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January 2020

## ANNUAL CIRCULAR No 137

Dear Sir and Brother,

This Annual Circular comprises a report on the activities of the Order since 1st January 2019, notices of forthcoming events, announcements of administrative changes, reminders about certain Rules and guidance and instructions on relations with foreign jurisdictions.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 2020

Following the recent retirement of V.:P.:Bro Sir Frederick Crawford DL 33°, Past Lieutenant Grand Commander, and M.:Ill.:Bro A W Hanbury-Bateman 33°, Past Grand Marshal, Membership of the Supreme Council 33° stands as follows:

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| M.:P.:Bro A J Englefield 33°                   | Sovereign Grand Commander       |
| V.:P.:Bro G D A Elgood 33°                     | Lieutenant Grand Commander      |
| M.:Ill.:Bro the Revd Dr J R H Railton 33°      | Grand Prior                     |
| M.:Ill.:Bro the Rt Hon the Lord Wigram MVO 33° | Grand Marshal                   |
| M.:Ill.:Bro D K Williamson 33°                 | Grand Chancellor                |
| M.:Ill.:Bro R E Furber 33°                     | Grand Captain General           |
| M.:Ill.:Bro John Boyington CBE 33°             | Grand Treasurer General H.: E.: |
| M.:Ill.:Bro J A F Thom QC 33°                  | Grand Chamberlain               |
| M.:Ill.:Bro Dr G R E Shilson 33°               | Grand Secretary General H.: E.: |

### SUMMARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

During the period under review Members of the Supreme Council held seven meetings of the 33°, conducted twelve meetings of the Higher Degrees (during which 627 Brethren were invested), installed ten Inspectors General, re-presented patents to four Inspectors General, consecrated two Chapters and visited the Districts of Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, West Cheshire, Cumberland & Westmorland, Durham, North Essex, Gloucestershire & Herefordshire, East Kent, North West Lancashire, South East Lancashire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Sussex, North Wales, Yorkshire (North & East Ridings), Yorkshire (West Riding), Hong Kong and South Africa, Western Cape. The Supreme Council also visited its unattached Chapters in Malaysia and Singapore. Visits were made to the Supreme Councils for Andorra, the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America and Latvia, and to the Icelandic and Swedish Orders of Freemasons. During the year, Members of the Supreme Councils for Cyprus, Finland, Romania, New Zealand and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America attended meetings at Duke Street.

### 33RD DEGREE

The Supreme Council records with great regret the death of the following members of the 33°:

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| V.:Ill.:Bro Colonel R K Hind 33°      |   |
| V.:Ill.:Bro P Waring OER 33°          | Past Grand Director of Ceremonies   |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Dr D J O Robbin-Coker 33° | Inspector General for Sierra Leone & The Gambia   |
| V.:Ill.:Bro J Ball 33°                | Past Sovereign Grand Commander for Australia<br>(and Honorary Member of this Supreme Council) |
| V.:Ill.:Bro A S Brass 33°             | Past Inspector General for East Africa  |
| V.:Ill.:Bro R E Stone 33°             | Inspector General for Berkshire   |

The 33rd and last Degree was conferred on the following Brethren:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| V.:Ill.:Bro S Robinson 33°                | Inspector General, Yorkshire, North & East Ridings    |
| V.:Ill.:Bro N K Edwards 33°               | Inspector General, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire       |
| V.:Ill.:Bro R N Westerdale 33°            | Inspector General, Zimbabwe                           |
| V.:Ill.:Bro D J Cresswell 33°             | Grand Organist  |
| V.:Ill.:Bro R J Smith 33°                 | Pro Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons   |
| V.:Ill.:Bro E G Malherbe 33°              | Inspector General, South Africa, Western Cape         |
| V.:Ill.:Bro G R Jones 33°                 | Inspector General, South East Lancashire              |
| V.:Ill.:Bro R J Robertson 33°             | Inspector General, Suffolk                            |
| V.:Ill.:Bro I D A Carrol 33°              | Inspector General, Sierra Leone and The Gambia        |
| V.:Ill.:Bro I C Smith 33°                 | Inspector General, Yorkshire, West Riding             |
| V.:Ill.:Bro the Rt Revd A K O'R Lewis 33° | Inspector General, North Eastern Caribbean            |
| V.:Ill.:Bro P Hillyard 33°                | Inspector General, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Wessex  |
| V.:Ill.:Bro J M Booth 33°                 | Inspector General, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire |

The Supreme Council has been pleased to extend the following patents for a further five years:

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| V.:Ill.:Bro G C Higgs 33°                | West Kent                    |
| V.:Ill.:Bro Major A O'B Campbell CBE 33° | South Eastern Caribbean      |
| V.:Ill.:Bro A A Lazarus 33°              | Jamaica & the Cayman Islands |
| V.:Ill.:Bro the Revd P P Paterson 33°    | Durham                       |
| V.:Ill.:Bro D Bowden 33°                 | Cumberland & Westmorland     |
| V.:Ill.:Bro P G Jones 33°                | Oxfordshire                  |
| V.:Ill.:Bro A Le Tissier 33°             | Channel Islands              |
| V.:Ill.:Bro D W Philips 33°              | Staffordshire & Shropshire   |
| V.:Ill.:Bro D R B Brown 33°              | Sussex                       |

## OFFICIALS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce the following promotion and appointment:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ill.:Bro C P Noon 32°        | Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies    |
| Ill.:Bro A R Brumwell JP 31° | Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies |

## STAFF

Crystal Burgess, Personal Assistant to the Grand Secretary General, left Headquarters on 18th September 2019. The Supreme Council extends its sincere thanks to her and wishes her well in the future. We welcome Mrs Dawn Waters to Duke Street as the new Personal Assistant to the Grand Secretary General.

## CHAPTERS

A Warrant has been granted for Rhodri Fawr Chapter No. 1218 (North Wales).

Centenary Warrants were granted during the year to William de Irwin Chapter No. 28, Earl of Huntingdon Chapter No. 201, Richard Gill Chapter No. 202, Thornton Chapter No. 203, Caedmon Chapter No. 204, St George of England Chapter No. 205 and Londesborough Chapter No. 208.

The following Chapters surrendered their Warrants to the Supreme Council: Walter M Hamilton Chapter No. 195, Royal Forest Chapter No. 693 (South Essex), Gauntlet Chapter No. 735 (Middlesex), Saint Mary's Abbey Chapter No. 903 and Poulton-le-Fylde Chapter No. 1147 (North West Lancashire).

## HIGHER DEGREE MEETINGS OVERSEAS

Meetings of Higher Degrees were held in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa.

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

972 candidates were Perfected in the year to 30th June 2019 compared with 1,024 in the previous year. The number of subscriptions received fell by 490 from last year to 26,271. The number of extant Chapters on 30th June 2019 was 913 with an average membership of 29. The average age of candidates for Perfection was 56.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

The Supreme Council is currently in amity with the following jurisdictions:

- a) The Supreme Councils for the United States of America (the Southern Jurisdiction and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction), Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Haiti, India, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- b) The Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish Orders of Freemasons.

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that relations with any body styling itself the Supreme Council for Greece are currently suspended.

If you intend to visit a Chapter of a jurisdiction with which we are in amity, other than Scotland or Ireland, please obtain your Inspector General's approval in advance. The same applies if you wish to invite a member of another jurisdiction to visit your Chapter. If you wish to visit a Chapter under the Supreme Council for Ireland, you must contact the office of the Grand Secretary General beforehand.

Communications between Supreme Councils are normally conducted by Grand Secretaries General. Brethren should therefore not attempt, without the Grand Secretary General's prior permission, to make direct contact with another jurisdiction.

#### FINANCE – YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

|  | 2019                    | 2018                    |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Balance Sheet:</b>                  | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                |
| Fixed Assets                           | 1,061,687               | 1,068,848               |
| Investments                            | 1,251                   | 1,251                   |
| Net Current Assets                     | <u>741,406</u>          | <u>688,368</u>          |
|  | 1,804,344               | 1,758,467               |
| Provisions                             | (324,536)               | (324,536)               |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                      | <b><u>1,479,808</u></b> | <b><u>1,433,931</u></b> |
| <b>Capital Fund</b>                    | <b><u>1,479,808</u></b> | <b><u>1,433,931</u></b> |
| <b>Income and Expenditure Account:</b> |                         |                         |
| <b>Income from:</b>                    |                         |                         |
| Members                                | 661,597                 | 667,459                 |
| Rent/Hire of Temples                   | 211,996                 | 213,844                 |
| Investments & Deposits                 | <u>-</u>                | <u>625</u>              |
|  | <u>873,593</u>          | <u>881,928</u>          |
| <b>Expenditure:</b>                    |                         |                         |
| Staff Costs                            | 403,927                 | 363,250                 |
| Building Admin/Maintenance             | 215,139                 | 193,658                 |
| Office Administration                  | 92,219                  | 77,489                  |
| Council Activities                     | <u>116,431</u>          | <u>94,875</u>           |
|  | 827,716                 | 729,272                 |
| Charges to Provisions                  | -                       | 125,000                 |
| Surplus for the year                   | <u>45,877</u>           | <u>27,656</u>           |
|  | <u>873,593</u>          | <u>881,928</u>          |

The above is extracted from the accounts audited by haysmacintyre, Chartered Accountants. If any member of the Order wishes to view the audited accounts, he may do so with prior notification to the office.

#### ANNUAL DUES AND FEES

The Supreme Council has decided that the Annual Dues payable on 1st July 2020 will remain at £20.00 (plus VAT where applicable) for every subscribing member of each Chapter during all or part of the preceding year. Districts overseas (except where special arrangements apply) will continue to remit £16.00 per subscribing member, retaining the balance of £4.00 to help defray District costs.

#### DISTRICT/GROUP LEVIES

The maximum levy that each Inspector General is authorised to make on each subscribing member in his District/Group to help defray District/Group costs remains at £2.00.

## **QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Brethren are reminded that all candidates for membership of the Ancient and Accepted Rite under our jurisdiction must profess the Trinitarian Christian faith and have been Master Masons **for at least one year** as set out in Rule 36(a)(ii) of the Rules of the Order. Proposers and seconders must check that their candidates are duly qualified.

## **BRETHREN MOVING TO ANOTHER DISTRICT**

Any brother moving home to another District is strongly encouraged to advise his current Inspector General in order to receive assistance with an introduction to the Inspector General of his new District and to a Chapter near his new home.

## **DUAL ALLEGIANCE/AFFILIATION**

Brethren are reminded that except in Cyprus, New Zealand and India, where specific arrangements are in force, dual allegiance is not permitted. Enquiries about this subject are to be submitted to the Grand Secretary General.

## **THE 2020 YEAR BOOK**

The Supreme Council requires that a copy of the Year Book be given to every new member on his Perfection.

The Year Book provides information that cannot be included in Annual Circulars, such as detailed lists of members of the South African Branch Council, the 33°, Districts, Groups and Chapters. It also contains an Historical Section, with chronological lists of Members of the Supreme Council (and the offices they have held) and of other members of the 33°. It should also be noted, that in the light of recent data protection legislation, it has been decided that the contact details for Chapter Recorders will no longer be shown in the Year Book. Any brother seeking to contact or visit a Chapter should do so through the relevant District or Group Recorder. A copy of the Year Book, the cost of which is £12.00, is sent to each Chapter Recorder. You may order copies of the 2020 Year Book through your Recorder or directly from the Grand Secretary General's office (enclosing a cheque for £12.00 payable to 'Supreme Council').

## **HANDLING OF CHARITY MONIES**

When a private Chapter intends to disburse its charitable monies, it is advised to ensure that this intention is circulated to all members of the Chapter prior to any disbursement. Chapters are reminded that Relief Chests may be set up with the Grand Charity to benefit from Gift Aid.

## **KING EDWARD VII CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT – DEMONSTRATIONS**

In 2020, by permission of the Supreme Council, demonstrations of the 14° will be given on: Monday 27th April at Freemasons' Hall, London; Saturday 9th May at the Masonic Hall, Bolton; Saturday 6th June at Great Yarmouth Masonic Association, Great Yarmouth; and Saturday 20th June at the Tovil Centre, Maidstone.

In 2021, demonstrations of the 15° and 16° will be given on: Monday 26th April at Freemasons' Hall, London; Saturday 15th May at the Masonic Hall, Nottingham; and Saturday 19th June at Saxon Hall, Southend-on-Sea.

## **175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND & WALES**

In 2020 the Supreme Council for England & Wales will celebrate its dodransbicentennial anniversary. In celebration of this event, most Districts are hosting local events and the Members of the Supreme Council very much look forward to meeting you at one of these during the year.

Finally, the Members of the Supreme Council take this opportunity to wish all members of the Order a very happy Christmas, a peaceful new year and best wishes for 2020.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,



Dr G R E Shilson 33°  
Grand Secretary General H.:E.: