

# Chain of Union Newsletter



## George Washington Union of Freemasons in North America

### Grand Orient and Grand Lodge merge in Czech Republic

From *Prague Daily Monitor*, March 8, 2008.

It was announced in the Prague Daily Monitor that the two main branches of freemasonry in the Czech Republic, the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic and the Grand Czech Orient, have merged at a conference in Prague Saturday.

The Conference was also attended by freemasons from Austria,

Germany, and Poland.

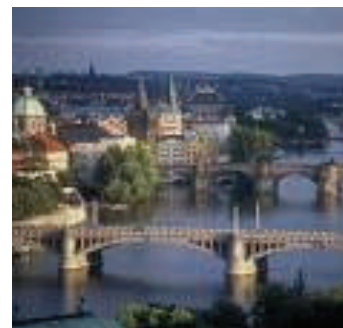
The merger was important from an international point of view as well in the Czech Republic.

The merger is unique as each has different ties abroad and different traditions. In foreign countries, strong rivalry reigns between their counterpart branches.

The Czech freemasons expect the merger to unite the two branches'

activities. They also believe the fraternity's prestige might rise, mainly among young people.

The Chain of Union will report on future developments.



#### Special points of interest:

- Grand Orient of the United States of America comes together with other progressive Freemasons in Washington DC
- New Director appointed at Centre for Research into Freemasonry
- Newly updated GWU website with more to come

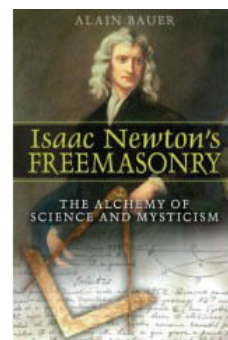
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### Book Review on Alain Bauer's new publication on Freemasonry

If you have not purchased your copy of *Isaac Newton's Freemasonry* you may want to do so at Amazon.com  
A good review of the

book is now available at Pietre Stones. See [http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/book\\_bauer.html](http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/book_bauer.html)



## Newly Installed Governor David Patterson of New York a Freemason

New York, New York

The new Governor of the State of New York David Patterson is a member of the oldest continuously running Prince Hall Lodge—Boyer Lodge No. 1., established in 1812.

For the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry in New York there is a short article at the website of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of New York.

<http://76.216.95.72/History.html>

Boyer Lodge No. 1, located in Harlem, is named in honor of Haitian soldier-statesman Jean Pi-

erre Boyer, who later became the first president of Haiti after their war of liberation from France. In the 1820s, Boyer Lodge and two others for free blacks in New York that had been chartered by Prince Hall's African Lodge in Massachusetts, formed what was then called the "Boyer Grand Lodge," for the state of New York. After the schism over the National Compact in the 1840s, the lodges descended from, or aligned with, Boyer Lodge eventually came together in forming what is now the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand

Lodge of New York. .

The website for Boyer Lodge is at <http://www.boyerlodge1.com/>



## Proposal for International Conference on the History of Women in Freemasonry



Los Angeles, California

Some discussion has begun among students at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Freemasons from Traditional Cosmopolitan Lodges in California to organize an *International Conference on The His-*

*tory of Women in Freemasonry* which would likely be held in March of 2009.

Funding proposals are currently being drafted by student researchers at UCLA to be submitted to various Research Centers at the campus. Scholars from Germany and France

have already expressed their willingness to attend if the conference comes together, as have women contacted from the Women's Grand Lodge of France.

The proposed Conference depends on the success of the funding proposals.



## New Tracing Board.com website supporting dialogue in USA

A new website is under construction that is designed to support a dialogue between Traditional Cosmopolitan Freemasonry in North America, the Anglo-American tradition of Freemasonry and wider civil society.

While there are differences between Traditional Cosmo-

politan and Anglo-American Freemasonry, there are far more similarities. Both focus on improving the individual and society through the same system of initiation and symbolism. The differences are more or less philosophical.

Tracingboard.com will be

publishing essays and articles from Freemasons from the varied traditions around the globe. It is the place where understanding and harmony begin. You are encouraged to visit at

<http://www.tracingboard.com/>

## Grand Orient of the USA takes shape

Washington, DC

On March 14, 15 and 16 freemasons from Europe and around America gathered with the brothers of Lafayette Lodge No. 89 in Bethesda, Maryland of the Grand Orient of France. There were Brothers and Sisters in attendance from a number of different bodies of freemasonry, including GWU.

Much discussion concerned

the fact that the Grand Orient of the United States was steadily and resolutely taking shape and that things were proceeding well.

The attendees from the Grand Orient of the USA all expressed their appreciation of the openness and clarity of the meetings and the warmth of the dinners. A very good time was had by all.

Additional news about the

Grand Orient of the USA and their work will be presented here at the Chain of Union newsletter in the months and years ahead.

A Special Edition will be published in 2008 giving more detail about the Grand Orient of the United States of America.

More information will be available as well at the new [tracingboard.com](http://tracingboard.com) website mentioned here on page 3.



## Grand Secretary John Cooper, Grand Lodge of California, gives last official public talk at local lodge in Southern California

Santa Monica, California

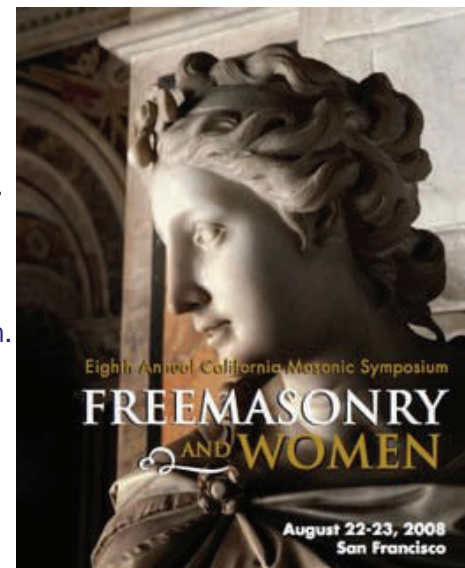
The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of California gave his last official talk while he was Grand Secretary on March 26, 2008 at Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lodge. The talk was entitled the *History and Development*

*of the Masonic Ritual.* \*

Please note that The Grand Lodge of California and the Institute for Masonic Studies are sponsoring the 2008 Annual California Masonic Symposium "Freemasonry and Women" on August 22-23 and a new location for the

event at Grand Lodge on Nob Hill in San Francisco. Dr. John Cooper will be one of the distinguished speakers on the topic of Freemasonry and Women.

Please contact the Grand Lodge of California for further info. <http://www.freemason.org/>



## Report from Cuba

Sheffield, England

The new Executive Director of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry at the University of Sheffield, England, Dr. Andreas Önerfors has returned from an interesting trip to Cuba where he attended the First International Academic Conference on the History of Freemasonry in Latin

America and the Caribbean. About 25 papers covered the importance of freemasonry mainly for the political independence of the Latin-American and Caribbean states. It was decided to inaugurate an academic centre (as a network organization) devoted to research into these topics under the directorship of

professor Eduardo Torres Cuevas, an eminent Cuban scholar. The next conference will take place in December 2008 in La Habana.

You may want to consider attending in 2008 and report on your visit!



**Freemasonry crossing-borders**

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Were on the Web!

[GeorgeWashingtonUnion.org](http://GeorgeWashingtonUnion.org)

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**The Annual Assembly of the George  
Washington Union of Freemasons in  
North America—this year in  
Washington, DC  
November  
2008**



Contact: [Franklin\\_Paine@msn.com](mailto:Franklin_Paine@msn.com)

**New Director at Centre for Research Into Freemasonry, Sheffield**

The new Director of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry has been appointed. It is Professor Andreas Önnorfors who has moved from the University of Lund in Sweden. In January 2008, Dr. Önnorfors chaired a panel and presented a paper on Freemasonry and Religion in the Eighteenth Century at the annual BSECS conference in Oxford.

He will announce soon more information on the first Master of Arts degree and program

in the *History of Freemasonry and Fraternalism* at the University of Sheffield which is to be launched in the academic year 2008/2009 .

Not least, Professor Önnorfors has communicated with faculty at UCLA in California, and Masons in the USA, expressing his interest in visiting the United States in the near future.

News of his potential visit to America will be published here.



**The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.**