

## ASIA

### *Section 1*

## THE MIDDLE EAST

### **Introduction**

Scotland established the first lodge erected in the Middle East, at Aden in 1850. This appears to have been followed by a lodge in Palestine about 1873. However, most Masonic development was spawned in this century, beginning with English lodges located in Iraq shortly after the First World War. Unfortunately, the lot of the Craft in the Middle East has not generally been a happy one. Only in Israel, which possesses a mainstream Grand Lodge, and to a lesser extent in Lebanon, has Masonry flourished.

Outside of Israel and Lebanon, only one mainstream and two Prince Hall lodges remain: a Scottish lodge in Jordan, Lodge Jordan #1339, dating from 1925; and James R Jones Military Lodge #172 and Pernel Cooper Military Lodge #177 on the rolls of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, which meet on US military bases in the Persian Gulf. British-warranted lodges that formerly existed in Iraq, South Yemen (Aden), and elsewhere on the Arabian Peninsula have all been extinguished as the result of political/religious pressure. A few German lodges are warranted in Arabia, but these effectively do not meet, and their longer-term future must be uncertain. In Iran, which has lately had a regular Grand Lodge, Freemasonry has been destroyed, almost literally, and this occurrence must rate as one of the greatest tragedies in Masonic history. In short, in view of the turbulent political and religious situation in the Arab world, it would appear unlikely that the Craft will expand in the Middle East in the foreseeable future.

## AZERBAIJAN

This former soviet republic, which attained independence in 1991, sits on the western coast of the Caspian Sea, bordered by Russia to the north, Armenia to the west, and Iran to the South. The Regular Grand Lodge of Italy has taken a Masonic interest in the country, and the formation of lodges in the country's capital city, Baku, is reported as likely in the near future.

## BAHRAIN

This oil-rich Arab state on the Persian Gulf has until relatively recently possessed lodges. The first lodge here was Lodge St Andrew of Bahrain, erected in 1949 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It first met in an aerodrome, and then in a church hall, prior to building its own temple in the desert. The Emir of Bahrain gave the lodge the land on a 99-year lease at nominal rent. In 1954, St George Bahrain #7389, was founded under the English Constitution. Both lodges largely consisted of British oil workers. However, by the 1970s, the Bahrain Government had become anti-Masonic, and both lodges ceased operations in the country. The Scottish lodge was subsequently erased, while St George Bahrain Lodge moved to Ashford, England, where it continues to meet.

## IRAN (PERSIA)

### Grand Lodge of Iran (in exile)

*Founded:* 1969. *Descent:* Scotland, France (GLNF).

Address: Grand Secretary, PO Box 25017, Los Angeles, CA 90025, USA.

Telephone: (310) 820 9751, Fax: (310) 268 1588.

Lodges: 43 (39 dormant).

### *History*

The fate of the Craft in Iran forms the greatest Masonic catastrophe since the Second World War. The discovery of oil in Persia brought many British workers and traders, a percentage of whom were Masons. Scotland was the most active in issuing warrants, beginning with Lodge Light in Iran #1191 at Shiraz in 1919, which later moved to Teheran. Three other Scottish lodges followed prior to World War Two. England weighed in with St George Abadan Lodge #6058 at Abadan in 1945. This lodge later moved back to England, where it still works happily at Rochester. French (GLNF) and German lodges were also erected in the country after the War.

Subsequently, the growth of the Craft in Iran led to moves to form a Grand Lodge, and this was achieved with Scottish sponsorship in 1969. By 1978, the Grand Lodge of Iran had 43 lodges and 1035 members. That was the last year of its existence in Iran. The Islamic Revolution in Iran saw Freemasonry swept away rapidly, and it appears that a number of Masons suffered execution at its hands. Whether these deaths were occasioned for political or anti-Masonic reasons will probably never be known, and the fate of many Iranian Masons may equally remain a mystery.

Many Iranian Masons, however, escaped to the USA, where they formed the Grand Lodge of Iran in exile. The Grand Lodge meets in May and October each year, and has four lodges presently active, namely Mowlavy #2, Hafez #8, Haatef #33, and Toos #35. All four meet in Boston, Massachusetts, with the agreement of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. It should be noted that only ethnic Iranians, or their direct descendants, are eligible to join these lodges. A reasonable number of American Grand Lodges, in particular, maintain fraternal recognition of the Grand Lodge of Iran in exile, which maintains an office in California, as noted above.

## IRAQ

Iraq's first lodge, Mesopotamia Lodge #3820 EC, was established in 1917. The first lodge in Baghdad was Baghdad Lodge #4022 EC, erected in 1919. By the 1950s, Iraq possessed nine lodges under an English District Grand Lodge. A Scottish lodge, Lodge Faiha #1311, was erected at Baghdad in 1923. However, the coming of Iraqi independence, and the subsequent left-wing government of this country, made the continuance of Masonry impossible. All lodges in the country were forced to close their doors, and it would appear unlikely that they will be re-opened.

## ISRAEL

*A Grand Lodge of the State of Israel*

*Founded:* 1953. *Descent:* Largely Scottish.

Address: PO Box 33206, Tel Aviv 61331, Israel.

Telephone: (972) 3 695 4218. Fax: (972) 3 696 0271.

Principal Temple: Masonic Centre, 5 Weizman Street, Tel Aviv.

Email: <fmisrael@geocities.com>.

Website: <<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/9991/>>.

Lodges: 78. Membership: 1500.

Publications: *Constitution*, *Annual Proceedings*.

Periodical: *Haboneh Hahofshi* (The Israeli Freemason)

### **History**

Here, in the land of the legendary birthplace of Freemasonry, the Craft has flourished, particularly since the Second World War, and the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel was erected in 1953.

There can be no doubt that operative Masons worked in the Holy Land in ancient times and, of course, the circumstances surrounding the erection of Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem form the basis of most Masonic Craft rituals. However, Masonry of the speculative kind arrived in Israel some time later.

The first symbolic lodge (Royal Solomon Mother Lodge) was established under charter from the Grand Lodge of Canada about 1873. It comprised mostly North American Masons who had come to Palestine expecting to establish an agricultural settlement. Their colony floundered and so did the lodge. However, some of their members then applied to the *Misraim Rite* then active in Egypt and established the Port of Solomon's Temple Lodge in Jaffa. Shortly afterwards this lodge received a large contingent of French engineers who had come to build the Jaffa-Jerusalem railroad. In 1906 the lodge changed affiliation to the Grand Orient of France and became Barkai Lodge. Today, it meets at Tel Aviv as Barkai #17, within the Grand Lodge of Israel. Barkai admitted many prominent Turkish, Arabic and Jewish citizens of Jaffa, and later of Tel Aviv.

Subsequently, several lodges were established in the Holy Land by the then widely-recognised National Grand Lodge of Egypt, which in turn formed themselves into the National Grand Lodge of Palestine in 1933.

In the years between 1930 and 1940, the United Grand Lodge of England warranted three lodges in the area, and Scotland chartered eleven in the same period. In addition, five German lodges were established in the 1930s by German Masons who had fled the Nazi tyranny.

In 1948, the British mandate over Palestine ended and all English lodges withdrew from the Holy Land. A general desire for administrative and fraternal unity among lodges in what was now the state of Israel was felt at this time. In 1953, the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel came into being, largely under Scottish sponsorship. Its 31 founding lodges consisted of all those in Israel holding Scottish charters, those under the National Grand Lodge of Palestine, and the five German lodges. Rarely in the formation of a new Grand Body has such unanimity of purpose been seen, as it was in Israel, and it has since expanded steadily.

### **Notes for visitors**

#### **MEETING TIMES, AND DRESS**

The large majority of lodges in Israel meet at or about 6 pm. The dress for Israeli lodges is a dark lounge suit, white shirt, and black tie. In summer months, no coat is required. Visitors are welcome to bring and wear their own regalia.

#### **LODGE AFTER-PROCEEDINGS**

The after-proceedings of Israeli lodges stem largely from Scottish practices. The proceedings following ordinary meetings consist of a light meal, and visitors are never required to contribute its costs. Limited toasts and responses are honoured. Those proposed usually are to the 'The President of the State of Israel and Freemasonry', 'The Grand Master and Grand Lodge', and 'The Visitors'. On nights of Installation, a formal dinner and more extensive Toast List is the norm. In addition, it is not uncommon for the ladies of members and visitors to attend an Installation dinner. A custom in some lodges is for the visitor who resides the furthest away to respond to the Visitor's Toast. A charity collection is often associated with lodge after-proceedings.

#### **VISITING IN GENERAL**

The Masonic visitor will find that attending a lodge in Israel is a most interesting and stimulating experience. The Masons of Israel come from many religious faiths, and work together in complete

harmony—an experience that is unfortunately not widely enjoyed elsewhere in this often-troubled area of the world.

Most Israeli lodges work in Hebrew, although some operate in English (7), Arabic (4), Spanish (3), German (2), French (2), Romanian (1), and Turkish (1). It is, therefore, quite usual to see at least three Sacred Volumes open in Israeli lodges: the Jewish Tanach, the Christian New Testament, and the Koran for Muslims and Druse. A few lodges work in more than one language, but usually only one at any single meeting. Therefore, a visitor to Israel is well advised to inquire in what language the lodge he seeks to visit will be working, prior to attendance.

Nevertheless, regardless of the lodge visited, a visitor will generally find at least several members present who can speak his own language. Certainly, an English-speaking visitor will experience no difficulty in this regard.

#### INTERESTING ASPECTS OF MASONRY IN ISRAEL

The seal of the Grand Lodge of Israel is of particular interest. It is unique in design and includes the square and compasses, together with the emblems of the three great faiths to which the great majority of members belong: the Star of David of the Jews, the Crescent of the Muslims, and the Cross of the Christians.

In some Arabic-speaking lodges, an old Arab custom is observed after toasts, whereby all present drain their glasses and turn them upside down on the table. Alcohol is available at the after-proceedings of many lodges.

The Grand Lodge meets annually, on the last Tuesday of November each year. All offices are elective, although the Grand Master to be eligible for election must first have served at least one year as Deputy Grand Master. In practice, it is usual for the recommendations of the Grand Committee to be accepted for the offices of Junior Grand Warden and above. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge is based largely on that of Scotland. It is not unusual for a Grand Master to be re-elected to serve a second, or even a third, consecutive year of office.

The Grand Lodge of Israel involves itself in some excellent charitable works. Its Fund of Benevolence operates an aged people's home, and awards various scholarships to students.

#### LODGE WORKINGS, REGALIA, AND RITUAL

The ritual employed by Israeli lodges is nominally uniform as laid down by the Grand Lodge, and follows quite closely Scottish Ritual. However, in some older lodges there is still to be found traces of rituals and customs of other constitutions, which reflect of origins of their members. Lodges working in foreign languages have mostly adopted the ritual and customs of their countries of origin. Spanish-speaking lodges work the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, as practiced in Latin America. The German-speaking lodges work the Schroeder ritual.

Israel possesses a Lodge of Instruction (Gazit #30) which is open to all Master Masons. It meets monthly and deals with questions of ritual procedures. Spanish-speaking lodges have their own regular programs of instruction, patterned on the model of Latin-American lodges. In these lodges, Entered Apprentices (who remain in the first degree for a year or longer) receive instruction from the Junior Warden; while Fellow Crafts (who also remain in their degree a year or longer) receive instruction from the Senior Warden. Master Masons receive instruction from the Worshipful Master or the Orator (an officer in Scottish Rite lodges whose main task is to welcome visitors, and to keep watch on the lodge proceedings to see they do not deviate from the Constitution). In addition, Spanish-speaking lodges organise yearly symposia outside the lodge (generally in a resort hotel), which is open to wives and other visitors. These symposia deal with matters of Masonic history, symbolism, and current affairs examined from a Masonic viewpoint. The Grand Lodge also has an institution called 'Collegium Masonicum' that organises periodic symposia and lectures.

The regalia worn by Israeli Masons, both at Grand Lodge and lodge level, is fairly similar to that of Scotland. Nevertheless, some of the founder lodges still use regalia incorporating the design and colours used by them during their existence prior to the erection of the Grand Lodge.

#### THE SPECIAL INTEREST OF JERUSALEM

There is no doubt that the ancient and Holy City of Jerusalem possesses much of interest to the pilgrim and tourist alike. It also has considerable additional interest for the Freemason. Near the centre of the old city is Temple Mount, the site of the Temples of Solomon, Zerubbabel, and Herod. Of the old temples, only the foundations remain, but to the Mason it is an inspiring sight, as are many other features of the ancient city.

Interestingly, archaeological excavations around the remains of the supporting wall built by King Herod (and later rebuilt by Ottoman rulers) have revealed a room believed to be an ancient Masonic hall.

Of particular Masonic interest is King Solomon's Quarries, or the Caves of Hezekiah. They are located close to the Damascus Gate, under the walls of the Old City. In the depths of the caves is a large chamber, which can seat up to two hundred. In this chamber, Masonic ceremonies are intermittently held, although since the re-unification of the City of Jerusalem in 1967 only the degree of Mark Master Mason has been worked. The Chamber floor is covered in rubble, indicating its ancient use as a stone quarry, and it is located about one hundred and thirty feet underground, almost below Temple Mount—a fact that will have special significance to holders of the Holy Royal Arch degree. The Caves of Hezekiah are generally open to the public, but by special arrangement with the city government they are closed on days of Masonic meetings.

### **List of lodges**

Many Israeli lodges meet twice per month for nine months of the year (recessing in the three hot summer months), but some meet monthly. Among Israeli lodges, the following are of particular interest:

*Elijah the Prophet Lodge #16*, at Haifa, has a long-standing tradition of working in both Hebrew and Arabic at every ceremony it conducts.

*The Bnei Or Lodge (Sons of Light) #66*, is a military lodge. It consists of men serving in the Israeli Defence Forces, and has a travelling warrant enabling it to meet anywhere in Israel. Members attending this lodge invariably dress in their military uniforms.

*The Alumin (Youth) Lodge #58*, located at Tel Aviv, requires that every candidate to come before it must be a Lewis. It is the usual practice for the father and grandfathers of a candidate to be invited to act as Deacons of the lodge during the appropriate initiation, even if they are not members of the lodge.

*Montefiore Lodge #78* is an Installed Masters lodge which meets four times a year, on no fixed dates, for research papers to be read by visiting scholars. Its membership is international, being evenly divided between Israeli Masons and (mainly) English and Scottish Masons who visit Israel regularly. It is on the verge of publishing its transactions. Inquiries to Leon Zeldis, WM in 2000, email <lzeldis@netvision.net.il>.

*The Lodge of the Holy Land #50* exists to receive overseas Masonic groups and delegations and generally only meets for that purpose. A substantial number of overseas visitors have affiliated with this lodge (visitors are encouraged to do so) and as a result regularly receive news of Masonic happenings in Israel.

The fairly large number of Israeli lodges prevents a detailed list from being included here. A substantial majority of lodges in Israel meet in its three main cities, Haifa, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv. Prior to visiting a lodge in Israel it is an appreciated courtesy for a visitor to call at the Freemasons' Hall in Tel Aviv, where full assistance and a very warm welcome will be obtained. Identical assistance can be obtained in Jerusalem or Haifa. The addresses of the three pertinent temples are as follows:

Masonic Temple, 5 Weizman Street, Tel Aviv.

Masonic Temple, 13 Esra-Israel Street, Jerusalem.

Masonic Temple, 119 Hanassi Boulevard, Haifa.

### **English-speaking lodges**

The following lodges work in English:

Lodge Holy City #4 Meets at Jerusalem, 3rd Mondays.

Lodge Sharon #7 Meets Tel Aviv, 4th Wednesdays.

Lodge Har Carmel #44 Meets Haifa, 3rd Tuesdays.

Lodge Star Of Israel #51 Meet Masonic Temple, 47 Hamigdal Street, Raanana; 1st Mondays.

Lodge Garden of Netanya #67 Meets Masonic Temple, 22 Jerusalem Street, Netanya; 3rd Wednesdays.

Lodge Raanana #70 Meet Masonic Temple, 47 Hamigdal Street, Raanana; 3rd Tuesdays.

Lodge Montefiore #78 Meets Tel Aviv, quarterly, no fixed dates.

### **B Other lodges and Grand Lodges**

The Grand Lodge of France has two lodges in Israel, one in Tel Aviv, the other (*Loge Bereshit #1264*) in Jerusalem.

Two lodges united as *Loge l'Étoile de Jerusalem et les Frères de Sion*, under the Grand Orient of France, which meets in Tel Aviv and works the French Rite.

The Order of International Co-Freemasonry *Le Droit Humain*, Israeli Jurisdiction, has three lodges in Israel: The Dove of Peace (1989) and The Menorah (1999) work in French, and The Column of Dawn (1996) works in Hebrew. They have a website at <<http://www.droit-humain.org/israel>>.

## JORDAN

Jordan, formerly the British protectorate of Trans-Jordan, is an independent Monarchy. It would seem that Jordan, based on its present boundaries, has never possessed many lodges. The first lodge in Trans-Jordan was Lodge Quraish founded by an Egyptian Freemason in 1923. The lodge subsequently changed its affiliation and name to Lodge Al-Naser ('Victory'). In 1956 it united with another four lodges which were working in Palestine prior to 1948 in the West Bank of Jordan, to form Beit Al-Maqdes (Jerusalem) Lodge. In 1956, a Grand Lodge of Palestine was self-constituted, with all its lodges on the West Bank.

West Bank lodges (the area now politically under the Palestinian National Authority), then numbering five, ceased operation after 1967. This included Golden Throne Lodge #1344 SC, which had operated since 1925. It would appear the Palestinian lodges were subsequently revived, but ceased operation in 1994 in the face of political opposition. In 1995, there were evidently attempts to revive the West Bank lodges, but the result is unknown.

The only remaining lodge is Lodge Jordan #1339 SC. It was originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1925 at Jaffa (Tel-Aviv), but it moved to Amman in 1952, where it has worked since. Lodge Jordan now has the unhappy distinction of being the only British-warranted lodge still working anywhere in the Middle East, and effectively the only mainstream lodge operating in this area outside Israel and Lebanon. It has had something of a beleaguered history. In very recent years it was forced to close through political pressure. It is again operating, but understandably keeps a low profile. It works in Arabic, using a Scottish ritual, and its postal address is: PO Box 810, Amman 11118, Jordan. The Lodge Secretary can be contacted on: (962) 6 463 9993. Meeting details are as follows: Lodge Jordan #1339 SC meets at the Masonic Rooms, Al-Yadoueh, Amman, Jordan; 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, March to December, at 6.30 pm.

## KUWAIT

Another small Arab state bordering the Persian Gulf, oil-rich Kuwait had, until recently, two English lodges. These were Kuwait Lodge #6810, and the Rowland Chadwick Lodge #7472. The former was erected in 1949, the latter in 1956. Strong opposition from the Kuwait Government saw both these lodges become dormant, and sadly, neither re-appeared on the English roll of lodges in 1982.

In 1999 a Masonic study club was commenced by members of various Prince Hall jurisdictions, meeting every Saturday at 7.30 pm on a US military base, with Masons of all Prince Hall and mainstream jurisdictions welcome to attend. However, personnel are rotated every few months, which does not enhance the club's chances of longevity.

## LEBANON

### **A District Grand Lodge of Syria–Lebanon**

*(Under the Grand Lodge of the State of New York)*

Address: District Grand Master, PO Box 6220 - 424, Hazmieh, Lebanon.

Telephone: (961 1) 261706 or 260030. Fax: (961 1) 260031 or 601803.

Email: <[district\\_secretary@masoun-loubnan.org](mailto:district_secretary@masoun-loubnan.org)> or <[leonz@inco.com.lb](mailto:leonz@inco.com.lb)>

Website: <<http://www.masoun-loubnan.org/>>.

Lodges: 10 (4 of which are dormant).

## **B Other mainstream lodges**

*Grand Lodge of Scotland* (5 lodges, 2 of which are dormant).

*Grand Orient of Italy* (1 lodge, dormant).

### *History*

Lebanon has an unparalleled Masonic history. It has been the Grand Lodge of Scotland and, somewhat surprisingly, the Grand Lodge of New York which have been responsible for most of the mainstream lodges located in this country. The first Scottish lodge was Lodge Palestine #415, formed at Beirut in 1862. It worked in French. It was dormant from 1868 until 1888, but again fell on hard times and ceased operation in 1895. Four other Scottish lodges were erected in Lebanon up until the time of the Great War, but only some of these revived thereafter.

The Grand Orient of France was next into Lebanon, forming Lodge East Lebanon in 1869, working in Arabic. It was followed by Lodge Zahret El-adab in 1873, and Lodge Phoenicia, both under the same authority. The latter appears to have subsequently faded from the scene, but Zahret El-adab was still going strong by the turn of the century, then possessing over 100 members. However, it appears not to have survived the First World War.

Other new lodges formed before the Great War were Lodge Furn El-shubak (at Beirut) under the Ottoman Grand Lodge (later the Grand Lodge of Turkey), and The Lodge of the Black Cave (at Mua'amalteen) under the National Grand Lodge of Egypt, about 1914. A number of other Egyptian-warranted lodges were erected thereafter, and after the First World War these were formed into a District Grand Lodge. By the end of World War Two, it would seem these lodges were either extinct, merged, or hived off into spurious 'Masonic' bodies. An exception would appear to be a 'Grand Lodge of Lebanon', which was founded in 1936, probably descended from Egyptian lodges, which still exists today, and with relative success (*see below*).

Until recent years, five Scottish lodges had survived in Lebanon, with a few others being less fortunate. Those surviving were: Lodge Peace #908 (founded 1900, at Beirut); Lodge Kadisha #1002 (1906, at Beirut); Lodge Zahlé #1047 (1908, at Zahlé); Lodge El Mazab #1130 (1914, at Tripoli); and Mount Lebanon Lodge #1312 (1923, at Beirut). The three lodges in Beirut met at the aptly named Peace Lodge Building, Beshara Street, Beirut. With the arrival of the Lebanese Civil War in 1975, the Scottish lodges found continuance impossible and all five became dormant. The Peace Lodge Building was badly damaged in the war, and has not yet been restored.

The first New York-chartered lodge was Syrio-American Lodge #1, formed in 1924 by returning American-Lebanese immigrants. It was followed by New York Lodge #2 in the same year. Several further lodges were erected prior to World War Two. After the war, Turbol Lodge #9 was erected in 1949, Lebanon Lodge #10 in 1955, and Ani Lodge #11 in 1960. A research lodge, Veritas, was chartered in 1993. With the exception of one lodge originally erected in Syria, all New York chartered lodges in its Syria-Lebanon District (ten in total) have operated in recent times. During the Lebanese Civil War, most lodges became dormant, although at least Syrio-American Lodge continued to meet intermittently.

Since the cessation of the civil war, only three of the five Scottish lodges have re-commenced work. All the New York lodges revived subsequent to the civil war, although some are still experiencing meeting difficulties. Presently, six of the New York lodges are working, but in due course it is expected that all ten will again be operating. The New York lodges saw fifty new members initiated in 1997, and approximately 80 per cent of members are under 35 years of age. Despite difficulties, the District is working towards building a new Masonic Centre.

One further mainstream lodge has been previously chartered in Lebanon. This is Fraternità Italo-Libanese #1073, erected under the Grand Orient of Italy, at Jounieh in 1989. However, it is reported as not meeting currently.

**Notes for visitors**

Of the five Scottish lodges in Lebanon, two are *not* meeting at present (Lodge Kadisha #1002 and Lodge Mount Lebanon #1312, both previously working in Beirut), but this may change in time. Details of the three working lodges are noted below. When operating, all Scottish lodges work in English except Lodge Kadisha, which works in French. With respect to the New York lodges, intending visitors can usefully contact the District Grand Master or District Grand Secretary (details above), whereupon every assistance will be offered.

**List of lodges**

The nine mainstream lodges presently operating are:

Syrio-American Lodge #1	works in English, in Beirut.
New York Lodge #2	works in Arabic, in Beirut.
Souleiman Lodge #5	works in Arabic, in Amioun, North Lebanon.
El Berdawni Lodge #7	works in Arabic, in Zahlé, Bekaa Valley.
Turbol Lodge #9	works in Arabic, in Tripoli, North Lebanon.
Ani Lodge #11	works in Armenian, in Beirut.
Lodge Peace #908 SC	Meets at 4th Floor, Ghossoub Building, Dora, Beirut; 1st & 3rd Fridays, October to June, at 7 pm. (PO Box 113-5806, Beirut, Lebanon).
Lodge Zahlé #1047 SC	Meets at Andraod Building, Houch-El-Zaraenh, Zahlé; 2nd & 4th Saturdays, March to November, at 7 pm.
Lodge El-Mizah #1130 SC	Meets at Freemasons' Building, St Elie Street, El-Mina, Tripoli; 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, October to June (PO Box 2598, El-Mina, Lebanon).

**C Other lodges and Grand Lodges**

The Grand Orient of France has two lodges in Beirut, *Loge le Cèdre* (Cedar) working in French, and *Lodge Hiram of Tyre* working in Arabic, and the National Grand Lodge of Canada (*see Volume 1, page 246*) has one lodge, *Loge Cadmous*. These three lodges meet in the temple of the Cedar Grand Lodge (*see below*).

Over the years a large number of spurious and/or self-constituted Grand Lodges have been erected in Lebanon. The following is a synopsis of the historical and current situation:

***The Grand Lodge of Lebanon***

As noted above, this Grand Lodge was formed in 1936, and has shared periods of dormancy with other Masonic bodies consistent with the political fortunes of the country. It claims to have been 'recognised and licensed by the Lebanese Ministry of Interior Affairs' in 1992, and that it is 'the only Grand Lodge in Lebanon with the recognition of the Lebanese Government'. In 1999, it claimed 22 lodges and 646 members. It has premises in Sami Solh Street, Beirut, and is barely recognised outside Lebanon.

***The Grand Ideal Lodge of Lebanon Republic***

During 1939 some Masons, who considered there were already too many different rites, constitutions, and jurisdictions operating in Lebanon, decided it was time to form a uniting body. A general Masonic conference was called, and the result was the establishment of a Grand Lodge in Beirut called 'The Grand World Wide Ideal Orient'. It was chartered under the 'Grand Lodge of Ideal Masons of the Nile Valley', Egypt. This 'Grand Lodge' worked for a year, ceased operations during the Second World War, and resumed in 1948. Given its spurious nature, it received no Masonic recognition outside Lebanon. Its 'Grand Master' was appointed for life, and it appears to have become defunct by 1950.

***Lebanese Grand Lodge***

A public Lebanese figure, Sami El-Sulh, founded this Grand Lodge in 1956. It ceased operation during the Lebanese Civil War of 1958, and has not been heard of since. Another Grand Lodge with the same name, with a 'Grand Master for Life', and one constituent lodge, presently works in Lebanon, but it does not appear to be the same body as the original.

***Lebanese Grand Orient***

This Grand Lodge was established in 1964. It is a schismatic body from the District Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon (New York). It subsequently expired, reasons and date unknown. Some members of this Grand Lodge subsequently broke away to form the 'Lebanese Masonic Empire'. This spurious body, which also later ceased to exist, concentrated its efforts on selling Masonic degrees to anyone prepared to pay.

*Federal Grand Lodge of Lebanon*

This Grand Lodge was established in order to settle all the problems of the 'Lebanese Masonic Empire', and to unite all the Masonic lodges in Lebanon. It did not succeed, nor did it last. It would appear that three spurious Grand Lodges arose from it: The Federal Grand Lodge of Lebanon; The United Grand Lodge for Lebanon; and The United Lebanese Grand Lodge. Each of these Grand Lodges has one constituent lodge, and its own 'Grand Master for Life'. These three bodies still exist.

**Summation**

As of 1999, evidence exists to suggest that 16 other grand bodies are operating in Lebanon. Some were formed prior to 1982, but others are more recent. In each case, their origin is unknown or unclear. They are:

1. *Grand Lodge of Lebanon*, with 22 lodges.
2. *Cedar Grand Lodge*. It has been somewhat more successful than most of its contemporaries, and possesses seven active lodges.
3. *Grand Orient of Lebanon*. It has three or four active lodges, and is possibly the successor to the *Lebanese Grand Orient* noted above.
4. *Grand Orient of Princes of Lebanon*. It has three active lodges.
5. *Grand Orient of Canaan*. It has one active lodge, and has had a succession of Grand Masters over the years.
6. *Sun Grand Lodge of Lebanon*.
7. *Lebanese Grand Lodge*.
8. *Seventh Cedar Grand Lodge*.
9. *Prince of Lebanon Grand Orient*.
10. *Lebanese Egyptian Lodge*.
11. *Arz 7 Grand Lodge*.
12. *Lebano-Egyptian Grand Lodge*.
13. *Federal Grand Lodge of Lebanon*.
14. *United Grand Lodge for Lebanon*.
15. *United Lebanese Grand Lodge*.
16. *Grand Lodge of the Three Stars*.

The Grand Lodges numbered 6 to 16 (inclusive) each have a 'Grand Master for Life' and one constituent lodge.

Several further Grand Lodges worked in Lebanon up until the early 1980s. They are now thought to be extinct, but data is largely absent. These were:

- *Phoenician Grand Lodge*
- *Salvation Grand Lodge*
- *King Solomon Lodge*
- *Wisdom Grand Lodge*
- *Bibybls Grand Lodge*
- *Delta Grand Lodge*
- *Grand Orient for the Arab Countries*.

**Warning**

Clearly, given the range of spurious Masonic bodies in Lebanon, some of which sell Masonic degrees for financial profit, the mainstream overseas Mason needs to exercise great caution when attempting to attend a lodge meeting. Only those lodges chartered by Scotland, New York or Italy (when operating) should be visited. This cannot be stressed enough. The foregoing list of spurious Grand Lodges and lodges is provided here solely to acquaint the unwary visitor, should he encounter any of them.

## SAUDI ARABIA

One would suspect that Saudi Arabia, being a very traditional Islamic Monarchy, would be devoid of Masonic lodges. Indeed, that was the case until 1962, when the American–Canadian Grand Lodge (within the United Grand Lodges of Germany) erected Arabian Lodge #882. This was followed by Nejma Lodge #897 (1966); Red Sea Lodge #919; Milo Lodge #938; and the Pyramid Lodge of Past Masters #962 (1982). Red Sea Lodge was later erased, having been closed in 1987 following a raid on its premises by the Saudi police. All these lodges were formed to cater for foreigners in the country, mainly North American and British Masons in Saudi Arabia as a result of its oil. However, none of these lodges are effectively operating, except as casual *fraternal groups*.

It is the policy of the American–Canadian Grand Lodge not to publish the addresses of its lodges in Saudi Arabia, and no variance of that position will be undertaken here. Visitors intending to travel to Saudi Arabia are advised to correspond with the Grand Secretary, American–Canadian Grand Lodge, Kruppstrasse 134, Frankfurt 60388, Germany, from whom details may be obtained. Such a letter must be sent via the inquirer's own Grand Lodge office.

## SYRIA

There are claims that a Syrian prince who was initiated in Egypt introduced Masonry into Syria in the 1860s, but evidence appears scant. There are also assertions that the Grand Orient of Italy and France both established lodges at Damascus in Syria (then part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire) in the 1860s, but details of both are sparse. The French lodge, *Loge le Liban*, in particular, seems to have involved itself in political activities. The Italian and French lodges appear to have expired by the turn of the century, although there are also suggestions that Egyptian and Turkish-chartered lodges were working in Damascus at the time.

However, there is evidence of a lodge being formed in Damascus under the National Grand Lodge of Egypt in late 1936. This lodge appears to have promptly split itself into three, erecting Farouq Lodge, Light in the East Lodge and Kasyoun Lodge. These three then formed the Grand Lodge of Syria, under Egyptian patronage, although it may have only been a District Grand Lodge under Egypt—the available documentation being ambiguous. Either way, these indigenous lodges seem to have remained active, although they appear to have remained unrecognised outside the country, until the Craft was banned in Syria by decree, on 9 August 1965.

Scotland chartered Lodge Light in Damascus #1058, in 1909; and the Grand Lodge of New York had Ibrahim el Khalil Lodge #4, formed in 1924, at the same location, under its District of Syria-Lebanon. Subsequent to the Second World War and Syrian Independence, as with the unrecognised lodges, these also were closed in 1965. There was no change in this situation in the 1990s.

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

This oil-based Persian Gulf country is made up of several small Arab Emirates, which used to be referred to collectively as Trucial Oman. England erected its first and only lodge, at Sharjah, in 1967. This was Trucial Lodge #8160, and it largely serviced Masons who were British oil workers. However, this lodge had become dormant by the early 1980s, and was later erased.

## YEMEN

Yemen, located at the base of the Arabian Peninsula, consisted of two separate countries, North Yemen and South Yemen, until they were politically united in 1990. There are no lodges in Yemen now.

South Yemen was formerly known simply as Aden, or more correctly, the British Protectorate of South Arabia. Aden had the honour of receiving the first charter for a lodge in the Middle East. The Grand Lodge of Scotland granted this in 1850 to Lodge Felix #335. Lodge Centenary #1449, was erected under the same authority in 1900. England stepped in with Lodge Light in Arabia #3870, in 1918. This lodge now works at Croydon, England. The Independence of South Yemen brought it under the control of a totalitarian government, which made the conditions for Freemasonry untenable. After World War Two, a third Scottish lodge had been established in Aden, Lodge Pioneer #1305. The Scottish lodges 'went into darkness', but two of them have since been 'reponed' as research lodges meeting in Scotland.

North Yemen appears to have never had a lodge.

*Section 2***THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT*****Introduction***

For the purposes of this book, we have grouped the following present-day countries under this heading: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Ceylon). In the days of the British Raj, when Freemasonry was introduced to the area, Bangladesh and Pakistan were part of India, and therefore the early history of Freemasonry in those countries is given under India. Historical notes of Freemasonry in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka are given under those separate headings.



## AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is an Islamic country, located between Iran, Russia, and Pakistan. It was formerly absorbed as part of Britain's Indian Empire, but it received independence as a constitutional monarchy in 1919. During the British period, a very short-lived lodge was erected in Kabul. This was Seaforth Lodge #1866 EC. It commenced work in 1880, but expired in the following year. Afghanistan has been in a state of civil war for many years, so the possibilities for Masonic development in the future would appear bleak, especially given its current Islamic fundamentalist government.

## BANGLADESH

Bangladesh was originally known as East Pakistan, and was part of Pakistan upon the partitioning of the Indian sub-continent by the British in 1947. However, it subsequently became an independent nation. The population of the country is largely Muslim, and this is probably the reason for its general lack of Masonic development. England and Scotland had a small number of lodges in East Pakistan after the Second World War, but only one survived. This is Star Lodge #4444, originally warranted by England as Star of Sylhet Lodge #4444, in 1922.

It has the unusual distinction of having two meeting places, with the lodge meeting at each alternately. This occurrence arose in 1972 when it united with Star of Pakistan Lodge #7381, then meeting at Chittagong. No doubt, if Masonry recovers enough at either location, separate lodges can again be erected, although the situation remained unchanged in 1999. Meeting details are as follows:

Star Lodge #4444 EC      Meets at Masonic Hall, Chittagong, Bangladesh, or Masonic Hall, Lingla, Sylhet, Bangladesh; 1st Thursday, October to May, except February. Installation: Saturday after 1st Tuesday, February.

## INDIA

### *History*

India is a country with a very large and diverse population, and has more lodges than any other eastern location. The first lodge in India was formed at Calcutta, in the province of Bengal, in 1729, followed by a second lodge in the same city in 1740, both under the Grand Lodge of England. The first did not survive, but the second, Lodge Star of the East #67, still meets in Calcutta under the English Constitution.

The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland were also active in establishing lodges in India—as, to a lesser extent, were Holland, Denmark and France. The lodges under these latter have not survived, but the oldest extant Scottish charter is held by Lodge Rising Star of Western India #342 (1844), and the oldest Irish lodge is St Patrick's #319, both meeting in Bombay. As the number of lodges grew, under the three 'home' Grand Lodges, they were given a measure of self-government under Provincial or District Grand Lodges, which have endured to the present date.

For over a century, Indian nationals were rare in Indian lodges. Research has revealed only 14 in the first 120 years, the score by religion being Muslims 10, Parsees 4, Hindus and Sikhs nil. Two Hindus were initiated in 1857, but the most celebrated early Hindu Masons were P C Dutt (rejected in 1863 but, after nine years of persistent petitioning, initiated in 1872—and appointed Deputy District Grand Master in 1895) and N N Dutt (better known as Swami Vivekananda, initiated in 1884). The earliest initiation of Sikhs occurred

in 1861—two Maharajas. However, racial and religious barriers were eventually removed and by the end of the 19th century, Rudyard Kipling's *Mother Lodge* was a fairly accurate representation of a lodge in India.

In 1947, shortly after the end of the Second World War, self-government was achieved in India, but at the price of partition into two countries, India and Pakistan. The latter was geographically divided into East and West Pakistan, which later became the separate countries of Bangladesh and Pakistan, and further developments are recorded under these separate headings.

Freemasonry in the new India continued to flourish under the three 'home' Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, and by 1960 a substantial proportion of Indian members were in favour of establishing their own Grand Lodge. Indeed, some of them considered it desirable to form several Grand Lodges on a geographical division of North, South, East and West India, because of the great distances and wide diversity of peoples in this vast land. Others wished to remain under the home Grand Lodges. A steering committee was formed, which consulted with the home Grand Lodges, and a referendum was held among all 270 lodges, giving each lodge a choice of remaining with its parent Grand Lodge or participating in the formation of a Grand Lodge of India. Just over half the lodges (145–125) opted to form a new Grand Lodge; the idea of *several* new Grand Lodges was not an available option.

The Grand Lodge of India was erected in November 1961, with 145 lodges and the blessing of the home Grand Lodges. The new Grand Lodge immediately formed four Regional Grand Lodges, as a solution to the problems of distance and diversity. The four sovereign Grand Lodges—England, Ireland, Scotland and India—entered into a previously prepared concordat, preserving the rights of members and lodges remaining under the home jurisdictions, including dual membership, and guaranteeing that the home jurisdictions would not charter any new lodges on Indian soil.

The Grand Lodge of India enjoyed a steady growth, and the members of all jurisdictions worked in harmony, sharing lodge premises—which in many cases were owned by a Trust or by lodges of the home jurisdictions. Quite often, if a lodge of one jurisdiction became weak, brethren from a lodge of another jurisdiction would join in order to strengthen it, and dual membership between the Indian jurisdiction and the home jurisdictions was quite common. Gradually, the number of home jurisdiction lodges diminished, but there remained a substantial minority of them, and they continued to attract Indian nationals as candidates and joining members.

In 1980, because of continuing dissatisfaction with the tyranny of distance, a proposal was placed before Grand Lodge to convert the four Regional Grand Lodges into sovereign Grand Lodges (on the Australian pattern), but subsequent events saw it shelved. In the early 1990s harmony was shattered. It is beyond the scope of this book to elaborate, beyond noting the following:

- The Grand Lodge of India took a number of measures which affected the members of the English, Irish and Scottish lodges, including a ruling relating to dual membership.
- These members made strong representation to their own Grand Lodges, who warned the Grand Lodge of India that it was in breach of the Concordat.
- The Grand Lodge of India considered this to be interference with its sovereignty, and the disagreement widened.
- England withdrew recognition; Ireland and Scotland followed suit.
- Most other mainstream Grand Lodges have continued to recognise the Grand Lodge of India, considering the dispute to be a domestic matter between India and the home Grand Lodges.
- Since England no longer recognised India, in June 1993 England chartered another lodge in India, Shankar #9526 in Bombay.
- Some members under the Grand Lodge of India disapproved of their Grand Lodge's actions, and protested—without avail.
- These, and others who still saw a need for autonomous Grand Lodges on a regional basis, broke away from the Grand Lodge of India (GLI) in 1995 and formed the Grand Lodge of Upper India (GLUI) and the Grand Lodge of South India (GLSI).
- There remains a possibility of further Grand Lodges being formed, to cater for disaffected members in the East and West.
- Based on observation of England's actions in relation to disputes with the Grand Orient of Italy and the Grand Lodge of Greece, the members of GLSI and GLUI hope for recognition from the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland.

- Several mainstream Grand Lodges from South and Central America have given formal recognition of GLSI and GLUI.
- Officially, members under GLI may not visit lodges of any other jurisdiction in India, and members of the home jurisdictions may not visit GLI, GLSI or GLUI lodges.
- Despite all of the above, lodges of the home jurisdictions, GLI, GLSI and GLUI still share some lodge premises, and personal relations between many members of home, Indian, and breakaway jurisdictions remains harmonious in relation to Craft Masonry and concordant Orders.

Customs and usages among Freemasons in India may vary from lodge to lodge and according to geographical location, but remain fairly uniform between the jurisdictions. Therefore, the notes for visitors under the Grand Lodge of India are generally applicable to lodges under the other jurisdictions.

There are far too many lodges for it to be practicable to list them here, but sources of information are listed, as are details of a few lodges selected for particular interest. Visitors should be guided by the recognition rules of their own jurisdictions.

The various jurisdictions in India are listed below.

### **A Grand Lodge of India**

*Founded:* 1961. *Descent:* England, Ireland & Scotland.

*Address:* PO Box 681, New Delhi 110 001, India.

*Principal Temple:* Freemasons' Hall, Janpath, New Delhi.

*Telephone:* 91 11 332 1956, *Fax:* 91 11 332 0276.

*Office hours:* 10–4.30 Mon–Fri.

*Email:* <grandlodgeindia@mailcity.com>. *Website:* <<http://www.glindia.org/>>

*Lodges:* 315. *Membership:* 14,870.

*Ritual:* English-form.

*Main Publications:* *Constitution, Proceedings.*

*Periodical:* *Grand Lodge Newsletter.*

#### ***Regional Grand Lodge offices:***

**Eastern India** Freemasons' Hall, 19 Park St, Calcutta

*Telephone:* 91 33 299 669

*Office hours:* 10–5 Mon–Fri, 10–2 Sat.

**Northern India** Freemasons' Hall, Janpath, New Delhi

*Telephone:* 91 11 332 8601

*Office hours:* 10–5 Mon–Fri.

**Southern India** Freemasons' Hall, 87 Ethiraj Salai, Chennai (Madras)

*Telephone:* 91 44 827 2311, *Fax:* 91 44 487 579

*Office hours:* 10–5 Mon–Fri, 10–2 Sat.

**Western India** Freemasons' Hall, Raveline St, Fort, Bombay

*Telephone:* 91 22 204 1120

*Office hours:* 10.30–5.30 Mon–Fri, 10.30–1.30 Sat.

#### ***Notes for visitors***

Visiting a lodge in India is a relatively easy affair. Each major Indian city, and one assumes it is to these that the vast majority of visitors will gravitate, has a Masonic Temple or Freemasons' Hall, and these buildings are not difficult to locate. In the main cities, such as New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, as well as in others, their Masonic Temple is staffed by Masons during normal working hours. These staff members will be only too happy to assist a visitor. Advice concerning individual English, Scottish and Irish lodge visiting corresponds with that fully outlined in the section for the British Isles. Indian lodges largely follow English practices in admitting visitors.

Lodges in India, regardless of Constitution, for the most part meet in the early evening, generally at a time between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Visitors should endeavour to attend at least 30 minutes early, to enable the usual avouchment formalities to be dealt with. Dress for lodges in India is varied, and it depends somewhat on each member's ethnic background. A dark lounge suit is the norm, although national dress is not uncommon. Similarly, a Mason serving in the armed forces is welcome to attend in military uniform. Dinner

suits are used regularly by a small number of lodges in India, but by many more for Installations. For the visitor from outside India, a dark lounge suit is appreciated although, if inconvenient, a jacket and tie will suffice. In the summer months, many lodges do not require a coat to be worn.

The lodge after-proceedings of English, Irish and Scottish lodges largely follow the practices of their respective jurisdictions. English lodges have formal dinners with toast lists. Scottish and Irish lodges also tend to follow a meeting with dinner, but toast lists are often abbreviated. Indian lodges tend to opt for formal festive boards, largely along English lines. The vast majority of lodges, regardless of jurisdiction, conclude an Installation Meeting with an expansive and formal festive board. The Toast List employed by English, Irish and Scottish lodges in India is basically the same as outlined elsewhere in this book, except that first toast in India is usually 'The President of India'.

An example of a full Toast List under an Indian lodge is as follows:

1. *The President of India.*
2. *The Craft.*
3. *The Most Worshipful the Grand Master.*
4. *The Deputy Grand Master, and the Assistant Grand Masters, and Grand Lodge Officers.*
5. *The Regional Grand Master.*
6. *The Deputy Regional Grand Master, the Assistant Regional Grand Master, and Regional Grand Lodge Officers.*
7. *The Master and Officers of the Lodge.*
8. *The Outgoing Master, and his Officers.*
9. *The Visitors.*
10. *Absent Brethren.*
11. *The Tyler's Toast.*

The above is an example of a Toast List a visitor may experience at an Installation meeting of an Indian lodge. At a normal meeting, the list may be shorter. Responses are only made if an appropriate respondent is present. If a visitor is to be asked to reply to the toast to the visitors, he will be forewarned. It is often the case in lodges of all jurisdictions that *members* are charged for their meals, but *visitors*, unless they regularly frequent the same lodge, will never be expected to contribute.

The Grand Lodge of India is an appointive Grand Lodge, very much on the English model, and the titles of its offices correspond largely with those of England. Its membership, as with England, consists of all past and present Grand Lodge Officers, and all Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of its constituent lodges. Interestingly, the Indian Grand Lodge has adopted a form not unlike that of old European Grand Orients. The Grand Master is not elected by the membership of the Grand Lodge. Instead, the position is determined by an Electoral College consisting of the most Senior Grand Lodge Officers. In addition, the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge is non-elective, but consists of members appointed equally by the four Regional Grand Lodges. These Regional Grand Lodges each have their own Regional Grand Master and Regional Grand Lodge Officers, and each works along similar lines to an English or Scottish District Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of India was one of the first to establish an Internet presence, and has a well maintained and informative website (address above); it has established guidelines for lodge websites and several lodges have their own home pages attached. The webmaster is Bro Jay Joshi <jay@softsolint.com>, who is a useful contact for lodge meeting details.

## **B The 'home' Grand Lodges**

### ***District Grand Lodge of Bengal, EC***

Address. P O Box 9047, Calcutta 700 016, India.

Principal Temple: Freemasons' Hall, 19 Park Street, Calcutta 700 016, India.

Telephone: (91 33) 299 137.

Lodges: 24

### ***District Grand Lodge of Bombay and Northern India, EC***

Address: Freemasons' Hall, Raveline St, Fort, Bombay 400 001, India.

Telephone & Fax: (91 22) 207 2889.

Lodges: 29

*Research Lodge #3184*, founded 1906, meets at the above address on the second Thursday, November to April, August and September (Installation).

### ***District Grand Lodge of Madras, EC***

Address: Freemasons' Hall, 87 Ethiraj Salai, Chennai (Madras) 600 105, India.

Telephone: (91 44) 827 1250.

Lodges: 18

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

Address: Elphinstone Bldg, Marzban Road, Fort, Bombay 400 001, India.

Telephone: 207 4495, 207 3800.

Lodges: 29.

### ***Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland in India***

Address: Freemasons' Hall, Raveline St, Fort, Bombay 400 001, India.

Lodges: 10.

## **C Grand Lodge of Upper India**

*Founded: 1995. Descent: India.*

Grand Lodge Office: #77, Sector 10-A, Chandigarh 160 011, India.

Telephone: 91 172 740 961, 91 172 742 698.

Annual meeting: last Saturday of November.

Lodges: 20. Membership: 582.

Ritual: English-form.

Main Publications: *Constitutions, Proceedings.*

Periodicals: *Freemason* (bi-monthly), *Grand Lodge Newsletter.*

### ***History***

During December 1994 and January 1995, the members of three lodges under the Grand Lodge of India (Chandimandir #238, Chandigarh #241 and SAS Nagar #291) unanimously resolved to surrender their warrants to the Grand Lodge of India and establish the Grand Lodge of Upper India—which they did. In June 1995 the new Grand Lodge consecrated a further five lodges in the state of Uttar Pradesh, one of which was a lodge of research. Before the end of the year, they were joined by another lodge of the Grand Lodge of India, Harmandir #170, meeting at Amritsar. By late 1999, the Grand Lodge of Upper India had 20 lodges, divided into two regions, North India and Central India, each under a Regional Grand Master. The form of government is on the pattern of the Grand Lodge of India.

In May 1995 the Grand Lodge of Upper India consecrated the Grand Lodge of South India at Coimbatore. The first mainstream Grand Lodge to give full recognition to the Grand Lodge of Upper India was the Grand Lodge of Peru.

### ***Notes for visitors***

The Grand Lodge building at Daon, Chandigarh, is in use but still under construction. It includes a library. Most lodges meet in rented premises. They all work in English. Most meet in the evening, tyling between 6–7 pm in winter, and 7–8 pm in summer. Dress is varied, but a dark lounge suit is the norm. National dress is permitted, and members of the armed services are welcome to attend in uniform. In summer, the standard dress is long-sleeved white shirt and black tie, with black trousers and shoes, no jacket.

Meetings are generally followed by a formal dinner with a toast list on the English pattern. Visitors should be prepared to respond to the toast to the visitors. They will not be expected to contribute to the cost of the dinner, unless they frequently visit the same lodge.

Meeting details, for those who may lawfully visit, may be obtained from the Grand Secretary, #17, Sector 17, Panchkula 134 109, India (phone +91 172 772 644), or RWBro Dr P S Egan, #21, Sector 15-A, Chandigarh 160 015, India.. General inquiries should be addressed to RWBro O N Kapoor, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, PO Box 296, Chowk, Lucknow 226 003, India, email <ibmomace@lwl.vsnl.net.in>, who can also give details relating to Past Masters Lodge of Research #19.

**D Grand Lodge of South India**

*Founded:* 1995. *Descent:* India, Upper India.

Grand Lodge office: 232 Race Course Road, Coimbatore 641 018, India.

Telephone: 91 422 213 830, Fax: 91 422 230 870.

Email (Sec, Internat. Rels.): <fowlarch@vsnl.com>, <fowlarch@hotmail.com>.

Annual meeting: 2nd Saturday in June.

Lodges: 14. Membership: 200.

Ritual: English-form.

Main Publications: *Constitutions, Directory, Handbooks for Cand, EA, FC, MM.*

**History**

The Grand Lodge of South India was established by the newly formed Grand Lodge of Upper India in May 1995 from among brethren, resident in the south, who were formerly under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of India. Immediately after the formation of the Grand Lodge of South India, two lodges under the Grand Lodge of India (Round Table #272 and Meridian #282) voted to join the new Grand Lodge. This Grand Lodge encompasses the states of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. By late 1999 it had warranted 14 lodges, including a lodge of research, and also approved a Lodge of Instruction for the purpose of visiting the other lodges and demonstrating correct working of ritual.

The Grand Lodge meets twice yearly. The annual meeting is always held at Coimbatore on the second Saturday in June. The Half-yearly Communication and Grand Festival is held on the third Saturday of November at different venues within the jurisdiction. To date, meetings have been held at Ooty, Coonoor, Coimbatore and Cochin. The Grand Master serves a two-year term. There are no regional divisions as in Upper India. The Grand Lodge of South India has been formally recognised by at least five mainstream Grand Lodges: Guatemala and four of the state Grand Lodges of Brazil.

**Notes for visitors**

The Grand Lodge of South India meets at premises belonging to the Coimbatore Masonic Charity Trust. The premises comprise: a large old house converted for Masonic purposes, including a temple; a large, modern Children's Hospital, funded by Masons and citizens of Coimbatore; and a working women's hostel. The Masonic building is shared by the Grand Lodge of South India and lodges under the Grand Lodge of India! A new temple and banqueting hall are to be added. The secretary of the Trust was the foundation Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South India.

Most lodges meet between 6 and 9 times per year, tiling at 7 pm. All work in English, and the ritual is basically Emulation, with Irish and Scottish variations. Dress is dark suit and tie; Craft aprons have a maroon border and a curved flap. Aprons are available for visitors travelling without regalia. After-proceedings may be either a formal banquet or a buffet, and all lodges use an English-style toast list.

In addition to lodges at Coimbatore, there are lodges at Bangalore, Cochin, Coonoor, Madras and Tirupur. Lodge meeting details may be obtained from the *Directory*, published by Grand Lodge, and available from the Grand Secretary (address above), or by email to the Secretary for International Relations (WBro Philip Fowler, email addresses above).

**Lodges of special interest**

*Round Table #9* meets at Coimbatore. It admits as joining members or candidates only men who are members of the Round Table movement.

*Sir Robert Stanes #10* is a 'school' lodge, after the English pattern, with membership restricted to former pupils of Stanes School, the premier 'public' (i.e. private) school in Coimbatore, whose founder was a Mason.

*Golfers #12* has an 'ambulatory' warrant and meets at golf clubs within the jurisdiction. Members and visitors combine both interests on the same day.

*Lodge of Research #11* meets at Coimbatore three times a year. In addition to research, the lodge is responsible for creating and maintaining a museum and archives. Its warrant authorises the lodge to make, pass and raise candidates. The lodge program and meeting details are available from the Secretary, Philip Fowler (email addresses above).

**STOP PRESS, July 2000.**

The following Internet information is now available in relation to the Grand Lodge of Southern India: website: <<http://www.glsi.org>>, email (Grand Secretary) <[gs@glis.org](mailto:gs@glis.org)> and (Secretary International Relations) <[sir@glis.org](mailto:sir@glis.org)>.

## **MYANMAR (Burma)**

As with Afghanistan and Pakistan, Burma (now Myanmar) was once part of the British Empire, until it achieved independence in 1936. The oldest lodge in the country was Lodge Philanthropy #542, founded in 1847, but it later expired. It was followed by Star of Burma Lodge #614, which remained the oldest extant lodge in Burma. Scottish Masonry came to Burma in the form of Lodge Peace and Harmony #834, formed in 1896. In the 1950s, England had 16 lodges in Burma, although the total for England had been reduced to nine by the mid-1980s. By that time, Scotland had three lodges under charter. Most lodges met in Freemasons' Hall, 65 Goodliffe Road, Rangoon, and worked under their respective District Grand Lodges.

Sadly, in 1984, the Burmese Government effectively banned Freemasonry. The Scottish District Grand Lodge closed, and its three Burmese lodges were erased in the following year. England, however, neither closed its District Grand Lodge nor erased its lodges. Its nine lodges warranted for Burma still appear on the English roll of lodges, evidently in the hope that eventually political change will allow them to re-open. However, the situation remains unchanged at the turn of the century, and future prospects do not look promising.

## **NEPAL**

Nepal is located in the Himalayas, to the north of India. This ancient kingdom was devoid of Freemasonry until 1967, when an English lodge was erected at Kathmandu, the capital city. It remains the only lodge in the country, and it is governed through the English District Grand Lodge of Bengal, in India. Lodge Kathmandu of Nepal #8194 meets at the Hotel Shanker, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal; 1st Monday, monthly. Installation: December.

### ***Notes for visitors***

The lodge meets at 6 pm. No festive board is held, as a rule, but many members dine together at a local restaurant after the meeting. Similarly, members usually dine together, with their wives, on the Saturday evening prior to the meeting. Visitors are most welcome at these dinners.

It needs to be noted that this lodge's meeting dates are prone to change because of the large number of Hindu holidays. These tend to follow the moon, not the Gregorian calendar, and not infrequently fall on a lodge meeting day. Therefore, visitors are advised to inquire at the Hotel Shanker prior to a meeting day. The hotel will provide the name and phone number of the lodge secretary.

## **PAKISTAN**

Until 1947, when the Indian sub-continent was partitioned, the modern history Pakistan was largely that of India. The establishment of the British Raj brought the area now occupied by Pakistan into the British Empire. The first English lodge established was erected at Lahore in 1858. This was the Lodge of Hope and Perseverance #782 EC. Doubtless, the significance of the name of this lodge has not been lost on Masons in Pakistan in the light of more recent events. This lodge was followed by two more early lodges established at

Hyderabad (1861), and Karachi (1863). Scotland's first lodge, still remaining on its rolls until erasure in 1980, was Lodge Hope #337, established in 1847 and thus the premier lodge in the country.

The Craft worked smoothly in Pakistan until the late 1970s, when a military dictatorship assumed power. Indeed, successive Pakistani Governments appear not to have viewed the Craft generally with great favour. In addition, Pakistani nationals of the Muslim faith, who make up the vast majority of the population, have never formed a significant part of lodge membership. The coming of military government to Pakistan saw the Craft officially closed down. The Scottish District Grand Lodge was closed in 1980, and the eleven Scottish lodges then working in the country were erased from the Scottish roll of lodges. As with Burma (*see above*), the English District Grand Lodge still appears on the English Roll, as of 1999, but all its lodges are in darkness.

## SRI LANKA

### **District Grand Lodge of Sri Lanka, EC**

Address: Victoria Masonic Temple, 60 Sir Mohammed Macan Markar Mawatha, Galle Face, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.

Telephone: (941) 320 752.

Lodges: 9.

### **Grand Inspectorate of Sri Lanka, IC**

Address: Victoria Masonic Temple, 60 Sir Mohammed Macan Markar Mawatha, Galle Face, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.

Lodges: 4.

### ***History***

The island of Ceylon (renamed Sri Lanka in 1972), is aptly known as the *Pearl of the Orient*. It lies in the Indian Ocean to the south-east of India. Sri Lanka has a long Masonic history, the Craft having existed on the island for over 200 years. Currently, an English District Grand Lodge and an Irish Inspectorate operate in the country. Scotland possesses only one lodge in Sri Lanka, located at Colombo.

The island of Ceylon became a British possession in 1796, the Dutch having been ejected. However, in the latter years of Dutch rule, three Dutch lodges were erected in the colony. These lodges continued after the British annexation of the island, although the subsequent French occupation of Holland itself brought those lodges under the Grand Orient of France. By the 1830s, all three lodges were largely composed of English members, and in 1838 one of them was re-warranted by England as St John's Lodge of Colombo #454. It remains the oldest lodge surviving in Sri Lanka today, the other two former Dutch lodges having become extinct.

As with many other parts of the British Empire, military lodges played an important part in the development of Freemasonry in Ceylon. Between 1800 and 1863, nine military lodges worked in the colony under various British charters, and these lodges largely spawned the permanent lodges to be established in the country. The years 1861 and 1868 saw two separate Irish lodges receive warrants, largely under the influence of Irish military lodges then in the colony. A second English lodge was formed in 1886.

Scottish Masonry came to the island in the form of Lodge Bonnie Doon #611. It was formed in 1878, and remains the only lodge of that constitution to be established in Ceylon. There was not complete harmony between the various lodges in the early years of Masonic development, but matters had improved by the end of the 19th century, and today the 14 lodges in Sri Lanka work in complete amity.

Modern membership is largely composed of Sri Lankans, although potential (and therefore actual) membership is restricted somewhat by socio-economic considerations. The low income of many Sri Lankans tends to restrict membership to more affluent groupings who can afford the dues. The main religion in Sri Lanka is Buddhism (85% of the population) and this is reflected in its Masonic membership. Lodges in Sri Lanka thus contain members who are, in declining proportions, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians.

The future of Freemasonry in Sri Lanka looks secure, although the Government appears to have taken some interest in Masonic activity at various times.

### *Notes for visitors*

#### MEETING TIMES AND DRESS

The meetings of lodges in Colombo usually commence at 6 pm or 6.30 pm. Some lodges outside the capital city meet in the morning or early afternoon to avoid the necessity of travelling home at night. Visitors considering attending lodges outside Colombo are advised to check meeting times at the Victoria Masonic Temple. In any case it is wise to arrive early at meetings. It is probably fair to say that most Masons in Sri Lanka visiting between lodges will be known by at least one member, and will be readily vouched for. Of course, at least for the initial visit, an overseas Mason is unlikely to be known, and must be present early enough for the usual formalities to be undertaken.

The dress worn at all ordinary meetings is a dark lounge suit, with white shirt and black tie. At installations, it is usual for dinner suits to be worn, although this is not mandatory, and overseas visitors are certainly welcome in a dark lounge suit.

#### LODGE AFTER-PROCEEDINGS, AND NIGHTS OF INSTALLATION

The after-proceedings of lodges in Sri Lanka are usually relatively short, as no evening meal is served as a rule. In its place, savories, sandwiches, cheese and biscuits, are on the tables, and afterwards member travel home for their evening meal. Refreshments, including alcoholic drinks, are available on the lodge account, up until the Tyler's Toast. The toasts themselves are kept short, but do include one to the visitors.

The Installation meeting of every lodge is followed by a banquet and formal festive board, accompanied by a full toast list. Some lodges hold their banquet in a selected local hotel, while in Colombo some use the Victoria Masonic Temple building. The cost of the banquet is met by the lodge out of member's dues, and attendance is generally by invitation. However, an overseas visitor is always most welcome as a guest of the lodge, and will not be required to pay. Nonetheless, visitors should provide notice of their impending attendance, if at all possible. With the exception of Irish lodges, who do not toast The Queen, the toast list at Installation meetings is largely the same for all three Constitutions, as follows:

1. *His Excellency, The President of Sri Lanka.*
2. *Her Majesty The Queen.*
3. *The Grand Master.*
4. *The Pro Grand Master, and officers of the Grand Lodge, Present and Past.*
5. *The District Grand Master (or Grand Inspector in Irish lodges).*
6. *The Deputy District Grand Master, and District Grand Lodge Officers, Present and Past.*
7. *The Worshipful Master, and his Officers.*
8. *The Installing Master (usually the lodge's Immediate Past Master).*
9. *The Visitors.*
10. *Absent Brethren.*
11. *The Tyler's Toast.*

Replies are given if the recipient of a toast is present. It would be unusual for an overseas visitor not to be asked to respond to the Visitor's Toast. At ordinary meetings, as applicable, a toast to the candidate will be given. Once the formalities are completed, many members choose to remain for a time to engage in conversation. The Victoria Masonic Temple has its own bar facilities, which remain open for one hour after the Tyler's Toast, or until 11 pm, whichever is earlier. Lodges located at Kandy and Kurunegala also possess private bars within their Masonic halls, while the country lodges usually meet in special halls belonging to a country club, to which most lodge members belong.

#### VISITING IN GENERAL

A visitor arriving in Sri Lanka should first endeavour to visit the Victoria Masonic Temple in Colombo. This will normally be possible as Colombo is the principal point of entry to the country. The 'VMT', as the locals call it, is the headquarters of Freemasonry in Sri Lanka, and its office is manned during business hours. Every assistance will be accorded to visitors at that point. The Temple notice board in the lobby also contains a calendar listing all forthcoming Masonic meetings in Sri Lanka.

On arrival at a lodge meeting, an unaccompanied visitor is usually met and welcomed by the Junior Warden, who will see to his place in lodge. Overseas Masonic visitors are not particularly common in Sri Lanka, and such a visitor can be expected to be invited to attend as many lodge meetings as will fit into his schedule. The VMT is centrally located in Colombo and overseas visitors are invariably offered transport from their hotel or place of residence. A visitor wishing to travel to a country lodge meeting should make some arrangement regarding transport. As a result of the high cost of fuel in Sri Lanka, members visiting tend to join together and travel by coach. The distances involved are about 60 to 75 miles, and coaches are usually organised to leave the VMT about 1 pm on the meeting day, and return the same night. Seats can be reserved at the VMT office.

#### LODGE WORKINGS, REGALIA AND RITUAL

Visitors should carry their own regalia with them, although this can be borrowed if necessary. The ritual for all English lodges is Emulation, while the Irish and Scottish lodges use their jurisdictions' approved rituals. In lodges under all three Constitutions, all ordinary members and visitors will be inside the lodge room prior to the opening. When all is in readiness, the Master and his principal officers will usually enter in procession, whereupon the lodge will be opened. During the closing ceremonies of each lodge, fraternal greetings are exchanged between the Master and visitors. Overseas visitors are welcome to do likewise, stating the name and Constitution of their own lodge.

#### *List of lodges*

The following are the details of all mainstream lodges working in Sri Lanka. Colombo lodges meet at the VMT, while lodges in Kandy meet in the Masonic Temple in central Kandy. Other meeting places are as indicated.

#### *Colombo*

St George Lodge #2170 EC	Meets Last Thursday June to February, except December, then 3rd Tuesday. Installation: January.
The Grant Lodge #2862 EC	Meets Last Saturday in odd months. Installation: May.
Duke of Connaught Lodge #2940 EC	Meets 3rd Thursday, odd months. Installation: January.
Orion Lodge #5130 EC	Meets 3rd Wednesday, June to February. Installation: June.
Robert Coleridge Scott Lodge #7784 EC	Meets 1st Tuesday, even months, except August. Installation: 2nd Saturday, August.
Sphinx Lodge #107 IC	Meets 4th Mondays, except December.
Leinster Lodge #115 IC	Meets 3rd Fridays, except December.
Serendib Lodge #905 IC	Meets on 1st Tuesday, odd months. Installation: March.
Lodge Bonnie Doon #611 SC	Meets 1st Saturday, monthly.

#### *Kandy*

St John's Lodge of Colombo #454 EC	Meets 3rd Saturday in March, May, September and November. Installation: 4th Saturday, June.
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#### *Other locations*

Nuwara Eliya Lodge #2991 EC	Meets at 'The Chalet', Hill Club, Nuwara Eliya; 1st Saturday, even months. Installation: February.
Kurunegala Lodge #3629 EC	Meets at the Masonic Temple, Kurunegala; 2nd Saturday, odd months. Installation: March.
Adam's Peak Lodge #2656 EC	Meets at 'The Chalet', Hill Club, Nuwara Eliya; 4th Friday, even months. Installation: October.
Dimbulla Lodge #298 IC	Meets at the Talawakelle Club, Talawakelle; 4th Saturday, odd months.

### Section 3

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

### Introduction

There are no indigenous Grand Lodges in this part of Asia, but former colonial rule has left its mark with thriving British and French lodges, old or new, in several countries, whereas the lodges of the Grand East of the Netherlands in Java and Sumatra did not long survive the independence gained by Indonesia. From 1969 to 1975 the Grand Lodge of the Philippines had a lodge in Vietnam, mainly for US troops, which has since moved to Manila. On a happier note, Thailand, while never under colonial rule, currently supports lodges under the GLNF, Scotland, Ireland and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware.

### BRUNEI

Brunei is a small sultanate, located in North Borneo. Formerly under British protection, it received independence in 1983. Until recent years it possessed two lodges. A Scottish-chartered lodge, Lodge Brunei #1545, formed in 1958, was attached to the Scottish District Grand Lodge of the Middle East, based in Malaysia. It met at Darussalam.

The second lodge was English-warranted. This was Berakas Lodge #8560 at Bandar Seri Begawan, formed in 1973. It was attached to the English District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago, based in Singapore.

Unhappily, in the late 1980s the political situation in Brunei, a Muslim country, made the continuation of these lodges untenable. Both lodges were forced to stop meeting, and Berakas Lodge was subsequently erased from the English roll of lodges. Brunei lodge was more fortunate. Its members moved the lodge to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, where it continues to work under the new name of Lodge Sri Aman #1645.

### CAMBODIA

Cambodia was originally part of the former French colony of Indo-China, prior to achieving independence. As far as can be determined, it has only ever possessed one lodge. This was *Loge L'Avenir Khmer* (Future Khmer), chartered at Phomn Phen in 1906 by the Grand Orient of France. It did not survive the French withdrawal from Indo-China in 1954. Since that time, Cambodia has existed in an almost constant state of war and civil war, although the political situation has improved since 1993, following elections and the installation of a United Nations-sponsored government. This may now make conditions tenable for Freemasonry, although no Masonic activity had been reported as of 1999.

### INDONESIA

Freemasonry no longer exists in Indonesia, having been banned by the Indonesian Government in 1965. England had established a lodge at Sumatra as early as 1765, but it later expired. By the 1950s, the Grand East of the Netherlands has four lodges in Sumatra and nineteen in Java. In April 1955, four lodges in Jakarta combined to form a Grand Lodge (called *Timur Ageng Indonesia*). It, together with all other

Masonry in the country, was dissolved by President Soekarno in 1965. One Dutch lodge, *De Ster in het Oosten #14* (Star of the East), dating from 1759, moved back to the Netherlands where it still meets at Bilthoven. There are occasional reports concerning a Grand Lodge working in Indonesia, but if it does operate, the politics of the country would suggest an *underground* existence. It is certainly not recognised outside Indonesia by any mainstream Grand Lodge.

## LAOS

Laos is a landlocked country in Indo-China, bordered by Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. It was part of French Indo-China prior to independence. The Grand Lodge of France evidently had a lodge at the capital city, Vientiane, early this century, but it did not survive the French withdrawal in 1954. However, in May 1967 the Grand Lodge of Scotland issued a charter to several expatriate Masons then living in Vientiane for Lodge Lan Xang #1632 (Lodge of a Million Elephants). This lodge survived happily until May 1976, when the communists appropriated the Vientiane Masonic building.

Laos has remained a communist country since that time, making further Masonic activity untenable. Nonetheless, with the breakdown of communism worldwide, and a subsequent significant mellowing of the Laotian regime, it is not impossible that conditions conducive to Masonry may arise in the future.

NB Lan Xang has been reopened in Thailand.

## MALAYSIA

### **District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago (EC)**

Address: Freemasons' Hall, 23A Coleman Street, Singapore 179806.

Principal Temple in Malaysia: Masonic Hall, Jalan Pekeliling, Kuala Lumpur.

Lodges: 21 in Malaysia (8 in Singapore).

### **District Grand Lodge of the Middle East (SC)**

Address: Masonic Temple, Jalan Pekeliling Street, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Lodges: 7 in Malaysia (2 in Singapore, 2 in Thailand).

### **History**

Malaysia consists of the former British colonies of Malaya (now East Malaysia), and North Borneo (Sarawak and Sabah, now West Malaysia). Malaysia does not include the Sultanate of Brunei, located in Northern Borneo. English Masonry in this area is controlled by the District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago, while the Scottish lodges range under the curiously-named District Grand Lodge of the Middle East. Ireland possesses only one lodge in Malaysia, and this is governed directly from Dublin.

It is somewhat difficult to separate the Masonic histories of Malaysia and Singapore, but in terms of the format of this book an attempt will be made. The first lodge in the country then known as Malaya was established at Penang in 1809. This was an English lodge warranted by the *Antients*, but it subsequently expired. Singapore received a permanent lodge in 1845, but it was not until 1875 that Malaya received a lodge that was to survive. This was the English lodge, Royal Prince of Wales #1555, which still works happily at Penang. Scotland's earliest surviving lodge also works at Penang, Lodge Scotia #1003, warranted in 1906. In the 1990s the capital city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, possesses the most lodges. Ireland's only lodge in the country, Lodge Emerald in the East #830, was established at Kuala Lumpur in 1967.

In recent decades, the Malaysian Government has taken an interest in the Craft within its boundaries. The Government's *Societies Act* requires that Masonic lodges regularly disclose their membership and certain other details to the *Registrar of Societies*. However, this statute does not appear to have been directed

against Freemasonry in particular, although the Craft has in the past been discussed in the Malaysian Parliament. Nevertheless, good relations between Craft authorities and the Government have been maintained, and there appears to be no reason to suspect that this relationship will not be continued in the future.

### *Notes for visitors*

Probably the first thing a visitor will notice when visiting a lodge in Malaysia is its ethnic make-up. While the Craft in South East Asia was once dominated by Anglo-Saxons, this is certainly not the case now. Today, Malaysian citizens constitute the vast majority of members. However, it is the Chinese and Indians who have joined the Craft in some numbers, not ethnic Malays, although there are certainly Malays who are members.

The majority of lodges in Malaysia meet in the early evening, generally between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Dress is a dark lounge suit, and visitors are welcome to bring and wear their own regalia. Lodge workings and after-proceedings follow respective English, Irish and Scottish practices outlined elsewhere in this book. All lodges generally follow an Installation Meeting with a formal dinner.

### *List of lodges*

Visitors should, at least in the first instance, make themselves known at the Masonic Hall in Kuala Lumpur, where they will receive every assistance. However, as lodges are somewhat geographically spread, a full list is contained below:

#### *Kuala Lumpur*

Lodges meeting at the Dewan Freemasons, 123 Jalan Tun Razak Street, Kuala Lumpur.

Read Lodge #2337 EC	Meets 3rd Fridays monthly, except October. Installation: Saturday nearest 21st October.
Klang Lodge #3369 EC	Meets 2nd Wednesday monthly, except October. Installation: 2nd Saturday, October.
Makepeace Lodge #3674 EC	Meets 2nd Friday monthly, except April. Installation: 2nd Saturday, April.
Baldwyn Lowick Lodge #7004 EC	Meets 1st Thursday monthly, except March. Installation: 1st Saturday, March.
Sentosa Lodge #7661 EC	Meets 3rd Tuesday monthly, except August. Installation: 3rd Saturday, August.
Edward Holiday Lodge #7997 EC	Meets 1st Friday monthly, except March. Installation: 2nd Saturday, March.
Fidelity Lodge #8469	Meets 2nd Monday in May, August and November. Installation: 2nd Saturday, February.
Joseph Eu Lodge #9572	Meets 4th Monday monthly, except May. Installation: 3rd Saturday, May.
Lodge Emerald in the East #830 IC	Meets 3rd Wednesday monthly, except July, at 6.30 pm. Installation: 3rd Saturday, July.
Lodge Tullibardine-in-the-East #1118 SC	Meets 4th Friday monthly, except June. Inst: 3rd Saturday, June.
Lodge Kilwinning in the East #1606 SC	Meets 1st Wednesday monthly, except November. Installation: 1st Saturday, November.

#### *Penang*

Lodges in Penang meet at the Masonic Temple, Western Road, Penang.

Royal Prince of Wales Lodge #1555 EC	Meets 1st Wednesday monthly, except December. Installation: 1st Saturday, December.
Lodge Scotia #1003 SC	Meets 4th Thursday monthly, except May and December. Installation: 3rd Saturday, May.

#### *Ipoh*

Lodges in Ipoh meet at the Masonic Temple, Tiger Lane, Ipoh.

Kinta Lodge #3212 EC	Meets 1st Saturday monthly. Installation: April.
Napier Lodge #3418 EC	Meets 2nd Saturday monthly. Installation: September.
Lodge Angus #1529 SC	Meets 3rd Wednesday monthly. Installation: June.

### *Other lodges and meeting locations*

#### *English lodges*

Johore Royal Lodge #3946	Meets Freemasons' Hall, Jalan Scudai, Johore Bahru, Johore, Malaysia; 3rd Wednesday monthly. Installation: October.
Lodge Elliott #3557	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Koon Cheng Road, Malacca, Malaysia; 2nd Saturday monthly. Installation: January.
Johore Utara Lodge #5324	Meets at the Masonic Rooms, Muar Johore, Malaysia; 3rd Saturday monthly. Installation: February.

Negri Sembilan Lodge #3552	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Seremban, Negri Sembilan, East Malaysia; 1st Saturday monthly. Installation: January.
Lodge Kedah #3830	Meets at Freemasons' Hall, 27 Jalan Sekerat, Sungei Patani, Malaysia; 2nd Friday monthly, except August. Installation: 2nd Saturday, August.
Perak Jubilee Lodge #2225	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Tiaping, Kedah, Malaysia; 2nd Wednesday monthly, except December. Installation: 3rd Saturday, December.
Beaufort Lodge #7989	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, West Malaysia; Last Saturday monthly, except October, November and December. Installation: January.
Lodge Kinabalu #7047	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, West Malaysia; 2nd Thursday monthly. Installation: January.
Elopura Lodge #7545	Meets at Elopura Hall, Siburga Road, Sandakan, Sabah, West Malaysia; 2nd Saturday monthly. Installation: January.
Labuan Lodge #9652	Meets at the Masonic Hall, U0078 Jalan Merdeka, Labuan, Malaysia; 1st Saturday in February, May, August and November. Installation:

*Scottish lodges*

Lodge Sarawak #1452	Meets at the Masonic Hall, Batu Lintang Road, Kuching, Sarawak, West Malaysia; Last Tuesday, monthly (3rd Tuesday in December), except January. Installation: 3rd Saturday January.
Lodge Royal Pahang #1589	Meets at the Masonic Temple, Kuantan, Pahang, East Malaysia; 2nd Saturday monthly. Installation: March.

**SINGAPORE****District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago (EC)**

Address: Freemasons' Hall, 23A Coleman Street, Singapore 179806.

Telephone: (65) 337 7429, Fax: (65) 339 5862.

Lodges: 8 in Singapore (Malaysia: 21).

**District Grand Lodge of the Middle East (SC)**

Address: Read Masonic Temple, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Lodges: 2 in Singapore (8 in South East Asia).

*History*

Singapore Island sits off the southern tip of Eastern Malaysia. It is a former British colony, and remains the main commercial centre of South East Asia, as well as a popular tourist destination. Singapore currently possesses eight lodges forming part of an English District Grand Lodge, and two lodges forming part of a Scottish District. One Irish lodge also works in the country.

Singapore was long a British colony until it received independence as a separate nation after the Second World War. Freemasonry has, equally, had an extensive history on the island. The oldest surviving lodge is Zetland in the East Lodge #508, English-warranted in 1845. Of the two Scottish lodges now working in Singapore, the oldest is Lodge Ailsa #1172; established in 1918. Ireland was relatively late in entering the scene, with its only lodge dating from 1954. Lodges in Singapore now have a very high proportion of ethnic Chinese members. All lodges in the country work in complete harmony and meet at the same address.

*Notes for visitors*

All lodges meeting in Singapore commence at or about 6 pm to 7 pm. Dress is a dark lounge suit, although dinner suits are often worn by members to Installation meetings. The customs of Masonry in Singapore are largely similar to those already discussed in terms of Malaysia and Hong Kong, and therefore it is largely unnecessary to repeat those points here.

In the first instance, visitors should make their way to Freemasons' Hall, Coleman Street, where all lodges in Singapore meet, regardless of Constitution. This imposing edifice is staffed, and visitors will receive full fraternal assistance.

Also of great interest is the Singapore Masonic Club, founded in 1886. Membership is open to Freemasons belonging to the lodges who hold their meetings at Freemasons' Hall, Singapore, and they are

welcome to bring guests, both Masonic and non-Masonic. The latter may use the restaurant and visitors' lounge until 6 pm. Meals and drinks are signed for 'by chit' by members, as in other local clubs, and paid by monthly account. Members also receive a newsletter, *Coleman Street News*, free every month. Visiting Freemasons are especially welcomed, particularly those from overseas, both to the Club and at lodge meetings.

It is a matter of local pride to make visitors feel at home, and although they will rarely be called upon to pay, they are entitled to buy tickets over the Club bar to pay for food and drinks if they wish. The present Club premises, which date back 125 years, were extensively renovated in 1998. The kitchen, lounge, dining room and bar were all refurbished to a high standard, which includes a new polished wooden floor and wall panels, new furniture, furnishings and windows. The garden was also re-landscaped. Other facilities include a library, billiard table and a jackpot room. The offices of the District Grand Secretary are in the basement, together with a museum of Masonic artefacts and documents. Tours of the Temple may be booked in advance via the Club's General Manager.

### **List of lodges**

All lodges working in Singapore are detailed below, all meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Coleman Street. They meet monthly unless otherwise indicated.

Zetland in the East Lodge #508 EC	Meets 2nd Friday. Installation: December.
The Lodge of St. George #1152 EC	Meets 4th Friday. Installation: April.
Lodge of St. Michael #2933 EC	Meets on the 29th day of January, April, July and September. Installation: September.
Eastern Gate Lodge #2970 EC	Meets 3rd Thursday. Installation: July.
Lodge Singapore #7178 EC	Meets 1st Monday. Installation: February.
Stamford Raffles Lodge #7444 EC	Meets 1st Wednesday. Installation: September.
Horsburgh Lodge #7533 EC	Meets 2nd Thursday. Installation: January.
Centenary Lodge #7629 EC	Meets 4th Wednesday. Installation: October.
Lodge St Patrick #765 IC	Meets 2nd Wednesday. Installation: March.
Lodge Ailsa #1172 SC	Meets 4th Thursday. Installation: March.
Lodge St Andrew #1437 SC	Meets 3rd Monday. Installation: November.

## **THAILAND**

This country has seen relatively steady Masonic expansion in recent years, and currently possesses six lodges under four constitutions. The first lodge in the country was Lodge St John #1072, which was chartered for Bangkok in 1911 by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It reported directly to Edinburgh until 1953, when it elected to join the Scottish District Grand Lodge of the Middle East, based at Kuala Lumpur.

A number of interesting facts surround this lodge. In the early 1990s its membership stood at about 80, which included 17 Thai nationals. The lodge also had well over 100 *life members* resident outside Thailand. Average attendance at meetings was about 35, and the lodge had 33 office-bearers! In 1991, the lodge initiated its 300th candidate since the Second World War (an average of seven per year).

A second Scottish lodge was established in Thailand in 1993, sponsored jointly by Lodge St John and Lodge Scotia #1003 SC of Penang. Lodge Pattaya West Winds #1803 SC, meets at the popular Thai beach resort of Pattaya.

The two Scottish lodges were followed by *Loge Les Sept Niveaux de la Sagesse* #891, at Chiangmai, erected under the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF) in 1994. A second GLNF lodge, *Loge Tantawan* #985, followed at Bangkok in 1996. In addition, a Irish-warranted lodge, Morakot Lodge #945, was formed in Bangkok in 1995, and Siam Military Lodge #30, under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware also meets in Bangkok.

### **List of lodges**

Meeting details of the Scottish, Irish and GLNF lodges are as follows:

Lodge St John #1072 SC	Meets British Club, 189 Suriwongse Road, Bangkok 10500; Last Wednesday, monthly, except July and December (then 27 December—St John's Day), at 6.30 pm. Installation: January.
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Lodge Pattaya West Winds #1803 SC	Meets Nova Lodge Hotel, Cental Road, Pattaya City 20150; 2nd Saturday, October to May, at 6.30 pm.
Morakot Lodge #945 IC	Meets at the British Club, 189 Suriwongse Road, Bangkok 10500; Last Saturday, in January, March, April, June, August, and November, at 6.30 pm. Installation: November.
Loge les sept Niveaux de la Sagesse #891 GLNF	Meets variously, in Chiangmai; 3rd Saturday, monthly, at 8.30 pm, except January and February. Installation: October.
Loge Tantanwan #1030 GLNF	Meets at the British Club, 189 Suriwongse Road, Bangkok 10500; 3rd Monday, monthly, at 8.30 pm, except January and February. Installation: October.

## VIETNAM

Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos formerly comprised the French colony of Indo-China. Not surprisingly, French Masonry was attracted to the area and four lodges were erected in Vietnam under the Grand Orient of France. The first of these was *Loge la Fraternité Tonkinoise* (The Tonkinese Brotherhood), chartered at Hanoi in September, 1886. This was followed in November of the same year by *Loge le Réveil de l'Orient* (Awakening of the East) in Saigon, and in July 1892 by *Loge l'Étoile du Tonkin* (The Star of Tonkin) at Haiphong. A fourth lodge, *Les Fervents du Progrès* (The Enthusiasts of Progress) was established in Saigon in April 1913, though it later merged with *Le Réveil de l'Orient*.

During the colonial period the Grand Lodge of France also was active in Vietnam. It chartered *Loge la Ruche d'Orient #401* (Beehive of the Orient) at Saigon in June 1908, and *Loge les Écossais du Tonkin #442* (The Scots of Tonkin) in March 1912.

With the withdrawal of the French from Indo-China, following their military defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, Masonry expired in Vietnam, albeit temporarily. The arrival of American forces brought a number of Masons into South Vietnam. They were initially served by Biak-Na-Bato Lodge #7, located at Manila, in the Philippines, which initiated a large number of American military personnel.

In December 1966, 37 Masons belonging to 25 different US Grand Lodges petitioned the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and as a result obtained a dispensation to form a lodge at Saigon. This was Saigon Lodge #188, which was formally constituted by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in June 1969. Its membership consisted largely of American servicemen, and American and Filipino construction workers, although two Vietnamese nationals joined. During its life it was extremely busy, mostly meeting weekly. Its last meeting in Saigon occurred on 19 April 1975, eight days before the fall of the country to the communists. The records of Saigon Lodge went to Guam, and the lodge eventually moved to Manila where it continues to operate.

**Section 4****THE FAR EAST****Introduction**

China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Japan, Korea and Taiwan fit logically under this geographic heading, but the Philippines could as easily have been linked with South-East Asia or Oceania. However, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines has a presence in Japan and Korea, justifying its inclusion here. All these countries have a long history of Freemasonry, first from the British Isles and continental Europe, and (mostly later) from America.

It seems clear that in China the government would not look kindly on its nationals becoming Freemasons, but is prepared to tolerate existing English, Irish and Scottish Freemasonry in Hong Kong and Macau. In Korea there is no Masonry in the North, and in the South its presence is due to foreign military personnel, served by 16 lodges from five Prince Hall jurisdictions, as well as by three Scottish lodges and one from the Philippines.

The Philippines and Taiwan have their own Grand Lodges, and the Grand Lodge of Japan is happy to share its territory with lodges from England, Scotland, the Philippines, Massachusetts and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington.

**CHINA (including HONG KONG & MACAU)****District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong and the Far East (EC)**

Address: District Grand Secretary, Zetland Hall, 1 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.

Telephone & Fax: (852) 2571 7777.

Website: <<http://sky.air.com.hk/Masonic/>>

Lodges: 15 (Japan, 1)

**Provincial Grand Lodge of the Far East (IC)**

Address: Zetland Hall, 1 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.

Lodges: 4 in Hong Kong, (plus 1 alternatively in Macau).

**District Grand Lodge of the Far East (SC)**

Address: Zetland Hall, 1 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.

Lodges: 5 in Hong Kong, (Korea 3, Japan 2).

**History**

Freemasonry does not exist in China at the present time, outside Hong Kong and Macau. However, this was not always the case. The first known Masonic activity in China was that of a Swedish lodge with a travelling warrant attached to the Swedish East India ship *Prince Carl*, which reportedly met in Canton in 1759. A *Moderns* lodge, Amity #407, was erected at Canton in 1767, followed by Lodge Elisabeth #13 under Sweden, both of which worked until the turn of the century. Amity Lodge was erased in 1813.

Shortly after the Second World War, ten lodges holding warrants from England or Scotland were working in mainland China, all of which were established in the great seaports of Shanghai, Canton and Tientsin, and other smaller ports and cities like Hankow, Swatow, Foochow and Amoy. Freemasonry in Hong Kong is examined separately, below.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts maintained five lodges in China at this time, with three in Shanghai, and one each at Beijing and Tientsin. Ireland had also chartered one lodge, at Shanghai. Finally, China had six lodges warranted by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, giving a total of 22 mainstream lodges in mainland China prior to the communist takeover.

On 15 January 1949, the Philippines-chartered lodges, with a combined membership of about 600, formed the Grand Lodge of China. Scarcely had it been established when the communists came to power, which made further Masonic activity progressively more difficult. The communist government did not actually close lodges, *per se*. The demise of Masonry on the mainland was very largely achieved by a lack of members remaining in China. All the English, Scottish and Massachusetts lodges were either erased or moved from China to be re-erected elsewhere. Many of those that did manage to survive moved to Hong Kong. One of the Massachusetts lodges, Sinim, ended up in Tokyo. The infant Grand Lodge of China moved to Taiwan, where it still thrives (*see under Taiwan*).

Until 1997 when it was handed back to China, Hong Kong was a British Territory. It subsequently became a Special Administrative Region of China under a policy of 'one country, two systems'. Several formal meetings were held between Hong Kong's Masonic leaders and the *Basic Law Drafting Committee* regarding the future of Freemasonry after 1997. Happily, the Chinese authorities have expressed no objection to the continuation of Masonry in Hong Kong, and the future looks secure.

Hong Kong is one of the largest commercial centres in Asia, and remains a popular tourist destination. Freemasonry has long held a place in the life of the former colony. English and Scottish lodges range under relevant District Grand Lodges, while the five Irish lodges are under a Provincial Grand Master.

The oldest warranted lodge working in Hong Kong is Royal Sussex Lodge #501. It was originally established under England at Canton on mainland China in 1844. Subsequently it moved to Shanghai, and later to Hong Kong. Indeed, several lodges formerly working in China moved to Hong Kong when conditions on the mainland became untenable. Scotland's oldest lodge is Lodge Cosmopolitan #428, erected in 1864. Lodge Erin #463, established in 1919, is Ireland's premier lodge in the former colony. All Hong Kong lodges meet at Zetland Hall, which is one of the largest Masonic structures in the Far East. It contains two temples (known as the 'Blue Room' and the 'Red Room'), dining halls, administration areas, a library, and a museum. It is presently in the process of some renovations. The 50th anniversary of Zetland Hall will occur in 2000.

Freemasonry in Hong Kong has developed steadily over the years, with early post-war expansion being taken care of by lodges moving from mainland China. In recent years, further lodges have been erected, to continue this process. Aside from a British content, the membership of lodges in Hong Kong also consists of a substantial number of ethnic Chinese.

The former Portuguese colony of Macau, which reverted to China in late 1999, *shares* a lodge. This is the Sino-Lusitano Lodge of Macau #897 IC. It was warranted on 2 June 1988 to meet in Macau or in Hong Kong, as circumstances dictated. Presently, about half of its meetings are in each location (*see below*). Until recently the *Grande Oriente Lusitano* had a lodge in Macau, now transferred home to Portugal.

### ***Notes for visiting in Hong Kong and Macau***

#### MEETING TIMES, AND DRESS

Most lodges in Hong Kong meet at 6.30 pm, so a visitor should be in attendance by at least 6 pm, to enable the necessary avouchment procedures to take place. Installation meetings usually commence at 6 pm. Dress for ordinary meetings is a dark lounge suit or a white suit, and dark or black tie. Dinner suits are usually worn to Installations, although a visitor will still be made welcome if wearing a dark lounge suit.

#### LODGE AFTER-PROCEEDINGS

Almost all lodges in Hong Kong, regardless of affiliation, hold a dinner at the conclusion of a lodge meeting, to which visitors are welcome to attend. Usually, visitors will not be expected to pay for dinner, as most lodges have a levy which covers the cost of visitor's meals. However, the cost of alcoholic refreshments are paid for individually.

English Festive Boards often involve an extensive Toast List, while those toasts presented at the after-proceedings of Scottish and Irish lodges are often abbreviated. All lodges hold an extensive formal dinner after an Installation meeting, and a full Toast List is the norm. At ordinary meetings, the proceedings will normally conclude between 10.30 pm and 11 pm. A toast to the visitors is always proposed, often by the lodge's Junior Warden. One of the visitors will be given an opportunity to respond, although prior notice will be given. An overseas visitor has a far greater chance of 'winning' the visitor's response than a local visitor.

## VISITING IN GENERAL

The large majority of lodges in Hong Kong meet between September and May, recessing for the hot, humid summer months. During July and August in particular, Zetland Hall is virtually closed. If at all possible, it is advisable to visit Zetland Hall prior to attending a lodge meeting, to enable some notice to be given of an impending visit. Zetland Hall has a full-time staff of ten. Its main telephone numbers are: 2522 4404 (General Manager), and 2522 0643 (Operations Manager). The Zetland Hall email address is: <[Masonica@netvigator.com](mailto:Masonica@netvigator.com)>.

On arrival at a lodge meeting, a visitor will normally ask for the Junior Warden, who will arrange for the necessary procedures to be undertaken, usually by a Past Master. Visitors should bring their own regalia if possible, but usually regalia can be borrowed, if necessary. It is normal for members and visitors to assemble in the small dining room at Zetland Hall prior to a lodge meeting. The bar will be open. Usually, regardless of the Constitution of any lodge, visitors will enter the Temple with members prior to the opening. At the end of each meeting, visitors will normally be able to convey fraternal greetings to the Master and the lodge, although depending on the type of lodge this happens in slightly different ways.

Zetland Hall is located centrally on Hong Kong Island, and is easily found. It is reached on foot or by taxi from Admiralty Metro Station, the Star Ferry, or from the business centre. If using a taxi, simply ask the driver to drop you off at 'Number 1 Kennedy Road' or 'Ken-e-day do yat ho'. It is a five minute ride from downtown Central Hong Kong and should cost no more than thirty Hong Kong dollars for the trip from most hotels. Zetland Hall is architecturally a very interesting building, and visitors are especially directed to its library and museum, where they will discover much of interest.

Each lodge holds an annual Installation Meeting, which tends to be longer and more formal than an ordinary meeting. As the catering for the dinner following usually involves fairly large numbers, it is always greatly appreciated if a visitor can give notice of his intention to be present.

## INTERESTING LODGES

There are a large number of interesting lodges in Hong Kong, particularly from an historical perspective. That said, three lodges, amongst many, are of special interest.

*Lodge St David #903 IC* was constituted on 14 March 1990, as an 'Operative Lodge', but with a distinct bias towards Masonic *musical* research. It has a travelling warrant, enabling it to meet anywhere in Asia.. The Zetland Hall Choir draws most of its members from this lodge, together with a Corps of Heralds, and a range of other musical ensembles.

*Lodge Cosmopolitan #428 IC* was warranted on 7 March 1864 to meet in Shanghai, China. It is the oldest Scottish lodge in the Far East. It remained at work in the People's Republic of China until 1962, after which it moved to Hong Kong and became a lodge of instruction and research. Membership is open to Master Masons by affiliation, and Master Masons are welcome to attend to hear papers read.

*Paul Chater Lodge of Installed Masters #5391 EC* is Hong Kong's other lodge of research. It was founded in 1932, and has a worldwide reputation in Masonic research. It meets four times per year, and annually issues the combined (and excellent) *Cosmo-Chater Transactions*.

## MASONIC GOVERNMENT

The English and Scottish lodges are governed by District Grand Lodges, and the Irish by a Provincial Grand Lodge. These comprise a District (or Provincial) Grand Master, District (or Provincial) Grand officers, and the Masters and Wardens and Past Masters of lodges. They meet at regular intervals, generally with drinks and 'small chow' afterwards. These bodies administer Freemasonry locally, and enjoy a reasonable amount of independence from their 'home' Grand Lodges. It may be possible for visitors to attend a District or Provincial Grand Lodge meeting if so desired, but inquiries in this regard should be made well in advance at Zetland Hall.

***List of lodges****English lodges*

The English District comprises fifteen lodges, of which fourteen meet at Zetland Hall. The remaining lodge works in Kobe, Japan (*see under Japan, below*). Meeting details are as follows:

Royal Sussex Lodge #501	Meets 4th Wednesday monthly except August and December. Installation: October.
Zetland Lodge #525	Meets 1st Tuesday monthly. Inst: December.

Victoria Lodge of Hong Kong #1026	Meets 2nd Friday, October to June. Installation: March.
Perseverance Lodge of Hong Kong #1165	Meets 3rd Thursday, September to May. Installation: December
United Service Lodge #1341	Meets 2nd Monday, September to May. Installation: December.
Corinthian Lodge of Amoy #1806	Meets 3rd Monday, September to May. Installation: February.
Foochow Lodge #1912	Meets 3rd Friday, September to May. Installation: April.
Lodge Star of Southern China #2013	Meets 1st Monday, September to May. Installation: November.
University of Hong Kong Lodge #3666	Meets 4th Monday, September to May, except December. Installation: November.
Swatow Lodge #3705	Meets 1st Thursday, September to May. Installation: February.
Cathay Lodge #4373	Meets 1st Friday monthly, except August and September. Installation: April.
Paul Chater Lodge of Installed Masters #5391	Meets 4th Friday in April, May, and August. Installation: 4th Tuesday, January.
Rotarian Lodge of Hong Kong #9378	Meets Last Friday, February, April, June, July, August, and October. Installation: October.
The Lodge of Lu Pan #9387	Meets 2nd Tuesday, September to May. Installation: November.

### *Irish lodges*

The Irish Provincial Grand Lodge possesses five lodges, as follows:

Lodge Erin #463	Meets 3rd Wednesday, monthly, except July and August. Installation: October.
Shamrock Lodge #712	Meets 2nd Wednesday monthly, except July and August. Installation: February.
Emerald Lodge of Hong Kong #883	Meets last but one weekday, December, March, May, and October. Installation: October.
Sino-Lusitano Lodge of Macau #897	Meets 2nd Saturdays, March, May & October at the Royal Hotel, Macau; and 2nd Thursday in June, July, and August, and 1st Monday in December, at Zetland Hall, Hong Kong. Installation: June.
Lodge St David #903	Meets 2nd Friday in March, June, August and September. Installation: June.

### *Scottish lodges*

Five lodges comprise the Scottish District Grand Lodge, as follows:

Lodge Cosmopolitan #428	Meets 3rd Thursday in June, July, and August. Installation: July.
Lodge St Andrew-in-the-Far-East #493	Meets 3rd Thursday, monthly, except June, July, August, and December. Installation: November.
Lodge St John #618	Meets 2nd Tuesday monthly, except June, July, and August. Installation: December.
Lodge Naval & Military #848	Meets 1st Wednesday monthly, except June, July, and August. Installation: March.
Lodge Eastern Scotia #923	Meets 2nd Tuesday monthly, except June, July, and August. Installation: December.

## JAPAN

### **A Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Japan**

*Founded:* 1957. *Descent:* Philippines.

Address: Tokyo Masonic Center, 4-1-3 Shibakoen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011.

Telephone: (03) 3433-4981. Fax: (03) 3578 8440.

Email: <[masonic@iac.co.jp](mailto:masonic@iac.co.jp)>. Website: <<http://www.iac.co.jp/~Masonic/>>

Annual meeting: First Friday after second Monday of March.

Lodges: 18. Membership: 2508.

Publications: *Constitutions*, *Annual Proceedings*, *Masonic Directory*.

Periodical (newspaper): *Masonic Shimbun*.

### *History*

Japan has had a fairly short Masonic history, having taken its Masonic inspiration largely from the Philippines and the United States. Aside from its own Grand Lodge, there are in Japan lodges warranted from England, Scotland, Massachusetts, the Philippines, and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington.

The first lodges in Japan were chartered from England. Five lodges were erected between 1866 and 1883, but only one (Rising Sun Lodge #1401) survived the Second World War. It was founded in 1872, and works at Kobe. Scotland was slightly more fortunate with its offspring. The Grand Lodge of Scotland chartered

three lodges in the 1870s, two of which survived the War. They are Lodge Hiogo and Osaka #498, at Kobe; and Lodge Star in the East #640, at Yokohama.

Subsequent to WWII, Japan found itself occupied by American Forces, among whom were many Masons. In order to accommodate the desire for these Masons to meet as such, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines established several lodges in Japan from 1950 onwards. The Philippines would appear to have been the logical warranting authority, in view of its relative proximity to Japan, and the fact that its lodges worked American Webb-form ritual, derived from California. By 1952, the Philippines lodges in Japan had over 900 members.

In 1947, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut chartered a lodge in Tokyo, but it did not survive. However, Japan does possess one lodge warranted under Massachusetts, working in Tokyo since 1952. This is Sinim Lodge, which was originally erected on mainland China more than 80 years ago. The communist takeover of China saw it move first to Hong Kong, and then to its present home.

By 1957, the Philippines-chartered lodges felt strong enough to form their own Grand Lodge, and fifteen lodges then working under that obedience came together for the purpose. Three Philippines lodges decided to remain under their parent Grand Lodge in Manila, of which only two have survived. The new Grand Lodge reported a membership of 10,500. However, as time elapsed the American military presence in Japan declined, and the Japanese Grand Lodge suffered falling numbers as a result. This trend has continued down to the present time. It needs to be borne in mind that the majority of members under the Grand Lodge are not Japanese nationals. Currently, less than a quarter of its membership consists of ethnic Japanese, but this number is increasing. In 1998 the Grand Lodge reported 18 lodges, with a membership of 2508—and in 2000, no change! Possibly the greatest event in Japanese Masonic history occurred on 7 November 1981, when the new Tokyo Masonic Center, a magnificent edifice located next to the Tokyo Tower, was dedicated.

### *Notes for visitors*

Dress for Japanese lodges is a dark lounge suit, although some members can be found attending in a jacket and tie. Visitors are welcome to bring and wear their own regalia, although spare regalia is available. Lodges mostly open between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm, with the majority commencing at 7 pm. An informal light supper follows each meeting, and visitors may be called upon to speak. A charity collection is often taken. Inside the lodge, visitors can extend fraternal greetings during the closing ceremony. Visitors should note that all official Masonic functions are 'dry'—no alcohol is permitted. This also extends to Sinim Lodge (under Massachusetts) and the two Philippines lodges, but not to lodges under England and Scotland. The English lodge at Kobe follows the English practice of festive boards, while Scottish lodges adhere to the *harmony* practices of Scotland. While visitors can readily visit any Japanese lodge, it is an appreciated courtesy to call first at the Tokyo Masonic Center, if possible.

Japanese lodges work a form of Webb ritual, with small variations, inherited from the Philippines, which in turn derived its ritual from California. Thus, the content and form of Japanese ritual is largely similar to general American practices. Its central features include the opening and closing of lodge meetings in the third degree, strict proficiency examinations for candidates, and a very full and dramatic third degree ceremony. A fuller discussion of aspects of Webb ritual forms is contained in Volume 1, under the heading of the United States.

Most Japanese lodges work in the English language, with ethnic Japanese Masons being bilingual. However, in order to attract wider membership, the Grand Lodge of Japan has translated the ritual into Japanese. Two translations are available. The first publication was formalised in *archaic* Japanese, while the second edition is in modern Japanese. The archaic Japanese is mostly understood only by older, well-educated Japanese. Due to a change in the law, which reduced the number of *characters* in the language, the modern (colloquial) version of the ritual was necessary to meet the understanding of younger Japanese. In any case, the task of converted the 'old English forms' into the Japanese language was not an easy task.

### *List of lodges*

As Japan is a popular tourist destination, and has only a relatively small number of lodges, details of each are provided below.

Far East Lodge #1	Meets at Masonic Temple, 250 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi; 2nd Saturday, at 2 pm. Telephone: (045) 621 7105. Postal Address: PO Box 121, Yokohama Port, Japan 231-91.
Tokyo Masonic Lodge #2	Meets at the Tokyo Masonic Center, Tokyo; 1st Thursday, at 7 pm.

- Square and Compasses Lodge #3 Meets at Kunitachi Masonic Kyokai, 3-1-2-1, Naka 3-chome, Kunitachi-Shi, Tokyo; 1st Sunday, at 1 pm.
- Kyoto Masonic Lodge #5 Meets at Masonic Building, 3-166 Ebisu-cho, Higashi, Sanjyo-Shirakawabashi, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto; 1st Tuesday, at 6.30 pm.
- Torii Masonic Lodge #6 Meets at 2-6-3 Aoi, Higashiku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi-ken; 1st Monday, at 7 pm. Telephone: (052) 937 3962. Postal Address: PO Box 80, Nagoya-shi, Aichi-ken, Japan 464 91.
- Honshu Lodge #8 Meets at Kunitachi Masonic Kyokai, 3-1-2-1, Naka 3-chome, Kunitachi-Shi, Tokyo; 1st Monday, at 7 pm.
- Nippon Lodge #9 Meets at Rage Building, 202 336 Hino-cho, Sasebo-shi, Nagasaki-ken, Japan. Postal Address: PSC 476 Box 563 FPO AP 96322-0008; 1st Wednesday, at 5:30 pm.
- Aomori Lodge #10 Meets at Masonic Building, Shimokubo Aza, Misawa, Oaza, Misawa-shi, Aomori-ken. Telephone: (0176) 53 4396. Postal Address: PO Box 16, Misawa, Japan 033 33; 1st Tuesday, at 7 pm.
- Tokyo Yuai Lodge #11 Meets at Tokyo Masonic Center, Tokyo; 1st Monday, at 7 pm.
- Sagamihara Masonic Lodge #13 Meets at Unit 4500, Camp Zama (USA Military Base) Telephone: (462) 51 1520 Ext. 263-5370. Postal Address: PO Box 1, Zama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan 228; 1st Tuesday at 7 pm. Email: <[sagamihara13@usa.net](mailto:sagamihara13@usa.net)>.
- Kokusai Lodge #15 Meets at 3-1-5 Futaba-cho, Hamura-shi, Tokyo. Telephone: (0425) 518 416. Postal Address: PO Box 12, Fussa-shi, Tokyo, Japan 197; 1st Thursday at 7 pm. Email: <[phil@susitna.com](mailto:phil@susitna.com)> or <[philam@ibm.net](mailto:philam@ibm.net)>.
- Kintai Lodge #16 Meets at the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni; 1st Wednesday, at 7 pm. Telephone: (0827) 214 171, ext. 253-3574. Postal Address: PSC 561 Box 659, APO AP 96310-0659.
- Hokkaido Centennial Lodge #17 Meets at Hokuei 2-chome, Chitose-shi, Hokkaido; 1st Tuesday at 7 pm. Postal Address: PO Box 17, Chitose-shi, Hokkaido, Japan.
- Harmony Lodge #18 Meets at the Tokyo Masonic Center, Tokyo; 2nd Wednesday, at 6.30 pm.
- Teikoku Lodge #19 Meets at Okinawa Masonic Temple, 717-1 Yagibaru, Kitanakagusuku-son, Nakagami-gun, Okinawa-ken; 1st Monday at 7 pm. Telephone: (098) 933 2506/2507. Postal Address: PO Box 207, Okinawa, Japan 904.
- Yokosuka Lodge #20 Meets at the Fraternal Center (Building B-53), Yokosuka Naval Base; Yokosuka; 1st Tuesday, at 6.30 pm.
- De Molay Land Lodge #22 Meets Tokyo Masonic Center, Tokyo; 1st Sat.
- Research Lodge of Japan Meets Tokyo Masonic Center, Tokyo; 1st Thursday at 7 pm.
- English lodge*
- Rising Sun Lodge #1401 Meets at Kirby Hall, Kobe Club, 4-15-1, Kitano-cho, 4 chome, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650 0002; 3rd Thursday, at 7 pm, October to May, except January. Installation: 3rd Saturday, January. Phone (Temple) 078-221-5421.
- Scottish lodges*
- Lodge Hiogo and Osaka #498 Meets at Kirby Hall, Kobe Club, 4-15-1, Kitano-cho, 4 chome, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650 0002; 3rd Thursday, October to May, at 7 pm; except December (then 2nd Saturday, at 5 pm). Telephone: (Temple) 078 221 5421.
- Lodge Star-in-the-East #640 Meets at Masonic Temple, 250 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama; 2nd Tuesday, September to June, at 7.30 pm. Telephone (Temple): (45) 621-7105. Postal Address: PO Box 97, Yokohama 231-91, Japan.
- Massachusetts lodge*
- Sinim Lodge Meets at the Tokyo Masonic Center, Tokyo; 3rd Tuesday, except July and August, at 7 pm.
- Philippines lodges*
- Okinawa Lodge #118 Meets at Okinawa Masonic Temple, 717-1, Yagiburu, Kitanakagusuku-son, Okinawa 901-23; 2nd Tuesday, at 7.30 pm. Telephone: (98) 933 2506, or 933 2507
- Rising Sun Lodge #151 Meets at Building No T-733, Camp Zama (US Military Base); 1st Thursday, at 6 pm. Address: PO Box 12, Zama 228, Japan.
- Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington lodges*
- Cherry Blossom Lodge #42 Meets at Yokota Air Base, Japan; 1st and 3rd Fridays.
- Torii Lodge #46 Meets at Okinawa.
- O'Misawa Lodge #54 Meets at Misawa.
- Pride of the Orient Lodge #55 Meets at Camp Zama; 2nd and 4th Fridays.
- Genesis Lodge #89 Meets at Iwakuni MCAS.
- Revelations Lodge #97 Meets at Yokosuka Navy Base, Japan; 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

## KOREA

It would appear that North Korea has never possessed a Masonic lodge. In view of the fact that this country is communist-controlled, it would seem fairly certain that none will be erected in the near future.

The situation in South Korea is considerably happier. It possesses three lodges holding charters from Scotland, and one erected under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The first of the Scottish lodges, Lodge Han Yang #1048, was established in 1908 by British, Canadian and American miners, merchants and missionaries. It was never large in membership, and the Second World War saw it suspend activities in 1941. It revived after the War, only to face the same fate in 1950, during the Korean War. However, the large influx of American troops during and after that War gave the lodge new impetus. Two other Scottish lodges have been erected in more recent times. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines chartered two lodges in the 1970s, MacArthur Lodge #183, meeting at Seoul, and Morning Calm Lodge #189, meeting at Tongdunch'on. The two lodges merged, under the name and charter of MacArthur Lodge, in 1996.

The membership of all four mainstream lodges in Korea is composed largely of American servicemen, with a few Scots, English, Canadians and Koreans. Lodge Pusan #1675 SC claims to have the largest percentage of Korean members, but Lodge Harry S Truman #1727 SC is probably the most cosmopolitan. The Scottish lodges are administratively attached to the Scottish District Grand Lodge of the Far East, based in Hong Kong, while the Filipino lodge is governed directly from Manila. They share a website at:

<<http://www.geocities.com/koreanlodges>>, administered by Garry Welch <mugs@mindless.com>.

Dress for all mainstream lodges is dark suit and tie, with a dinner suit (tuxedo) as an option for installations. Meetings are followed by a Harmony (*see under Scotland for a full description*). Meeting details of all four lodges are as follows:

### *Scottish lodges*

Lodge Han Yang #1048	Meets at the Seoul Club, 208 Jangchoog-dong 2-ka, Chung-ku, Seoul, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, September to June, at 7.30 pm. Installation: December.
Lodge Pusan #1675	Meets in Building 1020, Camp Hialeah, 20th Area Support Group, U. S. Army Pound, Korea, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, September to June, at 6.30 pm.
Lodge Harry S Truman #1727	Meets at Freemasons' Hall, Pyongtaek, Kyonggi-Do, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, monthly, at 7 pm. Installation: December.

### *Philippines lodge*

MacArthur Lodge #183	Meets at the Seoul Club, Samilro Building, Seoul, 1st Friday, monthly, at 6 pm. Installation: January.
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### *PHA lodges*

Military lodges of five Grand Lodges of Prince Hall Affiliation meet in Korea, namely Colorado (6 lodges), Georgia (1), Oklahoma (8), Texas (1) and Washington (1). Meeting details are given below for the Georgia lodge. Intending visitors to the other lodges should inquire of the parent Grand Lodges (*see volume 1*), or at military bases in the following locations:

Camp Casey	Billy G Miller Lodge #43 OK
Camp Eagle, Long Wonju	Mack T Ewing Military Lodge #31 CO
Camp Humphreys, Pyongtaek	Beehive Military Lodge #66 OK
	William Roscoe Military Lodge #28 CO
Camp Page, Chunchon	Charles H Green Military Lodge #29 CO
Kusan Air Base	Anchor and Ark Military Lodge #64 OK
Osan Air Base	Otis Hopkins Lodge #10 OK
Pusan	Plumblin Military Lodge #67 OK
Pyongtaek	William Roscoe Military Lodge #28 CO
Seoul (Yongsan Garrison)	M E Saunders Military Lodge #32 CO
Seoul	Prince Hall Military Lodge #141 OK
Taegu/Waegon	Andrew Baskin Military Lodge #65 OK
	Samuel Hunter Jr Lodge #30 CO
Tongdunch'on	Marion Douglass Lodge #33 CO

Uijongbu I H Clayborn Lodge #61 OK  
 (Unknown) Joseph Telfair Sr Military Lodge #643 TX  
 II Corinthians Lodge #96 WA.  
 Perfect Ashlar Lodge #587 GA Meets at Camp Stanley on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10 am.

### Research

There is also a research group, the Korea Chapter of the Philalethes Society International. Meeting details are obtainable in Pusan from Mike Alexander, Box 364, Education Center, AP0 AP 96259-0558, or email Garry Welch <mugs@mindless.com>.

## PHILIPPINES

### A Grand Lodge of the Philippines

*Founded:* 1917. *Descent:* California.

Address: Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino St, Ermita, Manila.

Telephone: (632) 524 3263 or (632) 522 2232. Fax: (632) 522 2218.

Email: <tracker@iconn.com.ph>, <glphils@epic.net>.

Website: <<http://www.chaumont.com/freemasonry.html>>.

Lodges: 278. Membership: 16,676.

Ritual: Webb-form.

Publications: Grand Lodge *Proceedings*, *Constitution*.

Periodical: *Cabletow* (bi-monthly).

### History

The Philippines has had a long, although not always happy, Masonic history. Its mainstream Grand Lodge dates from 1917.

Freemasonry appears to have come to the Philippines about the 1760s, with merchants and mariners. While no records seem to exist of early lodges, there must have been some activity, as in 1812 the government banned Freemasonry, ordered the expulsion of Masons from the Islands, and the confiscation of their property. In context, it needs to be appreciated that the Philippines was then a Spanish possession with Roman Catholicism dominant. This ban appears to have been rigorously enforced, at least until the 1850s.

The first recorded lodge erected in the Philippines was established with a Portuguese charter in 1856, to be followed by a German lodge. In the 1880s, the Grand Orient of Spain warranted four lodges, and these started to admit Philippine nationals, among the first of whom was Jose Rizal, regarded as 'the Father of the Philippines'. The Craft continued to be repressed until the Spanish–American War of 1888, which saw the end of Spanish rule. Finally, Freemasonry was in a position to develop peacefully.

A number of American lodges were soon erected, mostly with Californian charters. By 1901, the Grand Orient of France had three lodges working in the country. Scotland erected Lodge Perla del Oriente #1034 in 1907; and Lodge Cebu #1106 in 1912. The former still works happily in Manila, while the latter subsequently expired.

By 1917, the Craft in the Philippines was strong enough to form a sovereign Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines was born. Its principal sponsors were three Californian lodges, which were later joined by several lodges under the Grand Orient of Spain, and by one lodge chartered from Portugal. The Grand Lodge has developed steadily since, although in its early days it did suffer two minor schisms which remain unhealed (*see below*).

### Notes for visitors

All constituent lodges of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines work an American-type Webb-form ritual, closely aligned to the Californian. Consequently, lodges open in the third degree and conduct normal lodge business at separate meetings. Somewhat consequential to its parentage in the Masonic sense, the 'higher' degrees are popular in the Philippines, particularly the Scottish Rite. The majority of Philippines lodges meet at a time between 6 pm and 7.30 pm, and meetings are followed by a light supper, or in some cases

preceded by one. Refreshments served at such suppers may not be alcoholic. Toasts in the English sense are not known, although there may be a few short addresses, and visitors recognised. Dress used by Philippines Masons is almost invariably the *barong*, which is a national dress. It consists of a particularly fine cotton shirt, worn with open neck, and dark trousers. These *barongs* often feature coloured embroidery. Visitors are welcome to wear a lounge suit, or jacket and tie, but they may feel slightly out of place in such attire. Therefore an open-neck shirt and dark pants are advised. Visitors can bring and use their own regalia, although this will be supplied if necessary.

Administratively, the Philippines lodges are divided into 50 districts, each under a District Deputy Grand Master. All Grand Lodge offices are elective, and the Grand Lodge meets annually, in April.

### **List of lodges**

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines currently has over 270 lodges, increasing annually. Meeting details are published annually in English in an issue of the *Cabletow* magazine, and are also obtainable from the Grand Lodge office at Manilla. The Grand Lodge website (*see above*) lists contact information for secretaries of all lodges, and (at time of going to press) is in the process of developing a 'clickable' map of the Philippines and 'overseas' lodges. Details of lodges in Guam, Korea, and Japan, under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, are given in this volume under the appropriate headings.

### **B Prince Hall lodges**

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington has a lodge in the Philippines, Mabuhay Military Lodge #59, meeting at Manila. Happily, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is in amity with this Grand Lodge.

### **C Other lodges and Grand Lodges**

As a result of early schisms in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, the *Gran Logia del Archipelago Filipino*, and the *Grande Orient Filipino*, were formed, and (although unrecognised by mainstream Masonry) both still work in the country.

A body styled the Grand United Masons of China is established in the Philippines; it may also have branches in Taiwan. Little has been discovered about it, but the following appear to be associated with it in the Philippines:

- Progressive Masons Club, Inc. (Ching Po Tong)
- Chee Kung Tong, Chinese Free Mason Lodge No.2
- Peng Kong Grand Mason
- Tiok Lim Free Mason Lodge No.4
- Philippine Harmonious Grand Masons.

## **TAIWAN (Republic of China)**

### **A Grand Lodge of China**

*Founded:* 1949. *Descent:* Philippines.

Address: China Masonic Temple, 10, Lane 201, Chang-an East Road, Sec. 2, Taipei 10406, Taiwan.

Telephone: (886 2) 2 771 3310. Fax: (886 2) 2 741 3971.

Lodges: 10. Membership: 754.

Publications: *Constitution*.

### **History**

The Masonic history of Taiwan is partly also that of China. The first lodge in China, Amity Lodge #407 EC, was established in the late 1700s in Kwantong province in 1767. It met for forty-six years until 1813; when it was erased upon the English Masonic union of that year. However by 1886, there were thirteen English lodges, four Scottish, one American and one Irish lodge working in Hong Kong and various other areas of China.

By agreement with the Chinese Imperial Government, lodge membership was restricted to non-Chinese nationals, and it was not until 1930 that a group of American and Chinese Masons, all of whom had joined abroad, decided to form a lodge in China, for the purpose initiating Chinese citizens.

This group first petitioned the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a dispensation, but this was denied. They then successfully applied to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Thus, Amity Lodge #106 was chartered on 27 January 1931 at Peking. The Philippines also chartered Nanking Lodge #108 (Nanking), Pearl River Lodge #109 (Canton), Szechwan Lodge #112 (Chentu), West Lake Lodge #113 (Hangchow) and Sun Lodge #114 (Shanghai).

World War Two saw all lodges suspend their activities, but work resumed after the cessation of hostilities. The six lodges under the Grand Lodge of Philippines decided to establish a Grand Lodge of China, and this was duly consecrated at the Masonic Hall in Shanghai on 18 March 1949. The six lodges were re-chartered with their original names, but were re-numbered as follows:

Amity Lodge #1	Szechwan Lodge #4
Nanking Lodge #2	West Lake Lodge #5
Pearl River Lodge #3	Sun Lodge #6

Upon the accession to power of the Communist Government in 1949, pressure was applied to Freemasonry, and by 1951 the Grand Lodge of China had ceased to function in Shanghai. It temporarily moved to Hong Kong, with little more than a few files and its Grand Lodge regalia.

Following the fall of mainland China to communism, a large number of Chinese moved to Taiwan. A *Square and Compasses Club* was formed in Taipei as a focus for local Masons, and in 1951 a petition was submitted to the Grand Lodge of China, in Hong Kong, for the creation of a new lodge. The Grand Master subsequently travelled to Taipei and consecrated Liberty Lodge #7.

The Grand Lodge of China was reactivated on Taiwan in 1955. Amity Lodge #1 recommenced work in the same year, Pearl River Lodge #3 at Tainan, and Sun Lodge #6 at Taipei in 1956, and Szechwan Lodge #4 at Taichung in 1957. In 1961, the Grand Lodge decided to translate its Masonic ritual and monitor into Chinese. This process took a decade to achieve.

In recent years the Grand Lodge has progressed steadily. Han Lodge #8 was chartered on 28 October 1972, the first in Taiwan to work exclusively in the Chinese language. In December 1985, Tang Lodge #9 was established, to be followed by Harmony Lodge #10 on 29 November 1997. A further lodge, High Sun Lodge UD, was established in October 1999.

### *Notes for visitors*

Dress for lodge meetings in Taiwan is a normally a dark business suit, black tie or bow tie, and in some lodges white gloves. Some lodges prescribe a dinner suit (tuxedo), at least for officers, but all visitors will be most welcome in a dark business suit. All lodges in Taiwan work in English, except Han #8, Harmony #10, and High Sun UD, which work in Mandarin Chinese. Tang #9 works in both English and Mandarin.

The China Masonic Temple in Taipei does not have dining facilities, so most lodges adjourn to a local restaurant after a meeting. Alcohol is permitted, but in moderation.

All lodges hold a stated meeting monthly, in the American pattern, inherited via the Philippines. They hold additional meetings, as necessary, to work degree ceremonies. In most years, lodges hold their Installation meetings in either August or September, but the dates are not fixed.

### *List of lodges*

All working lodges under the Grand Lodge of China meet in the China Masonic Temple in Taipei, except Pearl River Lodge #3, which meets at the Kaohsiung Masonic Temple. The stated meetings of lodges in Taiwan are held as follows:

Amity Lodge #1	Meets 3rd Friday, at 6.30 pm.
Pearl River Lodge #3	Meets 1st Saturday, at 6 pm.
Szechwan Lodge #4	Meets 2nd Saturday, at 9 am.
Sun Lodge #6	Meets 1st Friday, at 6 pm.
Liberty Lodge #7	Meets 3rd Thursday, at 6 pm.
Han Lodge #8	Meets 3rd Saturday, at 5 pm.
Tang Lodge #9	Meets 2nd Saturday, at 7 pm.

Harmony Lodge #10 Meets 2nd Wednesday, at 6 pm.  
High Sun UD Meets 2nd Friday, at 6 pm.

**B Other lodges and Grand Lodges**

A body styled the Grand United Masons of China is established in the Philippines, and may also have branches in Taiwan. Little has been discovered about it, but the following appear to be associated with it:

- Progressive Masons Club, Inc. (Ching Po Tong)
- Chee Kung Tong, Chinese Free Mason Lodge No.2
- Peng Kong Grand Mason
- Tiok Lim Free Mason Lodge No.4
- Philippine Harmonious Grand Masons.