 1997, it reported thirteen lodges, three of which meet in the Masonic Temple in the capital, Tegucigalpa, with the remainder operating at other population centres. The Grand Lodge is a member of the Central American Masonic Confederation (COMACA) and the Inter-American Masonic Confederation (CMI).

### *Notes for Visitors*

Visitors to Honduras should, in the first instance, call at the Grand Lodge Temple in Tegucigalpa, where a warm welcome and every assistance awaits. The Grand Lodge of Honduras is widely recognised by American, Canadian and European Grand Lodges, but not yet by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland. Lodges meet weekly, although many recess from late December into January. Dress for lodges is a coat and tie. Interestingly, the temple in Tegucigalpa also houses a children's school, as do some temples in provincial towns.

The three lodges located in the Grand Lodge Temple in Tegucigalpa meet as follows:

Logia Igualdad #1	Meets every Thursday.
Logia Terencio Sierra #6	Meets every Tuesday.
Logia Francisco Morazan #11	Meets every Monday.

## NICARAGUA

### **The Grand Lodge of Nicaragua**

[*Gran Logia de Nicaragua*]

*Founded:* 1907. *Descent:* Colombia.

Postal Address: Apartado Postal 102, Managua, Nicaragua.

Lodges: 10. Membership: c. 300.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution, Proceedings.*

### *History*

There is evidence of early English-warranted lodges in Nicaragua during the British occupation of the *Mosquito Coast* (1740-86), including *Bluefields Lodge #875*, and *Eureka Lodge #673*, the latter of which appears to have been largely composed of Negroes. However, neither survived the British departure.

In 1882, the Grand Orient of Colombia granted a warrant for *Lodge Progreso #41* at Grenada City, but vigorous opposition from the Catholic Church forced its closure. However, it was re-formed in 1898. In 1905, *Luz Lodge #29* was formed by members of *Progreso*, but it had expired by 1912. The Supreme Council of Central America, which had been active in the area, formed *Estrella Meridional Lodge #28*, in 1906. A Grand Lodge of Nicaragua was formed by *Progreso, Luz*, and *Estrella Meridional* in 1907.

In the 1990s, the Grand Lodge had its seat at Managua, and a membership of about 300 dispersed in approximately 10 lodges. In view of the fact that the Grand Lodge appears to have had a dubious relationship with a Supreme Council, and that there are doubts as to its regular descent, it is not recognised by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland.



## PANAMA

### **A Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Panama of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons**

*Founded:* 1916. *Descent:* Colombia, Venezuela.

Address: Templo Masónico, #9, 34 West 13th Street, Panama City.

Postal Address: P O Box 84, Panama 1, Republic of Panama.

Telephone: (507) 228 8096, or 228 8196. Fax: 228 8470

Email: <glpma@sinfo.net>. Website: <<http://infonetsa.com/av3>>.

Meets tri-annually, in February, June and October.

Lodges: 14. Membership: c. 387.

Ritual: revised Massachusetts Webb-form in Spanish; others.

Main Publications: *Constitution, Proceedings*.

### **History**

Panama is a country bisected by the Panama Canal. It possesses a sovereign and well respected Grand Lodge, which entered into an agreement with the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to permit the latter to erect and maintain lodges in what was the Canal Zone. There are also two lodges working under warrant from Scotland, and a Prince Hall lodge chartered from Missouri.

Panama's first lodge, *La Mejor Union*, was formed by a group of Masons petitioning the Grand Orient of Spain in 1821. This lodge variously changed allegiance to France, New York and Colombia over the succeeding years, but was closed by government decree in 1828. Then *Union Lodge* was chartered from Texas in 1850, but it lasted only four years.

Several lodges were established between 1854 and 1884, variously holding warrants from Colombia, the Grand Orient of France, and Massachusetts, most of which expired. The only survivors were *Fraternidad Lodge #43*, and *Fidelidad Lodge #48*, chartered from the Grand Orient of Cartagena (Colombia). Both of these lodges were working when the Americans came to build the Panama Canal in 1903.

The influx of Americans brought new life to the two remaining lodges, but this quickly evaporated when Scotland warranted *Sojourners Lodge #874*. All the Americans transferred to this new lodge, leaving the two Colombian lodges high and dry. Both these had expired by 1905. In 1906, Scotland warranted *Lodge Thistle #1013*, at Colon, and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts weighed in with *Isthmus Lodge* in the same year. In 1913, *Sojourners Lodge #874 SC* handed in its warrant and obtained a charter from Massachusetts. Scotland warranted another lodge, *St Andrew #1140*, in 1914, but none since. The remaining Panamanian Masons, with no lodge of their own working in the country, now turned to Venezuela, which warranted *Rosa de America Lodge #65* and five 'daughter' lodges derived from it, between 1907 and 1913. During the same period, the Supreme Council of Colombia chartered *Acacia Lodge #50*; this closed and a new lodge, *Cosmopolitan #55* was chartered from the same source.

In 1913, the six Venezuelan lodges formed a Grand Lodge of Panama, which chartered a seventh lodge, *Unity #7*, for English-speaking Masons. This Grand Lodge failed to gain general recognition and became dormant within three years. There were three surviving lodges, and these joined with *Cosmopolitan #55* in 1916 to erect the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Panama of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Three of these four lodges now head the roll of Panamanian lodges; the fourth, *Restauracion #4*, is extinct.

On its formation, the Grand Lodges of Panama entered into a treaty with Massachusetts, whereby Panama granted Massachusetts jurisdiction over the Canal Zone, and Massachusetts recognised Panama's jurisdiction over the balance of the country. The Grand Lodge of Panama now has 14 lodges, including one working under dispensation. Scotland still has two. Massachusetts, which had six lodges in the 1980s, now has only three, including *Sojourners*, the former Scottish lodge. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri has also chartered a lodge, to cater for US military personnel, *Panama Military Lodge #328*.

### **Notes for Visitors**

Of the lodges working under the Grand Lodge of Panama, eight work in Panama City, three at David (which have been formed into the Provincial Grand Lodge of Chiriqui), and one at Colon. (Location of the two most

recent lodges had not been ascertained at the time of going to press.) Interestingly, the official ritual used by the Grand Lodge of Panama is Massachusetts ritual in Spanish translation, rather than the Scottish Rite Craft ritual common elsewhere in Latin America. However, nearly half the Panamanian lodges are permitted to use other rituals.

Two lodges in Panama City work in English, namely Pacific #5 using the English *Emulation* ritual, and Harmony #18, using the Massachusetts ritual. Esculapio #20, for members of the medical profession, and Integracion #19, work Emulation in Spanish. One lodge, Promundi-Beneficio #3, works the Scottish Rite Craft ritual (in Spanish), and the latest lodge to be formed, Union Fraternal #21, also works the Scottish Rite Craft ritual, but a Bolivian translation from French into Spanish. Massachusetts and Scottish lodges, quite naturally, adhere to their mother rituals. The Prince Hall lodge works a revised version of Duncan's *Ritual of Freemasonry*.

The meeting details of all lodges in Panama (where known) are noted below. With respect to after-proceedings, the practices of Massachusetts and Scotland, as appropriate, are largely followed. Most lodges under the Grand Lodge of Panama meet at or about 8 pm, and with one exception meet fortnightly. Dress is a dark suit. American and Scottish regalia is fairly dissimilar. Regardless, visitors are welcome to wear their own when attending other lodges.

### List of lodges

#### Panama City: meeting at the *Templo Masónico, No 9, 34 West 13th Street:*

Logia Rosa de America #1	Meets 3rd Wednesdays, at 7.30 pm
Logia Cosmopolita #2	Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, at 8 pm
Logia Promundi-Beneficio #3	Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 8 pm; works Scottish Rite in Spanish.
Pacific Lodge #5	Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, at 8 pm; works Emulation in English.
Logia Aguadulce #14	Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, at 8 pm
Logia Luz y Progreso #15	Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 8 pm
Logia Harmony #18	Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at 6 pm; works revised Massachusetts ritual in English.
Logia Integracion #19	Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 6 pm; works Emulation in Spanish.

#### David: lodges under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Chiriqui, meeting at the *Templo Masónico, David:*

Logia Chiriqui #10	Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, at 8 pm
Logia Valle de la Luna #16	Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, at 7.30 pm
Logia Centinelas de David #17	Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, at 7.30 pm

#### Colon: meeting at *Templo Masónico, 15 Paseo Sucre and Limon, Colon:*

Atlantida #6	Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 8 pm.
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#### Scottish lodges

Lodge Thistle #1013	Meets at Masonic Temple, 15 Paseo Sucre and Limon, Colon, Panama, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays monthly, except December, at 6.30 pm.
Lodge St Andrew #1140	Meets at #2, 88th Street, Vista Hermosa, Panama City, 2nd and 4th Saturdays monthly, at 5.30 pm.

#### Massachusetts lodges

Ancon Lodge	Meets Masonic Apartments, Balboa, 2nd Monday, monthly.
Gatun Lodge	Meets Masonic Apartments, Balboa, 1st Thursdays, monthly.
Sojourner's Lodge	Meets Masonic Building, Cristobal, 1st Friday, monthly.

#### Prince Hall lodge (Missouri)

Panama Military Lodge #174	Contact Charles Brooks, Secretary, PSC, P O Box 2131, APO, AA 34002-5000.
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*Section 3*

**THE CARIBBEAN**

**THE BAHAMAS  
(including the Turks & Caicos Islands)**

**A Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons Commonwealth of the Bahamas Inc**

*Founded:* 1951.

Grand East: P O Box N-7826, Nassau, Bahamas.

Telephone: (1-809) 328 1662.

Annual Communication: 4th Monday in June.

Lodges: 24. Membership: 848.

***Preliminary note***

The Bahamas consists of several hundred islands located north of Cuba and south-east of Florida, with the Turks and Caicos Islands at the easterly tail of the group. It is a former British Crown Colony possessing a number of English and Scottish lodges, governed under respective District Grand Lodges, and, of more recent origin, a Prince Hall Grand Lodge. A brief outline of Masonic development in the Bahamas is given below.

Of the 24 Prince Hall lodges, meeting details can be obtained from the Grand Lodge Office; seven meet on Eleuthera, four on Andros, three each on Abaco, Grand Bahama and New Providence Island, and one each on Bimini, Cat Island, Exuma, and Long Island, as follows.

***List of lodges***

***Abaco***

Royal Hiram Lodge #9, Abaco Awake Lodge #18, North Abaco Lodge #27.

***Andros***

St. Andrew's Lodge #11, Ephraim Lodge #22, Pride of Mangrove Lodge #26, Pride of Fresh Creek Lodge #28.

***Bimini***

Pride of Bimini Lodge #12.

***Cat Island***

Pride of Cat Island Lodge #13.

***Eleuthera***

St. Glenelg Lodge #2, Pride of Eleuthera Lodge #4, St. Patrick's Lodge #5, St. John's Lodge #7, St. Benedict's Lodge #8, Eleuthera Adventurers Lodge #10, Pride of Rock Island Lodge #14.

***Exuma***

Mount Royal Lodge of Exuma #20.

***Grand Bahama***

Pride of Grand Bahama Lodge #7, Nebos Lodge #21, St. Nicholas Lodge #25.

***Long Island***

Pride of St Athanasius Lodge #19.

***New Providence Island***

Royal Eagle Lodge #1, St. James Lodge #3, Columbus Lodge #16.

**B DISTRICT GRAND LODGES*****District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas and Turks, EC***

Main Temple: Masonic Temple, Bay Street, Nassau, New Providence.

Postal Address: District Grand Secretary, P O Box N 8424, Nassau, Bahamas.

Lodges: 8.

***District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas, SC***

Main Temple: Scottish Masonic Temple, McKinney Avenue, Stapledon Gardens, New Providence

Postal Address: District Grand Secretary, P O Box N 8309, Nassau, Bahamas.

Lodges: 5.

***History***

The first two English lodges in the Bahamas, warranted in the mid 1700s, did not survive much into the nineteenth century. Scotland met with the same lack of achievement with two lodges formed under its charter in the early nineteenth century. However, England had permanent success with the establishment of *Royal Victoria Lodge #443*, erected at Nassau in 1837; and with *Turk's Island Forth Lodge #647*, set up on Grand Turk Island in 1855. Scotland's first permanent lodge was *Lodge St. Michael*, which opened at Nassau only in 1967. Three more Scottish lodges have since been granted charters.

The English lodges in the Bahamas were formerly governed under a Grand Inspector, but Masonic expansion and the warranting of additional lodges, enabled upgrading to District status in 1983. The Scottish lodges were governed through the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica and the Bahamas prior to March 1991, when the four Scottish lodges in the Bahamas were constituted into their own District Grand Lodge.

***List of lodges******Abaco***

The single lodge on this island (and the newest English Lodge in the Bahamas, dating from 1984), meets at the B & D Supply Building, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Marsh Harbour, Abaco.

Carleton Lodge #9134 EC Meets 1st Friday, January, March, April, June, September and November. Installation: April.

***Grand Bahama***

All lodges working in Grand Bahama meet at the Masonic Temple, East Sunrise Highway, Freeport, Grand Bahama. (P O Box F4063).

Lucayan Lodge #8188 EC Meets 1st Tuesday, October to June, except December & January (then 2nd Tuesday).  
Installation: 1st Friday, December.

Arawak Lodge #8877 EC Meets 3rd Thursday, February to June, September, and November. Installation: September.

Lodge St. Andrew #1756 SC Meets Last Friday, except July and August. Installation: December.

***New Providence Island***

All English lodges meet at the Masonic Temple (P O Box 161), Bay Street, Nassau, while Scottish lodges meet at the Masonic Hall, McKinney Avenue, Stapledon Gardens, Nassau. Lodges generally meet at 7 pm, unless otherwise noted.

Royal Victoria Lodge #443 EC Meets 2nd Wednesday, February, April, June, October, and December. Installation:  
2nd Saturday, November.

Lodge of Unity #8760 EC Meets 2nd Wednesday, January, March, May, September, and November.  
Installation: 2nd Saturday, February.

Bahamas L of Installed Masters #8764 EC Meets 3rd Wednesday, June, and November. Installation: 3rd Saturday, May.

Lodge Saint Michael #1634 SC Meets 1st Wednesday, September to June, at 7.30 pm.

Lodge Saint David #1741 SC Meets 2nd Monday, except August and September.

Lodge Saint Ann's #1751 SC Meets 3rd Tuesday, except July, August, December, and January, at 7.30 pm.

Lodge Claudius R. Walker #1808 SC 4th Tuesday, January, March, May, June, September and November, at 7.30 pm.

***Turks & Caicos Islands******Grand Turk***

Both lodges meet at the Masonic Temple, Queen Street, Grand Turk.

Turk's Island Forth Lodge #647 EC Meets 1st Wednesday, monthly, except December. Installation: 27 December.

Coral Lodge #8888 EC Meets 3rd Thursday in February, May, August, November. Installation: November.

## BARBADOS

### **A Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean**

*Founded:* 1993. *Descent:* New York.

Grand East: Prince Hall Memorial Centre, Graeme Hall, Christ Church, Barbados.

Telephone: (246) 437 0375.

Annual Communication: 4th Thursday in April.

Lodges: 10 (4 in Barbados). Membership: 300.

Ritual: basically New York Webb-form, cipher and plain text.

### ***History***

Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean chain of islands, and as a result of its long Masonic traditions it has become a focal point of Freemasonry in the region. It has long had English and Scottish lodges, now under District Grand Lodges; more recently, a Prince Hall Grand Lodge has been formed from lodges established in the region, with headquarters on Barbados.

In July 1965, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York chartered Prince Hall Memorial Lodge #100 to meet at Speightstown, Barbados. Over the next 25 years, this Grand Lodge chartered a further eight lodges in and near the Caribbean; specifically, two more in Barbados, one each in Dominica, Sint Maarten and St Lucia, and three in South America, in Guyana (formerly British Guiana). These constituted the Ninth District of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York. In April 1993, with the approval of New York, the lodges of the Ninth District unanimously voted to form the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean. With the blessing of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, an invitation was extended to the four lodges of its Eighth District, Trinidad and Tobago, to amalgamate with the new Grand Lodge. These lodges indicated interest, but decided to remain with Massachusetts.

Of the original nine lodges, six participated in the inauguration and two others joined shortly afterwards (one of which then 'went dark'). Five years later, the Grand Lodge has ten chartered lodges, with three others in the process of being formed or resurrected, located as follows: Antigua (1 under construction), Barbados (4 chartered), Dominica (1 under construction), Guyana (3 chartered, 1 under construction), St Lucia (1 chartered), St Maarten (1 chartered) and Martinique (1 chartered).

### ***Notes for Visitors***

Prince Hall lodges follow basically American Webb-form ritual and practices, and open on the third degree. All but one work in English. The exception is *Loge Fraternité des Caraïbes #10*, in Martinique, the only Prince Hall lodge in the world known to be working in French. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean has four lodges working in Barbados, as noted below. They all meet in the Prince Hall Memorial Centre, Graeme Hall, Christ Church, Bridgetown, at 7.30 pm.

Prince Hall Memorial Lodge #1	Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.
King David Lodge #4	Meets 1st and 3rd Saturdays.
Daniel O Brathwaite Memorial Lodge #6	Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays.
Immanuel Lodge #11	Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

### **B DISTRICT GRAND LODGES**

#### ***District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, EC***

Postal Address: The District Grand Secretary, P O Box 84/85, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies.

Lodges: 16 (5 in Barbados, 11 in other Eastern Caribbean locations).

#### ***District Grand Lodge of Barbados, SC***

Postal Address: The District Grand Secretary, Masonic Hall, Spry Street, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Lodges: 6.

### History

There was Masonic activity, and lodges, in Barbados early in the 18th century. The first English Provincial Grand Master, one Thomas Baxter, was appointed under the Premier (*Moderns*) Grand Lodge in January 1740. Successive appointments have been made, largely unbroken, to the present day. Until 1983, the English Lodges worked under the District Grand Lodge of Barbados, which at that time included lodges on St Lucia, St Vincent, and Grenada. In that year various English lodges located on the neighbouring Eastern Caribbean islands of Montserrat, Antigua, and the Virgin Islands joined the District, whereupon it assumed its current title.

The oldest lodge in Barbados is *Albion #196 EC*, dating from 1790, whilst Scotland's premier lodge is *Scotia #340*, dating from 1844. No Irish Lodges presently work in Barbados. Six Irish Lodges were operating, under an Irish Provincial Grand Lodge, by the early 19th century, but these had expired by the 1830s. There were also two military lodges stationed on the island in the 1800s.

Masonic development has been steady in Barbados, but not spectacular. The latest English lodge, *The Research Lodge of Amity #9073* was warranted in 1983, in the same year as the latest Scottish lodge, *Pelican #1750*.

### Notes for Visitors

There are two Masonic halls in Bridgetown, the Capital City of Barbados, in which all British-warranted lodges on the island meet. They are approximately two miles apart. The English lodges meet in the Masonic Hall, Belleville, St. Michael, Bridgetown, together with one of the Scottish lodges (*Pelican #1750*). The remaining five Scottish lodges meet at the Scottish Masonic Hall, Spry Street. All lodges meet between 7.30 pm (most English lodges) and 8 pm (some English and most Scottish lodges), and very largely follow the practices normally associated with English and Scottish lodges elsewhere. Interestingly, the five oldest English lodges under its District Grand Lodge describe themselves as *English Registration* lodges (ER), rather than as *English Constitution* lodges (EC) common elsewhere. Two of these are on Barbados. Dress for lodges is a dark business suit, and visitors are welcome to wear their own regalia if carrying it. Ethnically, approximately 95% of Freemasons in Barbados are black or coloured, with the remainder white. This mix tends to mirror the population of the country.

### List of lodges

Lodges working in Barbados are listed below:

#### English lodges

Albion Lodge #196 ER	Meets (a) 1st Wednesday, monthly. Installation: December.
Victoria Lodge #2196 ER	Meets (a) 2nd Thursday, except September and October. Installation: August.
St. Michael's Lodge #2253 EC	Meets (a) 3rd Thursday, except August and September. Installation: May.
Union Lodge #7551 EC	Meets (a) 4th Tuesday, January to November, except July and August. Installation: January.
Research Lodge of Amity #9073 EC	Meets (a) 1st Thursday, February, June and October. Installation: February.

#### Scottish Lodges

Lodge Scotia #340 SC	Meets (b) 3rd Monday, monthly, at 8 pm. Installation: November.
Lodge Thistle #1014 SC	Meets (b) 4th Wednesday, except December, then 3rd Wednesday, at 8 pm. Installation: September
Lodge St. John #1062 SC	Meets (b) 2nd Monday, except August and September, at 8 pm. Installation: December.
Lodge St. Andrew #1509 SC	Meets (b) 4th Monday, except December, at 8 pm. Installation: July.
Lodge Unity #1625 SC	Meets (b) 2nd Friday, except August and September, at 8 pm. Installation: April.
Lodge Pelican #1750 SC	Meets (a) 1st Thursday, except February, June and October, at 8 pm. Installation: May.

## BERMUDA

### The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bermuda, IC

Address: The Provincial Grand Secretary, P O Box HM2295, Hamilton, Bermuda

Lodges: 4.

**The Grand Inspectorate of Bermuda, EC**

Postal Address: The Grand Inspector (EC), P O Box WK 199, Hamilton, Bermuda.

Telephone: (1-441) 238 1782, Fax: 238 4649.

Email address: <thollsr@ibl.bm>.

Lodges: 5.

**The Grand Superintendent of Bermuda, SC**

Lodges: 3.

**History**

Bermuda is a British Colony located in the Western Atlantic about 550 miles from South Carolina, USA. The island has an area of 21 square miles and a resident population of about 60,000.

The first lodge in Bermuda was *Union #266*, warranted by England in 1761, but it later expired. This was followed by *Bermuda Lodge #507*, chartered in 1792 by the English *Moderns* Grand Lodge. It was given the number 324 at the Union of the two English Grand Lodges in 1813, and today is Prince Alfred Lodge #233. The second-oldest lodge under the English Constitution is Atlantic Phoenix Lodge #307 (now #224) warranted on 9 August 1797. Scotland granted a charter for Lodge St George #266 (now #200) on 7 August 1797, while Ireland's first lodge was Hannibal #224, warranted in 1867. Currently, England has five lodges on the island, while Ireland has four and Scotland three. The Irish lodges are governed by a Provincial Grand Lodge, with the English Lodges coming under a Grand Inspector and the Scottish under a Grand Superintendent.

Masonry has expanded steadily in Bermuda. In 1988, a further English-warranted Lodge was established, while Ireland chartered an extra one in 1987, giving it sufficient for it to form the Provincial Grand Lodge, which was constituted in Hamilton on 21 January, 1989. The Provincial Grand Lodge meets on the 3rd Saturday in January (Installation), May, and September.

**List of lodges****Irish lodges**

Abercorn Lodge #123	Meets at Freemasons' Hall, Reid Street, Hamilton, 1st Monday, October to June. Installation: February.
Hannibal Lodge #224	Meets at Masonic Hall, Old Maid's Lane, St. George's, Bermuda, 2nd Wednesday, October to June. Installation: January.
Bermuda Garrison Lodge #580	Meets at Freemasons' Hall, Reid Street, Hamilton, 2nd Monday, October to June. Installation: February.
Friendship and Harmony Lodge #894	Meets at Masonic Hall, Khyber Pass, Warwick, Bermuda, 1st Monday, October to June. Installation: March.

**English lodges**

All lodges meet at Freemasons' Hall, Reid Street, Hamilton, except #233, which meets at the Masonic Hall, Somerset. Most lodges start at 7.30 pm.

Atlantic Phoenix Lodge #224	Meets Tuesday on or before the full moon, October to June. Installation: 3rd Tuesday, December.
Prince Alfred Lodge #233	Meets 2nd Wednesday, October to June. Installation: March.
Lodge of Loyalty #358	Meets 4th Friday, October to June (except December, 2nd Friday). Installation: March.
Broad Arrow Lodge #1890	Meets 3rd Monday, October to May, & 4th Monday, June. Installation: April.
Bermuda Installed Masters Lodge #9271	Meets 2nd Thursday, January, April, and October. Installation: April.

**Scottish lodges**

Lodge St. George #200	Meets at Masonic Hall (formerly the Old State House), 4 Princess Street, St. George's, Bermuda, First Tuesday after the full moon, October to June. Installation: 1st Tuesday, December.
Lodge Civil and Military #726	Meets at Masonic Hall, King Street, Hamilton, 1st Monday, October to June. Installation: November.
Lodge Somers Isles #1503	Meets Masonic Temple, Hog Bay Level, Fairhaven Lane, Sandy's Parish, Somerset, Bermuda; 2nd Tuesday, October to June. Installation: 2nd Tuesday, November.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

This small British possession sits in the middle of the Western Caribbean, south of Cuba and west of Jamaica. It possesses two lodges, the first formed under England in 1967, while the second was established on Cayman Brac in 1992. Both are administered as part of the English District Grand Lodge of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, and their meeting details are as follows:

Cayman Lodge #8153	Meets Freemasons' Hall, Prospect Park, Grand Cayman Island, 3rd Friday, September to June (except December). Installation: November.
Brac Lodge #9470	Meets Masonic Hall, Cayman Brac, 2nd Friday in March, June and October. Installation: June.

## CUBA

### The Grand Lodge of Cuba

[*Gran Logia de Cuba*]

*Founded:* 1859. *Descent.* South Carolina, Spain, others.

Address: Gran Templo Nacional Masónico, Ave. Salvador Allende #508, Le Habana.

Postal Address: Apartado Postal 3080, C.P. 10300, Habana 3, Cuba.

Telephone: 785732 or 785065.

Lodges: 314. Membership: 24,313.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publication: Annual *Proceedings*.

### History

Cuba is a Masonic enigma. It is effectively the only communist country on earth possessing a Grand Lodge, and a regular one at that. This unique situation alone makes for an interesting study.

The Masonic history of Cuba is probably second only to that of Mexico in terms of confusion. Masonry first appeared in Cuba with *Le Temple des Vertus Theologales Lodge #103*, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1804. A further ten lodges were established under the same authority up to 1820, but all of them had expired by 1827. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana warranted five lodges between 1815 and 1822, and South Carolina had two lodges under charter in 1819. In 1818, two Pennsylvania lodges and one South Carolina lodge organised the *Gran Logia del Rito York* at Habana. However, by 1828, the Spanish government enforced a rigid ban on Freemasonry in Cuba, and the Grand Lodge was suppressed.

The Craft revived in 1859, when three lodges arose to form the *Independent Grand Lodge of Colon*. A Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite was erected at the same time. These two bodies soon came into conflict, with the Supreme Council seeking to control the Grand Lodge. The dispute came to a head about ten years later, and left the Cuban Craft weak as a result. In addition, a revolution against Spain broke out in 1868, and Freemasonry was again persecuted. Another Grand Lodge, the *Gran Logia de la Isla de Cuba*, sprang up about 1876, bringing condemnation from the *Grand Lodge of Colon*. Both these Grand Lodges appear to have prospered, despite the growing political troubles in the country. The Spanish-American War of 1898 brought Cuba under American protection, and the Craft was able to develop peacefully until the chaos wrought by the dictator Batista following his assumption of power in the late 1930s.

The relations between the two Grand Lodges were poor, although attempts were made about this time to unite them. However, by the late 1940s all the *Isla de Cuba* lodges, about seven, were on the roll of the *Grand Lodge of Colon*. In 1951, the name Grand Lodge of Cuba was adopted, and by this time it had become the sole Masonic authority on the island in terms of the Craft, and has remained so. The expansion of both lodges and membership became rapid. In 1950, the Grand Lodge possessed 258 lodges and 22,000 members, and by 1959 this had risen to 339 lodges and nearly 35,000 members.



However, 1959 brought with it the rise to power of the Castro regime. Curiously, the Craft was not banned nor rigorously suppressed, although the relations between the Grand Lodge and the Communist government have never been warm. Nonetheless, government pressure has sometimes been applied, particularly in recent years. These pressures, plus the ongoing economic woes of the country, saw the Grand Lodge's membership decline to about 19,500 in 1982, but, remarkably, membership in 1993 was reported to have risen to nearly 22,500, and to over 24,300 by 1997. Just exactly how the Grand Lodge operates in a Communist state is not completely clear, but nonetheless it has done so, and remains fully regular. It is recognised by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, and by the majority of mainstream Grand Lodges.

### *Notes for Visitors*

All Cuban lodges work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees in Spanish. There were four English-speaking York Rite lodges operating under the Grand Lodge in 1959, but these have long since lapsed. The Grand Lodge erected the ten-storey *Gran Templo Nacional Masónico* in central Habana in 1955, and this is still occupied by the Craft.

The position of the Grand Lodge has been made more difficult recently. In 1977 the government decreed new laws requiring all voluntary organisations, except religious organisations and agricultural co-operatives, to register with the government and provide details concerning their membership, officers, and property. These organisations are subject to regular inspection by government agents, and in the event of violations are subject to fines, suspension, or dissolution. Evidently, the right of appeal is severely limited. In that year, several constituent lodges of the Grand Lodge were found guilty of violations, and were fined between \$100 and \$1000 each, and the Grand Lodge was fined \$95,000. The reason given by the Castro government was that the lodges concerned were guilty of having the names of Masons who had fled Cuba on their membership rolls, and of giving assistance to the wives and daughters of Masons who had been imprisoned or executed as enemies of the government.

Despite these difficulties, the Grand Lodge carries on, and the resolve of Cuban Masons to continue to practice their ancient Craft is undiminished. The membership rise of recent years would seem to indicate life is now a bit easier for Cuban Masonry.

The dress for all Cuban lodges is a dark suit, and working regalia is supplied to those attending. Cuban lodges do not operate any festive board practices, but usually a light supper accompanies meetings. About 150 of Cuba's 324 lodges work in Habana, while the others are spread throughout the major population centres of the island. Masonic visitors travelling to Cuba are probably best advised to correspond with the Cuban Grand Secretary, via the auspices of their own Grand Lodge. In any case, a warm welcome at the *Gran Templo Nacional Masónico* awaits any regular Mason visiting Havana.

It is interesting to note that one lodge chartered from Massachusetts still works on Cuba. It is located at the American naval base at Guantanamo Bay near the extreme west of the island, which is cut off from the rest of Cuba for political reasons. The lodge's details are as follows:

Guantanamo Bay Lodge. Meets at the Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 1st Wednesday, monthly.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### **The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic**

[*Gran Logia de la Republica Dominicana*]

*Founded:* 1858. *Descent:* England, Pennsylvania and France.

Address: Gran Templo Nacional Masónico, Arzobispo Portes #554, Espuina Las Carreras, Santo Domingo.

Postal Address: Apartado Postal 209, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana.

Telephone: (809) 682 4173. Fax: 682 6290.

Lodges: 20. Membership: 1200.

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution, Proceedings.*

**History**

The Dominican Republic shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti, and possesses a recognised Grand Lodge dating from 1858.

It is quite difficult to separate the Masonic history of the Dominican Republic from that of Haiti. The entire island of Hispaniola was a Spanish possession until 1697, when the west of the island was ceded to France. Not surprisingly, the Grand Orient of France soon warranted lodges in Haiti, but this will be discussed under that heading below. The Grand Orient of France controlled the Craft on the entire island of Hispaniola, it would seem, until the French Revolution, whereupon, after much chaos, Haiti and Dominica became independent of colonial control at the start of the nineteenth century.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had warranted a lodge in Haiti as early as 1786, but this became extinct. Oddly enough, Pennsylvania chartered seven lodges on the island in the revolutionary period, between 1800 and 1806, none of which survived the chaos. England stepped in with four lodges about 1811, but all of them had been erased by 1824.

In 1844, San Domingo (now the Dominican Republic) finally became a republic, but still under the protection of Spain. A *Grand Orient of San Domingo* was formed in 1858, evidently largely using Haitian lodges working in its part of the island. A separate body, the *Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic*, was opened in 1865. These two bodies merged in 1866, with ten lodges under their control. This number had grown to 25 by 1983, and 39 by 1993. Unfortunately, economic and political conditions in recent years have not smiled favourably on the Craft, and in 1997 the Grand Lodge reported only 20 lodges, with a membership of 1200.

**Notes for Visitors**

As with virtually all Latin countries, the Dominican Grand Lodge works the Scottish Rite Craft ritual, its Craft degrees being termed Apprentice, Craftsman and Master. Its lodges mostly meet weekly or fortnightly, generally commencing at 8 pm. Of its current 20 lodges, nine work in Santo Domingo, the capital city, at the National Grand Masonic Temple. The remainder work at other population centres, mostly with one lodge per town. Dress for lodges is a dark suit, or shirt and tie during hotter weather. Visitors to the republic are advised to attend, at least initially, the National Grand Masonic Temple in Santo Domingo. All lodges work in Spanish, there being no York Rite lodges currently operating in the country.

An interesting custom in Dominican Republic lodges is the holding of an annual *Lodge of Remembrance*, usually towards the end of the year. Lodge aprons are reversible, with the usually-displayed side of normal Masonic design. The reverse, however, is black and white, featuring symbolism central to the Master Mason's degree, and this is displayed at a *Lodge of Remembrance*, the purpose of which is to honour lodge members who have died during the past year.

**GUADELOUPE**

Guadeloupe is a large French-owned island in the Lesser Antilles, centrally positioned between the Leeward Islands to the north, and the Windward Islands to the south. As with the neighbouring island of Martinique, and French Guiana in South America, the lodges established here reflect the main divisions of the Craft in France: a Grand Lodge within the mainstream; a Grand Lodge which is not greatly concerned over mainstream acceptance, but whose regularity is strongly argued; and a Grand Orient rejected by the mainstream.

The Grand Orient of France was first on the scene with *Loge Les Elus d'Occident* at Basse Terre, formed in 1862. In 1976 the Grand Orient warranted a second lodge, L'Acacia des Tropiques, meeting at Pointe-a-Pitre. Both work the French Rite.

The Grand Lodge of France has four lodges on the island, namely Félix Eboubé #710 (1950) and Lumière et Sagesse #929 (1980) at Pointe-a-Pitre; Le Soleil #841 (1973) at Le Gosier; and la Côte sous le Vent-Kerabon #944 (1980) at Basse-Terre. These work the Scottish Rite Craft ritual.

The mainstream French National Grand Lodge (GLNF) has warranted five lodges in all, commencing with la Chaîne d'Union d'Outremer #278 at Pointe-a-Pitre in 1981. These lodges are administered directly from Paris. All five meet at the Masonic Temple, 9 Rue Sadi-Carnot, 97110 Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe. All lodges work in French and use the Scottish Rite Craft ritual, except #949, which uses the Rectified Scottish Rite. Details are as follows:

Loge La Chaîne D'Union D'Outremer #278	Meets 2nd Wednesdays, except July, August and September, at 6.30 pm. Installation: October.
Loge L'Aigle De Saint Jean #412	Meets 1st Fridays, except July, August and September, at 7 pm. Installation: October.
Loge Marin De Tyr #457	Meets 3rd Fridays, except July, August and September, at 6.30 pm. Installation: 2nd Wednesday, October.
Loge Sainte Anne #511	Meets 4th Wednesdays, except July and August, at 6.30 pm. Installation: 2nd Wednesday, October.
Loge Chevalier de Saint-Georges #949	Meets 1st Saturday, except July and August, at 4 pm.

## HAITI

### The Grand Orient of Haiti

*Founded:* 1824. *Descent:* England, Pennsylvania, and France.

*Address:* Temple Maçonnique, Rue du Magasin de l'Etat 201, Port-au-Prince, Haïti.

*Postal Address:* P O Box 1417, 13200 Delmas, Haïti.

*Telephone:* (509-1) 229 388. *Fax:* 223 163.

*Lodges:* 40. *Membership:* 6000.

*Ritual:* Scottish (Craft) Rite.

*Main Publications:* *Constitution.*

### History

Haiti occupies the western portion of Hispaniola island, with the Dominican Republic as its eastern neighbour. Haiti was ceded from Spain to France in 1697. The Grand Orient of France formed two lodges in 1749, and about ten more lodges were erected from the same authority up until 1789. Pennsylvania warranted three lodges between 1786 and 1797, two of which lasted into the next century before expiring. The French Revolution brought about the independence of Haiti, but not until after the defeat of Napoleon. In the meantime, Pennsylvania again became active, warranting seven lodges up until 1806, none of which survived long. Likewise, no French lodge survived the Revolution.

The saviour of Haitian Masonry came in the form of four English lodges, warranted between 1809 and 1817. These lodges formed into a Provincial Grand Lodge, which in 1824 abandoned England and formed the *Grand Lodge of Haiti*. The Haitian Craft developed peacefully until 1830. In that year the Grand Orient of France invaded the island with its higher degrees, and by 1836 the *Grand Lodge of Haiti* had become the Grand Orient of Haiti, controlled by a Scottish Rite Supreme Council. Thereafter, various struggles occurred between the Grand Orient and the Supreme Council for control of the Craft degrees. Reputedly, the two bodies are officially separate entities today, but international Masonic misgivings on this score has meant that the Grand Orient of Haiti is not widely recognised outside Central and South America. There is a suspicion the Grand Orient may have a relationship with the irregular Grand Orient of France. As of 1997, only 19 USA Grand Lodges maintain fraternal relations with Haiti.

### Notes for Visitors

Haiti as a country has experienced great internal political and economic difficulties in recent times, although it would appear that the Haitian Craft has been relatively unaffected. Of the 30 lodges in the country, five work in central Port-au-Prince, the capital, with the balance scattered through towns across the country. All lodges work in French, using the Scottish Rite Craft ritual. Dress is shirt and tie, and lodges mostly meet weekly, at or about 8 pm. Potential visitors to Haitian lodges should first ensure that their own Grand Lodge recognises the Grand Orient of Haiti.

## JAMAICA

### **The District Grand Lodge of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, EC**

Address: The District Grand Secretary, Freemasons' Hall, 45-47 Barbados Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica.

Telephone: (1-809) 929 4462. Fax: 960 7776.

Email: <fmaj@cwjamaica.com>.

Website: <<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/4155>>.

Lodges: 23 (Jamaica 21, Cayman Islands 2).

### **The Provincial Grand Lodge of Jamaica, (IC)**

Address: Freemason's Hall, 45-47 Barbados Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica.

Email: <pgl\_jamaica@geocites.com>.

Website: <<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/4572>>.

Lodges: 5.

### **The District Grand Lodge of Jamaica, (SC)**

Address: The District Grand Secretary, P O Box 8, Kingston 10, Jamaica.

Email: <scot\_district@hotmail.com>.

Website: <<http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/church/130>>.

Telephone: (1-809) 926 6797.

Lodges: 16.

### **History**

Jamaica is one of the larger Caribbean islands. Located to the south of Cuba, it gained its independence in 1962. It has long been the home of many lodges holding warrants from the Grand Lodges of the British Isles. Historically, the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland have all been very active in Jamaica; and between them they have seen a large number of lodges established. Some did not survive, but most did.

The oldest extant England lodges are Royal Lodge #207 (1794), and Friendly Lodge #239 (1797). Both work at Kingston, the Jamaican capital city. The premier Scottish lodge is Lodge Glenlyon #346, dating from 1845, while the youngest is Lodge De La Vega #1744, chartered in 1982 at Spanish Town. Ireland was slowest to see lodges established under its banner in Jamaica, but its pace has quickened markedly in recent years. The first Irish lodge was South Carolina #390, chartered at Kingston in 1927. A second Irish lodge, however, was not erected until 1984. This was Western Shamrock #889, also at Kingston. A further three have been created since with the latest, Irish Masters #907, being chartered in 1990 to work at St. Ann's Bay. Having gained the minimum necessary under Irish Masonic rules, these five lodges were given their own Provincial Grand Lodge, which was established in 1995.

### **List of lodges**

As of early 1998, 42 lodges were at work on the Island of Jamaica. Given this substantial number, it is not possible to list all their meeting details here. Rather, noted below are those lodges meeting in the capital, Kingston, followed by the addresses of the temples in major towns.

#### *English lodges*

All English lodges in Kingston meet at the Masonic Building, 45-47 Barbados Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica.

Royal Lodge #207	Meets 1st Monday, October to July. Installation: May.
Friendly Lodge #239	Meets 2nd Tuesday, October to June. Installation: February.
Sussex Lodge #354	Meets 3rd Wednesday, September to June. Installation: January.
Phoenix Lodge #914	Meets 3rd Tuesday, monthly. Installation: March.
Lodge Collegium Fabrorum #1836	Meets 2nd Thursday, October to July. Installation: June.
Kingston Lodge #1933	Meets 1st Wednesday, October to July. Installation: February.

Moore-keys Lodge #2519	Meets 3rd Thursday, monthly, except December. Installation: September.
Arawak Lodge #6902	Meets 1st Friday, September to June. Installation: October.
University Lodge of the West Indies Lodge #7128	Meets 3rd Friday, October to June. Installation: February.
Jamaica College Lodge #7254	Meets 2nd Monday, October to June. Installation: March.
Installed Masters Lodge of Jamaica #7420	Meets 4th Monday, February, May, July and November. Installation: November.

*Irish lodges*

Irish lodges in Kingston meet at the Masonic Building, 45–47 Barbados Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica.

South Carolina Lodge #390	Meets 1st Tuesday, October to June, except January, at 7 pm.
Western Shamrock Lodge #889	Meets 4th Friday, September to June, except December, at 5.30 pm.
Emerald Lodge #899	Meets 2nd Friday, October to June, except November, at 5.30 pm.

*Scottish lodges*

Scottish Lodges in Kingston meet at the Freemasons' Building, 11–15 McGregor Square, Kingston 5.

The Glenlyon Lodge #346	Meets 2nd Wednesday, monthly, at 7 pm.
Lodge St John #623	Meets 4th Monday, monthly at 7.30 pm.
Lodge Imperial Service #978	Meets 1st Thursday, monthly, at 7.30 pm.
Lodge Liguanea #1479	Meets 4th Friday, October–June, at 7.30 pm.
Lodge Wolmers #1506	Meets 2nd Tuesday, August–May, at 5 pm.
Lodge Semper Fidelis #1530	Meets 2nd Monday, monthly, at 7.30 pm.
Lodge Mico #1583	Meets 2nd Saturday, September–June, 6 pm.
Lodge of St Andrew #1684	Meets 2nd Friday, October–June, at 7.30 pm.

*Montego Bay:* Masonic Temple, 2 Davis Avenue, Red Hills, Montego Bay. (2 Scottish, 1 English, & 1 Irish)

*Spanish Town:* Masonic Temple, 2 Ellis Street, Spanish Town. (3 English, 1 Scottish)

*St Ann's Bay:* Masonic Temple, 1 Davis Street, St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann. (1 Scottish, 1 Irish)

*Mandeville:* Masonic Temple, Ward Avenue, Mandeville. (2 English)

A large number of others towns in Jamaica possess one lodge each, either English or Scottish.

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

This large group of relatively small islands is located in the West Indies in an arc to the east of Puerto Rico, and form the northerly section of the Lesser Antilles. Lodges working on Guadeloupe, Martinique, the Virgin Islands, and the Windward Islands are described under separate headings.

English lodges are located on Anguilla, Antigua and Montserrat. The oldest is *St John's #492* on Antigua, dating from 1843, while the youngest are the two lodges working on Anguilla, dating from 1985 and 1989. All the English lodges are administered through the District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, EC, based in Barbados. Scotland possesses only one lodge in the area, working on St Kitts; it was erected in 1835. St Kitts has possessed four English lodges and three other Scottish lodges at various points in history, with only Lodge Mount Olive #336 SC lasting into the 20th century. In addition, Kings Court Lodge UD is being established on Antigua by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean.

The island of St Martin (Sint Maarten) is jointly administered by the Netherlands and France. It has three lodges, one each from the Grand East of the Netherlands, the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF), and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean.

*List of lodges**Anguilla*

Unity Lodge #9166 EC	Meets Masonic Temple, South Hill, Anguilla, 3rd Tuesday, except September. Installation: November.
Anguilla Masters Lodge #9335 EC	Meets Masonic Temple, South Hill, Anguilla, 4th Saturday, January, May, and September. Installation: September.

*Antigua*

St John's Lodge #492 EC Meets Masonic Hall, St. John's Street, St. John's, Antigua, Friday nearest to full moon: February to November, and 2nd Friday, January. Installation: 27th December.

Caribbee Lodge #2829 EC Meets Masonic Hall, St. John's Street, St. John's, Antigua, 1st Thursdays (except April, then 1st Wednesday). Installation: December.

*Montserrat*

St Anthony Lodge #4684 EC Meets Masonic Temple, Jubilee Town, Plymouth, Montserrat; Friday nearest the full moon, February to December. Installation: 17th January.

*St Kitts*

Lodge Mt Olive #336 SC Meets Masonic Hall, Taylor's Range, Basseterre, St Kitts; 3rd Thursdays, October to June, at 8 pm. (Postal Address: P O Box 128, Basseterre)

*St Martin (Maarten)*

Loge Union #226 NC Meets Juliana Airport Building, Thursdays, at 8 pm. Telephone: (599-5) 54 340 (secretary).

Loge la Fraternite de Saint Martin #407 GLNF Meets Masonic Temple, Marigot, 97150 Saint Martin; 4th Thursdays, monthly, except August, at 6.30 pm. Installation: September.

Adrian C Richardson Lodge #3 PHCarib Meets 4th Thursdays, monthly.

## MARTINIQUE

Martinique is located between the former British possessions of Dominica and St Lucia, at the start of the Windward Islands. It is the more southerly of the two large French-owned islands in the central Lesser Antilles chain, and is occupied by the same three Grand bodies as the more northerly Guadeloupe. But, unlike them, it also has a Prince Hall presence.

*Loge Fraternité des Caraïbes #10*, chartered by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean (based at Barbados), meets at the Masonic Temple, Quartier Lourdes, at Ducos, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at 8 pm. It uses the ritual of the Grand Lodge of the Caribbean, which is basically a New York Webb-form in cipher and plain text, but it works in French—the only Prince Hall lodge in the world known to do so, with the presumed demise of *Loge Félix Houpouet-Boigny*, chartered by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina in the Côte d'Ivoire.

The Grand Orient of France has five lodges on the island: Martinique Tolérance (1976) is at Ducos; Droit et Justice (1909), Rectitude et Fraternité (1986) and La Ruche (1971) are at Fort de France, and Les fils du Phenix (1993) is at St Pierre. All work the French Rite.

The Grand Lodge of France has two lodges at Fort de France: Les Disciples de Pythagore #485 (1921) and Fraternité et Progrès #924 (1979); and one at Le François, Loge Harmonie #1085 (1991). They work the Scottish Rite Craft ritual and meet fortnightly.

The first lodge of the mainstream French National Grand Lodge (GLNF) on the island was Abraham Lincoln #152, constituted in 1972. A further seven have followed, the latest being Loge Devoir et Liberté #606, warranted in 1989. The *Provincial Grand Lodge of the Caribbean* was established in 1986, and encompassed GLNF lodges working on Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, and in French Guiana. However, this administration was closed down in 1993, and the lodges presently report directly to Paris.

*List of lodges*

Of the eight GLNF lodges currently working in Martinique, five use the Scottish Rite Craft ritual, while the Rectified Scottish Rite, the French Rite, and the Emulation Ritual are each worked by one lodge, all in French. Three lodges meet at Schoelcher (a few kilometres north of Fort-de France), four at Ducos (approximately ten kilometres to the south of Fort-de-France), and one at Saint-Pierre (a coastal town to the north). Meeting details are as follows:

Abraham Lincoln #152 Meets Masonic Temple, Anse Gouraud, 97233 Schoelcher, Fort-de-France; 1st Wednesdays, at 6.30 pm, except July and August. Installation: 4th Wednesday, September.

Vigilance Fraternelle #230	Meets Masonic Temple, 49 route de Didler, villa Catalane, Fort-de-France, 2nd Wednesdays, at 7 pm, except July, August, and September. Installation: October.
Saint Jean des Caraïbes #346	Meets Masonic Temple, Anse-Gouraud, 97300 Schoelcher, Fort-de-France, 2nd Wednesdays, at 7 pm, except July and August. Installation: October.
Les Francs Adeptes #347	Meets Masonic Temple, Quartier Salette, 97224 Ducos, 3rd Thursdays, at 6.30 pm, except July, August, and September. Installation: First Thursday, October.
La Parfaite Union et Tendre Fraternité Réunion #508	Meets Masonic Temple, Quartier du Fort, 97200 Saint-Pierre, 2nd Fridays, at 7 pm, February, April, June, and December. Installation: December.
Le Zele et La Bienfaisance #509	Meets Masonic Temple, Quartier Salette, 97224 Ducos, 1st Thursdays, at 7.30 pm, except July, August, and September. Installation: October.
La Rose des Vents #580	Meets Masonic Temple, Quartier Salette, 97224 Ducos, 2nd Wednesdays, at 7 pm, except July and August. Installation: January.
Devoir et Liberté #606	Meets Masonic Temple, 49 route de Didler, villa Catalane, Fort de France, 2nd Thursdays, at 7 pm. Installation: September.

## NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

The Netherlands Antilles consists of the islands of Curaçao (the largest), and Bonaire—both located close to the Venezuela coast—together with Sint Maarten (St Martin), Sint Eustatius, and Saba. The last three are found considerably to the north-east, amidst the Leeward Islands, and the two Dutch lodges on Sint Maarten are noted under that heading.

The Netherlands Antilles is a self-governing integral part of The Netherlands, as is the island of Aruba (located 80 kms west of Curaçao), which left Netherlands Antilles administration in 1986 to become a self governing integral part of the Netherlands in its own right. However, for convenience Aruba is discussed under the current heading.

Curaçao and Aruba possess three lodges each. Curaçao has two Netherlandic lodges, both working in the Dutch language and ritual, plus one old English lodge, dating from 1855, which works in English. The oldest Dutch Lodge is De Vergenoeging #22, dating from 1785.

Aruba possesses two Netherlandic Lodges: El Sol Naciente #113, working in Dutch, and King Solomon's Lodge #160, working in English. In addition, Lodge Hiram #102, chartered from Venezuela, operates on Aruba. working the Scottish Rite Craft ritual.

Lodge Hiram is unique in several ways. It is the only Venezuelan lodge working outside Venezuela, and one of the very few lodge in the world that works the Scottish Rite Craft degrees in English—although occasionally it works in Spanish, its members being very largely bilingual. It was formed by British West Indian Masons who migrated to Aruba just before and during World War II. At that time, only one Dutch-speaking lodge operated on the island, so they petitioned Venezuela, the nearest Masonic authority, for a warrant. Lodge Hiram was consecrated in 1947, and was given permission to work in English. The meeting details of the lodge are noted below. The lodge secretary can be contacted at: P O Box 2068, San Nicolas, Aruba. Telephone: (297-8) 47 457, Fax: (297 8) 33 684.

### List of lodges

The various meeting details, with permanent Post Office Box addresses if applicable, are as follows:

Igualdad Lodge #653 EC	Meets Masonic Hall, Gravenstraat 3, Willemstad, Curaçao, 2nd Saturday, monthly. Installation: June. (P O Box 388, Willemstad).
Loge De Vergenoeging #22 NC	Meets Masonic Temple, Rust en Burghlaan 17, Willemstad, Curaçao; 2nd Thursdays, at 8.30 pm. Telephone: (599-9) 767 7900 (sec.)
Loge El Sol Naciente #113 NC	Meets Masonic Temple, J G Emanstraat 39, Oranjestad, Aruba, 1st Thursdays, at 8.30 pm. Telephone: (297-8) 24 873 (secretary)
Loge King Solomon #160 NC	Meets Masonic Temple, J G Emanstraat 39, Oranjestad, Aruba, 2nd Tuesdays, at 8 pm. (P O Box 72, San Nicholas, Aruba). Telephone: (297-8) 23 181 (secretary)
Loge Phoenix #227 NC	Meets Masonic Temple, Rust en Burghlaan 17, Willemstad, Curaçao; 1st Wednesdays, at 8 pm. (P O Box Box 452, Willemstad). Telephone: (599- 9) 461 3413 (secretary)

Logia Hiram #102 Venezuela Meets Masonic Temple, Pos Chiquito No 17 E, Aruba, 1st & 3rd Thursdays, monthly, at 8.30 pm (except 3rd Thursday, December & 1st Thursday, January). Installation: Saturday before 15th December.

## PUERTO RICO

### The Supreme Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico

[*Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico*]

*Founded:* 1885. *Descent:* Cuba.

Address: Masonic Hall, 1707 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Santurce.

Postal Address: Apartado 8385, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00909.

Telephone: (1-809) 727 6780, Fax: 727 6873.

Lodges: 73. Membership: 3443

Ritual: Scottish (Craft) Rite, and York Rite.

Main Publications: *Constitution*.

Periodical: *Revista Acacia* (quarterly).

### History

Formerly a Spanish colony, Puerto Rico has remained largely under the control of the United States since the Spanish-American War of 1898. Freemasonry originally came to Puerto Rico in the early nineteenth century, with lodges obtaining warrants from Massachusetts and the Grand Orient of France, but the Craft was suppressed by Spain, and membership of the Order was punishable by imprisonment and death. This suppression remained until 1859, when political conditions in Spain improved.

The Grand Lodge of Cuba warranted two lodges in Puerto Rico, in 1867 (*Esterella de Luquillo*, now #5) and in 1874. The Grand Orient of Spain also became active on the island after 1868, and was responsible for four lodges established between 1871 and 1874. Cuba again weighed in with *Adelphia Lodge #40* in 1877. Oddly, while not the oldest extant lodge in Puerto Rico, today it heads the roll of the Grand Lodge as *Adelphia #1*.

Renewed pressure from Spain saw most lodges close in 1874, although by 1884 the Grand Lodge of Cuba was able to form a Provincial Grand Lodge, with ten constituent lodges. This body became the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico in the following year. The new Grand Lodge still suffered from political pressure and was forced to close in 1896, reopening after the Spanish were ejected from Puerto Rico in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

The Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico also possesses a lodge working at Saint Croix in the US Virgin Islands, which is discussed under that heading.

Finally, a Prince Hall lodge works at Ceiba, Puerto Rico, under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, catering mainly for American servicemen (particulars below).

### Notes for Visitors

While most Puerto Rican lodges work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees in Spanish (although a few use the York Rite in Spanish), there are three lodges that work on the island using the York Rite, in English. These lodges use American Webb-type ritual, and mainly cater for American servicemen.

Dress is a dark lounge suit. Lodges meet in the early evening, generally around 8 pm for Scottish Rite lodges and 7 pm for York Rite lodges. Visitors arriving in Puerto Rico are best advised to make their first point of contact at the Grand Lodge building in San Juan, the capital city.

### List of lodges

Listed below are details of the four English-speaking lodges in Puerto Rico, and of Spanish-speaking lodges meeting in the Grand Temple at Santurce, San Juan.

#### English-speaking lodges

Lodge Saint John the Baptist #12, PR Meets at the Grand Lodge Temple, Santurce, San Juan, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, monthly.

Lodge Paul Revere #98, PR Meets Gate #5, Ramey Air Force Base, Aguadilla, 1st & 3rd Mondays, monthly.



Lodge Morlite #105, PR  
Diversity Lodge #328, PH VA

Meets Masonic Hall, Roosevelt Roads, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, monthly.  
Meets Ceiba, Puerto Rico (Secretary, phone 787 865 4573).

### *Spanish-speaking lodges in San Juan*

Thirteen lodges meet in San Juan. Logia José Gonzales Ginorio #102 (meets on 1st & 3rd Fridays) and Logia Regeneración #31 (meets 2nd & 4th Mondays) work in the York Rite. The balance work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, as follows:

Mondays: Hermes #84, Mithra #99.

Tuesdays: Justicia #108, Patria #61.

Wednesdays: Caballeros de la Verdad #37, Cosmos #62, America #77, José G Bloise #113.

Thursdays: Estrella de Luquillo #5, Army #87, Génesis #111.

Fridays: Santiago R Palmer #91.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### **The District Grand Lodge for Trinidad, EC**

Address: The District Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple, 7 Alexandra Street, St Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Lodges: 7.

### **The District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago, SC**

Address: The District Grand Secretary, P O Box 1121, Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies.

Lodges: 13 (one in Grenada).

### **Eighth District, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts**

Lodges: 4.

### ***History***

Trinidad and Tobago is a former English colony at the tail of the Windward Islands, located just off the coast of Venezuela. It possesses a number of English and Scottish lodges, under District Grand Lodges, and four lodges comprising the Eighth District of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Happily, all three parent Grand Lodges are in amity with each other.

There is a persistent story that the Grand Orient of Spain warranted early Lodges in Trinidad, but this is quite false. The first lodge in Trinidad was *Les Freres Unis*, chartered by the Grand Orient of France in 1787, shortly before the French Revolution. It switched allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1798, before finally transferring to the Grand Lodge of Scotland with a charter dated 1 November 1813—after some irregularities in its application were overlooked—to become Lodge United Brothers #251. The second Scottish lodge in Trinidad, Eastern Star #368, gained its charter in 1854, and Scotland now possesses a total of 11 lodges in Trinidad, which, together with the single lodge in Tobago (and one on Grenada) constitute its District Grand Lodge. Its youngest lodge, Bi-Centennial #1812, was chartered in 1996.

The island of Tobago gained its first lodge in 1868. This was Lodge Scarborough #488 but, sadly, it expired in 1906. However, a second attempt was made in 1968 with Lodge Tobago Kilwinning #1643 SC, which remains the only lodge on the island.

England now possesses seven lodges in Trinidad, under their own District Grand Lodge. The oldest is Royal Philanthropic #405, dating from 1831. Five English lodges meet at Port of Spain, and two at San Fernando.

The four Prince Hall lodges are all located in Trinidad; the oldest of these in Harmony Lodge #18.

### ***Notes for Visitors***

As a rule, English lodges in Port of Spain tyle at 7 pm sharp, and at 6 pm on nights of Installation. English lodges in San Fernando usually open at 7.30 pm, and Scottish lodges in Trinidad similarly. Dress is a dark lounge/business suit, and visitors are welcome to wear their own regalia. As Trinidad is geographically adjacent to South and Central America, where considerable irregular Masonry can be found, lodges tend to be cautious in their reception of visitors. Masons travelling to Trinidad should be certain to carry proper

documentation as to their Masonic standing, and expect a Masonic examination. After proving his *bona fides*, a visitor is assured of a most cordial reception.

All English and Scottish lodges in Trinidad hold a festive board after meetings, and a visitor is most welcome to attend as a guest of the lodge. He will usually be expected to respond to the *Visitor's Toast*, particularly if he comes from outside Trinidad. The festive board is normally a one- or two-course dinner, and even more expansive following an Installation—or, in a Scottish Lodge, following a first degree working.

The Prince Hall lodges use a Webb-form cipher, reported to be virtually identical with that of the mainstream Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. English lodges largely work the Emulation ritual, and the Scottish lodges one of the several Scottish ritual forms.

The interesting exception is the oldest Scottish lodge, United Brothers, which uses an ancient ritual known as 'The Symbolic Voyages'. In the English-speaking world, this working is only used by *Lodge Garibaldi #542* (in Italian) under the Grand Lodge of New York, and *Lodge Des Coeurs Unis #45* (in French) under the Grand Lodge of Quebec, Canada. United Brothers is probably the only lodge in the world working it in English. The Lodge has worked its ritual unbroken for over 200 years. Originally under the Grand Orient of France, and later the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it worked in French until 1848, whereupon it converted to English. By 1848, it had been under the Grand Lodge of Scotland for 35 years!

*The Symbolic Voyages* is, in fact, an early form of the *French Rite*, which is the main ritual of the no longer recognised Grand Orient of France, from whence it was derived. The *French Rite* (in a more modern form) is also worked by some lodges under the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF). Clearly, attendance at a working by Lodge United Brothers will be of particular interest to a Masonic visitor.

An interesting custom in most Trinidad Lodges is the 'indissoluble chain'. This is clearly an historical hangover from the continental 'chain of union' practice, and is quite similar to it. It probably developed from the early French influence through Lodge United Brothers. Prior to the lodge closing, the *chain* will be formed by those in attendance at the meeting (including visitors) and the *word* will be passed around the circle, prior to a prayer and its dissolution. This Trinidad practice is probably unique in English and Scottish Masonry.

### List of lodges

There are six meeting places in Trinidad and Tobago. Interestingly, some of the temples are named after biblical mountains. The list and meeting details of all lodges follow:

- (a) Masonic Temple, *Mount Zion*, 9 Herbert Street, St. Clair, Port of Spain.
- (b) Masonic Temple, 7 Alexandra Street, Port of Spain.
- (c) Masonic Temple, *Mount Moriah*, 46a Piccadilly Street, Port of Spain.
- (d) Masonic Temple, Ruth Avenue, Les Efforts West, San Fernando, Trinidad.
- (e) Masonic Temple, *Mount Horeb*, Hosein Street, Arima, Trinidad.
- (f) Masonic Temple, Lambeau/Signal Hill Road, Lambeau, Scarborough, Tobago.

### English lodges

Royal Philanthropic Lodge #405	Meets (a); 4th Thursday, January to October, 3rd Thursday, November; & 2nd Thursday, December. Installation: January. (Postal Address: P O Box 518)
Royal Prince of Wales' Lodge #867	Meets (b); 3rd Wednesday, monthly. Installation: December.
Royal Connaught Lodge #3266	Meets (b); 1st Wednesday, monthly. Installation: March.
St Andrew Lodge #3963	Meets (d); 2nd Monday, monthly. Installation: January.
Naparima Lodge 7108	Meets (d); 3rd Thursday, monthly, except December, then 2nd Thursday. Installation: February.
Trinidad & Tobago Masters' Lodge #8057	Meets (a); 2nd Thursday, February, May, August, November. Instal: February.
Daniel Hart Lodge #9028	Meets (b); 4th Wednesday, monthly. Installation: April.

### Scottish lodges

Lodge United Brothers #251	Meets (c); 1st Wednesday, monthly, at 7 pm. Installation: 27th December.
Lodge Eastern Star #368	Meets (a); 1st Friday, January to November, and 3rd Friday, December, at 7.30 pm. Installation: December.
Lodge Rosslyn #596	Meets (b); 2nd Friday, January to October, at 7.30 pm. Installation: 4th Saturday, November.
Lodge Arima #899	Meets (e); 1st Saturday, monthly, at 7.30 pm. Installation: December.
Lodge Alexandra #1044	Meets (d); 1st Thursday, monthly, at 7.30 pm. Installation: 2nd Saturday, December.
Lodge Caribbean Light #1391	Meets (a); 1st Monday, February, April, June, October, December; & 2nd Monday, August, at 6.30 pm. Installation: October.

Lodge Royalian #1605	Meets (b); 3rd Monday, monthly, except August, and 1st Friday, December, at 7 pm. Installation: October.
Lodge Tobago Kilwinning #1643	Meets (f); 3rd Saturday, monthly, at 7.30 pm. Installation: November.
Lodge Felicity #1681	Meets (c); 4th Wednesday, January to October, at 7 pm. Installation: March.
Lodge Trinity #1733	Meets (b); 2nd Wednesday, January to October, at 7.30 pm. Installation: June.
Lodge Hesperus #1738	Meets (a); 4th Saturday, January to October; & 2nd Saturday, November, at 7.30 pm. Installation: September.
Lodge Bi-Centennial #1812	Meets (c); 1st Tuesday, January, March, April, September and October, at 7 pm.

*Prince Hall lodges*

Harmony Lodge #18	Meets Masonic Hall, San Fernando, Trinidad, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, monthly.
Alpha Lodge #20	Meets Masonic Hall, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 1st & 3rd Mondays, monthly.
Cosmopolitan Lodge #21	Meets Masonic Hall, Fyzabad, Trinidad, 1st & 3rd Thursdays, monthly.
Dan Reuben Lodge #33	Meets Masonic Hall, Arouca, Trinidad, 2nd & 4th Fridays, monthly.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

See under *Bahamas*, at the beginning of this section.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**

The Virgin Islands are located immediately to the east of Puerto Rico, at the start of the Leeward Island chain. Administratively, the islands are roughly divided in half. The western and southern islands (nearest Puerto Rico) are an *organised unincorporated territory* of the United States, while the eastern islands form the colony of the British Virgin Islands.

Five lodges work in the Virgins, four of them in the American section. Two are warranted from England, one is from Puerto Rico, and two have Prince Hall charters. The oldest lodge in the islands is English, erected in 1818, and located at St Thomas in the American Virgin Isles. It remains the only English lodge operating in *US territory* anywhere in the world. The other English lodge, the only one located in the British Virgin Islands, is much younger; St Ursula's Lodge #8952 was erected in 1980. Both are governed through the District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, based at Bridgetown, Barbados.

The other three lodges, all catering largely to US servicemen, report directly to their respective Grand Lodges. Lodge Caribbean Light #101, erected under the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico, is at St Croix and works an American Webb-form ritual, in English. Paradise Military Lodge #170, holding a charter from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, and using a plain text ritual, Lester's *Look to the East*, also meets at St Croix. Caribewinds Lodge #589 is chartered by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, and meets at St Thomas.

Meeting details (where known) are as follows:

Harmonic Lodge #356 EC	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Charlotte Amalie, St Thomas, US Virgin Isles, 1st Wednesday, October to June, except April, then St. George's Day (23 April). Installation: November. (P O Box 1626, St Thomas).
Caribewinds Lodge #589 PHGA	Meets at St Thomas, US Virgin Isles (P O Box 10568, St Thomas).
Lodge Caribbean Light #101 PRC	Meets at the Masonic Hall, 29th Street, Frederiksted, St Croix, US Virgin Isles, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, monthly. (P O Box 1014, Frederiksted, St Croix).
Paradise Military Lodge #170 PHOK	Meets at St Croix, US Virgin Isles.
St Ursula's Lodge #8952 EC	Meets at Masonic Hall, Johnson's Ghut, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, Last Friday, monthly, except December. Installation: August.

## WINDWARD ISLANDS

The Windward Islands are located in the Eastern Caribbean to the south of the Leeward Islands and to the north of Trinidad. With the exception of the French island of Martinique, all the Windward Islands are British possessions or former British colonies. Each of the main islands in the group has at least one lodge, and most of these are warranted from England (except for Martinique, which is discussed under separate heading). Other Grand Lodges represented in the Windward Islands are Scotland and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean.

The oldest lodge in the area is St George #2616, warranted at St Vincent by England in 1896. Indeed, three of the five English lodges working in the Windward Islands bear the name St George. The English lodges on St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenada all come under the District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, EC, while the lone English lodge on Dominica works directly under London. A recent addition is the Scottish lodge, St Andrew #1794, chartered in 1992, which works under the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago, SC. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Caribbean is restoring a defunct lodge on Dominica (Perseverance Lodge UD) and has another working on St Lucia, Mount Herman Lodge #9.

The lodges in Grenada experienced difficulties during the tenure of a Marxist regime, but since the American invasion in October 1983, Masonry has progressed there steadily.

### *List of lodges*

#### *Dominica*

St George Lodge #3421 EC                      Meets at the Masonic Hall, St. George House, Lower Morne Bruce, Roseau, Dominica, 1st Monday, monthly. Installation: April.  
Perseverance Lodge UD, PH Carib (under reconstruction, 1998).

#### *Grenada*

All three lodges in Grenada meet at the Masonic Rooms, 1 Hillsborough Street, St. George's, Grenada.

Lodge St George #3072 EC                      Meets 1st Friday, monthly. Installation: December.  
Conception Lodge #8346 EC                      Meets 3rd Friday, except December. Installation: May.  
Lodge St Andrew #1794 SC                      Meets 4th Thursday, odd months, 7 pm.

#### *St Lucia*

Abercrombie Lodge #2788 EC                      Meets at the Masonic Hall, Vigie, Castries, St Lucia, 2nd Friday, monthly. Installation: March.  
Mt. Hermon Lodge #9, PH Carib                      Meets at the Masonic Temple, Sans Soucis, Castries, St Lucia, 1st Friday, monthly, at 8 pm.

#### *St Vincent*

St. George Lodge #2616 EC                      Meets at the Masonic Hall, Bentinck Square, Kingstown, St Vincent, 1st Thursday, monthly. Installation: November. (P O Box 231, Kingstown)