

The International Lodge that is Niederrhein.

Last night was an interesting evening. I was personally impressed with the expertise of the Master and his motivating effect on his team including the candidate. Well done Martin and well done Nigel and all the team.

It was a sad night as we paid our last respects to Worshipful Brother Trevor A. who went to the Eternal East last week. Trevor was initiated into Niederrhein in 1980. He was Master 1986/7 and I had the good fortune to sojourn with him for a short period. He was a fine man and a fine Mason. During his time at Niederrhein as a resident he was a serious member of the Lodge. He will be missed.

Our Master took the opportunity to remind the brethren of the Half Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge which will take place at Bad Iburg on November 7th, 2009. We would expect a maximum turnout from the members of Niederrhein as our Master in his capacity of Secretary (German Branch) for Quatuor Coronati Masonic Correspondence Circle along with Worshipful Brother Robert G will be giving a talk about this subject.

Brethren, our WM, Martin, asked me to investigate and carry out research regarding the various different lodges that our cosmopolitan and international brethren belong to around the world. You all know that it is a favourite subject of mine and I believe that Niederrhein embraces all that is good about the Craft. We have members from various countries, ethnic and religious groups etc all pleased to carry out Emulation Ritual in the English language. I will be putting a paper together shortly for discussion with him and the committee. Our WM is keen to see about how we can associate with our different lodges around the world and make closer ties with them. When this research is completed, I have no doubt that the WM (Martin) through his hard working Secretary (Jim) will inform you of the way he would like to take this step further.

As an interim measure and as a newsletter please find some early interesting details.

Niederrhein has 42 residents and 59 non residents. We have 49 brethren who were initiated into the Lodge, 6 honorary brethren and 46 including the writer who joined the lodge after having been initiated elsewhere.

Brethren from 16 different countries, residing in 12 countries and still belonging to at least 66 lodges carrying out Ritual in 14 countries from 7 Constitutions make up the membership of Lodge Niederrhein.

Brethren of Niederrhein let us carry out and understand the wonderful meaning of our Ritual and masonic-ritualistically we will progress.

We are all looking forward to the 26th October, when Julian Rees will be talking to us- The Journey? or the Destination? It will be our opportunity for us all to listen, learn and go forward.

As I have advised before, Julian first approached me a few years ago about coming over and talking to Niederrhein- he said we appeared exciting. Well, as you know, this eminent writer, lecturer and scholar of the Craft is an extremely busy man but somehow he has managed to find time in his busy schedule to come over. I do hope that all residents make every effort to attend. We will have other visitors as well. Julian will be bringing copies of his books with him for sale and I am sure that many of you will take advantage. We have arranged for copies of his lecture to be made available after the meeting (both in English and German). I am aware that several non residents have already asked Jim for a copy.

It would be helpful if you could let Jim know if you would like to purchase a book etc.

It will be an honour, pleasure and privilege for us to have Julian with us and I am sure we will all learn and enjoy.

To those of you who have been so kind as to send in information regarding your lodges I thank you.

Best wishes to you all.

S&F

David