

Dear Brethren

The Julian Rees Lecture October 26th, 2009 Additional Meeting Lodge Niederrhein  
No 892 GC

FREEMASONRY-THE JOURNEY, OR THE DESTINATION?

Last night was one of the most memorable, informative and enjoyable lodge evenings that I have witnessed in my 33 years as a Freemason and 20 years as a member of Lodge Niederrhein.

Julian had first hinted to me some three years ago that he would like to attend the lodge and give a talk- he found the international, cosmopolitan aspect rather exciting. Well it has taken some time for him to accommodate us into his itinerary as his schedule world-wide is somewhat busy. It is fitting that Martin should be the Master, himself a scholar and a Mason who takes the international aspects of the Craft very seriously.

The Lodge can be very proud of the evening and in the words of Julian Rees, "it was a delight and pleasure to talk to such a hospitable, inspirational lodge". At the festive board afterwards, he said that he could not recall an occasion where he had been made to feel more welcome.

19 Residents and 14 Visitors found themselves fascinated by the lecture, where we were invited to submit ourselves to a change of perspective in our Masonic pursuits. Included amongst the visitors, the lodge was honoured by the presence of Axel P. Deputy GM of AF &AM and the Reigning Masters of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Rose and Akazie and Spectemur in Düsseldorf, Star of Saxony Mönchengladbach and Bond of Friendship Bonn. One distinguished visitor- PM of Thistle & Saltire, Ian L, summed it all up by saying the evening was outstanding and those who had not been able to attend had missed a treat.

Julian reminded us that we have been travelling since the beginning of time and asked us to think about the 18thC- the Age of Enlightenment, about the liberal thinkers. He confirmed that Freemasonry has no dogma.

He reminded us that were on a journey towards self-knowledge. He told us not to stand still and keep journeying.

Brethren, with the permission of Julian, I have passed copies of the script- both in English and German (copyright Julian Rees 2009) to Jim L (Secretary) and if you would like a copy please request the same from him.

Julian brought with him 4 copies of 4 different books he has written.

Making Light; The Stairway of Freemasonry; So you want to be a Freemason and his latest book Tracing Boards of the Three degrees. We sold all 16 books with the profit going to the Worshipful Master's Charity (EUR 95)

Future Orders

I will be compiling a composite order for residents which will be purchased from Lewis Masonic. Julian will arrange the bulk order so that the postage can be minimal. Naturally the prices are a little different and we cannot this time enjoy the profit going into the WM charity.

The prices that the books will be sold at, to include postage and a small donation to the WM charity, would be as under.

Making Light EUR 20  
Stairway EUR 15  
SYWTBAF EUR 17  
TBs EUR 18

Please let me have your requirements by the 20th November.

And so to the festive board. The Ancient Greek word for the process of joining things up was "Harmonia". So joined up thinking perhaps help create harmony. It is necessary to have harmony if we are going to have health, friendship and happiness. With two Greeks at the festive board it follows that there was harmony. 11 members and 5 visitors sat down to enjoy the food, wine, speeches, toasts, humour and yes harmony.

At the airport this morning, it was manifest that Julian had enjoyed his sojourn to Düsseldorf.. We enjoyed his lecture and he enjoyed Lodge Niederrhein. I am sure he will return.

I would like to congratulate you, Worshipful Master, Thank you Julian, Thank you brethren

As a man of Stratford, let me quote from the great William Shakespeare

"A great while ago the world begun,  
With hey, ho the wind and the rain;  
But that's all one, our play is done,  
And we'll strive to please you every day."

Best wishes

S&F

David