

PETER M. RASMUSSEN LODGE 916



AF & AM TRESTLE BOARD DECEMBER- 2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Your Brotherly love are the best gifts I've ever received on this joyous occasion. Hoping your holidays are filled with happiness!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2023

God bless you all.

Worshipful Brother Michael Howson

PMR 916 is OPEN to recognized MASONS, Family and Friends, and Guest

LODGE HALL GASTTSTATTE ZUR MÜLLEREI
DÜRER STRASSE 10-12 67549 WORMS

A CONSTITUENT LODGE of the
AMERICAN CANADIAN GRAND LODGE AF&AM e.V. (ACGL)
WITHIN THE
UNITED GRAND LODGES OF GERMANY (VGLvD)
Brotherhood of Freemasons



The Trestle Board is our official newsletter promoting the projects, events, and members of Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916 AF & AM. It is circulated to all members and the ACGL.

CALENDER BIRTHDAYS

Koffitse V. Adandogou	December 2, 1966
Alfred A. White	December 10, 1939
Jay P. Hochstaine	December 27, 1940
Richard R. Emmart	December 27, 1946
Angel L. Robles	December 31, 1930

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

The Officers and Members join with me in extending Greetings on your

Masonic Birthday.

Date Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason

Peter Lohr	December 4, 1980
Walter E. Coffing	December 23, 1980
Billy J. Stafflies	December 1, 2001

Great news - this year for Christmas
VW Brother Ward Williamson received a Petition for membership
from his son Thomas R.W. Williamson



**This is a picture of the 3d degree team of Brother Sebastian Hidalgo
the young man photoed to the right of our WM Michael Howson
The master mason degree was on 20 September 2022**



**This is a photo of our 2d advent Christmas gathering of the Brothers of PMR 916
and the Brothers and Sisters of TdB 135 that share our Lodge with us
there were about 40 people at our 11 December 2022 program**

MASONIC EDUCATION

Vol. XI No. 6 — June 1933

THE LETTER "G"

The Short Talk Bulletin of July 1927, bears the title "G". This popular exposition of the meaning and symbolism of the letter so precious to Freemasons is long out of print, although preserved in many sets of bound volumes and in libraries. This present paper is intended to be supplementary to, and not a recapitulation of, that printed as Number 7 of Volume V of these Bulletins.

"It is merely an accident of the English language that God and Geometry begin with the same letter; no matter what the language or the ritual, the initial of the Ineffable Name and that of the first and noblest of sciences are Masonically the same.

"But that is a secret!" cries some newly made brother who has examined his printed monitor and finds that the ritual concerning the further significance of the letter "G" is represented only by stars. Aye, the "ritual" is secret, but the "fact," is the most gloriously public that Freemasonry may herald to the world. One can no more keep secret the idea that God is the very warp and woof of Freemasonry than that he is the essence of all life. Take God out of Freemasonry, and there is, literally, nothing left; it is a pricked balloon, an empty vessel, a bubble which has burst."

(Introduction to Freemasonry.)

That the Letter "G" is not a secret symbol is attested by hundreds of Masonic writers, each of whom has written of it from a different standpoint. Mackey has much to say of it — too much to quote at length, but space may be found for an extract: "G. The seventh letter of the English, Latin and Romanic alphabets. In the Greek and many other alphabets it is in third place; in the Russian, Wallachian, and some others, it is in fourth; in the Arabic the fifth, and in the Ethiopian the twentieth. In Hebrew it is called Gheemel, is of the numerical value of three, and its significance is "camel." It is associated with the third sacred name of God, in Hebrew, Ghadol, or in Latin, Magnus, the Mighty. In Freemasonry it is given as the initial of the word God."

Hutchinson, in his Spirit of Masonry" (1776), says of the sacred letter: "It is now incumbent on me to demonstrate to you the great significance of the letter "G", wherewith Lodges and the medals of Masons are ornamented. To apply its significance to the name of God only is depriving it of part of its Masonic import; although I have already shown that the symbols used in the Lodges are expressive of the Divinity's being the great object of Masonry, as Architect of the World. This significant letter denotes Geometry, which, to artificers, is the science by which all their labours are calculated and formed; and to Masons, contains the

determination, definition and proof of the order, beauty and wonderful wisdom of the power of God in His Creation."

Dr. Frederick Dalcho wrote (1801) as follows: "The Letter "G," which ornaments the Mason's Lodge, is not only expressive of the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe, but also denotes the science of Geometry, so necessary to artists. But the adoption of it by Masons implies no more than their respect for those inventions which demonstrate to the world the power, the wisdom and the beneficence of the Almighty Builder in the works of creation."

Various attempts have been made to place the date when the Letter "G" first came into the ritual of Speculative Freemasonry. Pichard's expose, originally published in 1730, does not contain any reference to it. Later editions do include a curious doggerel which is worth repeating here. It is in the usual Question and Answer, or Examiner and Response, form so popular in all ritualistic work in the early days:

Resp: In the midst of Solomon's Temple there stands a "G," A letter for all to read and see; but few there be that understand what means the Letter "G."

Exam: My Friend, if you pretend to be of this Fraternity, you can forthwith and rightly tell, what means that Letter "G."

Resp: By sciences are brought to light, bodies of various kinds. Which do appear to perfect sight; but none but males shall know my mind.

Exam: The Right shall.

Resp: If Worshipful.

Exam: Both Right and Worshipful I am, to hail you I have command, that you forthwith let me know, as I you may understand.

Resp: By letters four and science five, this "G" aright doth stand, in due Art and Proportion; you have your answer friend."

While authorities differ as to just when the letter "G" came into the ritual, all are agreed that the date is not later than 1768; very probably it was earlier.

Authorities are, however, by no means at one on the origin of the symbol then adopted into Speculative Masonry. The choice is wide and the fancy free; if we are willing to admit presumptive testimony, even if it will not satisfy a legal mind as evidence, then the introduction of the symbol into our system is as old as Speculative Masonry — however old that may be!

The Letter "G" as we know it, the Roman "G", is not a geometrical figure. It is part circle, part oval, part horizontal and vertical lines. It bears internal evidence of being a conventionalizing of a much more severe design.

In the Greek, Gamma, or "G", the third letter, is a square standing on end with the horizontal arm extending to the right, like a plain block letter "T," with the left extension of the cross piece omitted. In Hebrew the "G" is a square with the right side omitted; two right angles joined, the horizontal arms extending to the right.

Refer to the doggerel again; "By letter four and science five, this "G" aright doth stand."
"Letters four" properly refers to J H V H, the Tetragrammaton or four-letter word, the Hebrew designation of deity, which we call Jehovah, for want of a more likely rendition of the vowels (omitted in early Hebrew writing). "Science Five," of course, is Geometry.

The Pythagoreans revered numbers as sacred; geometry was to them the sacred science. Its initial letter, Gamma, a square, was especially revered. The Gamma looks like a square used by builders; it was the symbol of the actual, four-sided, or geometrical square, the first whole number square, and therefore, the representative of deity, the four-letter word, the tetragrammaton.

Symbols are easily converted the one into the other and back again. If the Gamma, which appeared like a workman's square, was a symbol of the geometrical square, which in turn was a symbol of Deity, then, by a simple reconversion looked like Gamma, which in one position looked like the square of the workman, soon came to symbolize the tetragrammaton or four-letter word.

The Greek Gamma was rounded into the Latin "C." For a while it stood for both the sounds of "g" and "k." Later (third century BC), a slight change was made in the Latin "c" which stood for the soft, or "j" sound — and behold, our modern Roman "G." Hence, by a path straight to any but mind demanding documentary proof, we place the origin of our "G," as representing both God and Geometry, as far back as the Pythagoreans (sixth century, BC).

Another interesting hypothesis — it is hardly more — calls attention to the fact that three geometrical forms appear in the Greek alphabet, as we have seen; Gamma (G) is a square standing on end, the horizontal arm extended to the right. Omicron (O) is a circle, Delta (D) is a triangle.

Writing one letter on top of another to form a monogram is very old. The three Greek letters, Gamma, Omicron and Delta may be combined in a monogram to form a very fair conventionalizing of our letter "G" inside a triangle which looks not unlike our modern square and compasses!

Here is further testimony that the letter "G" and the ancient square, the Greek Gamma, or the Greek monogram of Gamma, Omicron, and Delta, which make a conventional Roman "G" inside a triangle, were connected in ancient Masonic minds. This is credited in the "Bulletin" of the Grand Lodge of Iowa (September, 1932) to Brother John A. Cockburn, noted Masonic writer.

"If further proof of the former identity of the letter "G" and the square were needed, it is to be found in the text of a ritual no longer in use among us. Therein it is recorded that in an attack on our Master a second blow was struck with a square across his breast, "and that on an

exhumation a faint resemblance to the letter "G" marked on his left breast was discovered."
(Italics ours — Ed.)

The combination of square and circle, or cross and circle (a cross forms two right angles, or squares) appears in a hundred guises in as many religious rites. The interested may recall the "hot cross bun" and the association of the egg, marked with crosses, with Easter; in Yorkshire, the brides cake at weddings was formerly cut into small squares and passed through a wedding ring, as a form of prayer for fertility; circle and square are combined in the wearing of a wedding ring on the fourth finger; the very number "4" itself was originally a circle, being changed to the present conventionalized square and upright after the fifteenth century; children still play the ancient game of noughts and crosses, or "tit-tat-toe," a combination of circles and squares.

That Freemasonry has in her letter "G" and its connotations a relationship with this ancient association of "letters four and science five -" that is, of Deity and science or knowledge — is not remarkable — rather it would be extraordinary if she had not. In all ages and all religions, man has interwoven together his thought of spirit and matter, his ideas of relative and absolute. Freemasonry's "G" is but another of these conceptions, expressed in a symbol. If the symbol now used — a Roman "G" — is less fitting for an art concerned especially with squares than was the original Gamma, it at least should receive the reverence due a respectable age. Even those whose ideas of the fitness of things would be better satisfied if our "G" were Gamma, would hardly subscribe to an effort to change now.

Mackey, the great Masonic authority, regretted that the Roman "g" ever found its way into our symbolism, and read the "G" as a substitute for the Hebrew Yod, which in turn is a symbol of the tetragrammaton, or four-letter word. Unquestionably the "Lost Word," the very heart of the Masonic system, is represented by the Yod, but it is a far cry to include also Geometry in that representation. The Greek Gamma, (of which our roman "G" is a substitute) however, did represent both the ineffable Name and the greatest of the sciences. Three Greek letters which spell our name for Deity can be monogrammed to make a modern Roman "G" inside a square and compasses. However corrupt the geometrical form of the Roman "G", and however much more illuminating it might have been had we continued to use the Greek Gamma of Pythagoras, what we have adopted and made so integral a part of our Masonry that it is in every English speaking Lodge in the world, is far too sacred and familiar ever to change.

Of course Mackey is not lightly to be set aside, yet modern scholarship so differs with the great authority on this point that even those who revere him most, agree that here his genius led him astray.

Sufficient has been said to indicate that the Letter "G" is far more than a mere letter. A symbol of Deity and His Own science, Geometry, it carries us back to the childhood of knowledge; it combines and associates other symbols from which it sprang and the ideas for which they stand. As a symbol "G" is particularly Freemasonry's own. To the inquiring mind it calls insistently, if always softly, for better understanding and appreciation from Craftsmen.

The Masonic Service Association of the United States of America

Sickness

We wish all the Brethren good health and a safe recovery from any ills they may have.

Relief

Our Lodge gives Charity Donations to

Transatlantic Boy Scouts of America

Worms Germany Children's Music School – Lucie-Kölsch

Worms Germany Rotes-Kreuz Senior Citizens Home

The DEMOLAY here in Germany

The American-Canadian Grand Lodge Charity Fund

Thank you my Brothers for your donations to Peter M. Rasmussen for it is your donations that make all these donations possible. And should you know of a worthy cause, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact Details

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youngroberte@aol.com

A slip of paper with the below information was provided to each brother that paid his 2022 Dues.

It was provided with a white plastic Dues Card. Brothers are to sign it and retain it. For you will not be provided with an annual Dues Card paper or plastic in the future. However you are obligated to pay your annual dues every year. So if you have not paid your 2022 dues please do so soonest. Thank you for your attention.

NEW PLASTIC DUES CARDS

Dues Cards that you are familiar with are changed from an annual paper Dues Card to a permanent plastic Dues Cards. Issued to you by your lodge as established by the ACGL with implementation commencing in 2022.

Each Dues Card has an ACGL hologram sticker on it for validation purposes. Each card has an assigned random number which authenticates the Brother over a web page. Scanning the QR Code provides information to the Brothers standing. Please sign and secure your Plastic Dues Card. Lost or damaged Cards cost 15 euro or \$20. Our ACGL is modernizing As we go forward.

Peter M Rasmussen Lodge 916 annual dues remain \$75.00 for Non Resident Members living mostly in the USA. Annual Dues Payment is (by Personal Check, Certified Check, or Postal Money Order) payable to PMR 916. And 75.00 euro for those living in Germany.

If you live in the USA and do not have a PLASTIC DUES CARD Please pay your Dues soonest.

Make your (personal check, Certified check, or Postal Money Order) payable to PMR 916.

Our lodge mailing address remains:

PETER M RASMUSSEN LODGE 916
POSTFACH 1932
67509 WORMS
GERMANY

Worshipful Master, Wardens, Secretary, Brethren All,
The newsletter inspired me to...

a) pay my dues for 2023 _____

b) contribute to the Charity Fund _____

or

contribute to the General Fund _____

My address has changed. Please use the new address given below:

Street _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Telephone and cell numbers _____

email address _____