



A World First for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite



There have been twinning ceremonies between Cities, Towns, Regions and even Craft lodges, but to the best of knowledge there has never before been the establishment of a twinning relationship between two Rose Croix Chapters of different Jurisdictions. Nevertheless this is what happened in Tel Aviv Israel on 29th April 2014 between the Max Polliack Rose Croix Chapter No 4 on The Register of The Supreme Council of The 33rd and Last Degree of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for The State of Israel holden at The Valley of Ra'anana and Haifa, in The State of Israel, and the Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260 on The Register of The Supreme Council 33^o of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia holden at The Grand East, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

To enable this to happen much planning took place in the nine months prior to the start of the Third "In the Footsteps of Freemasonry" Tour of Israel organized by Rt Wor Bro Joe Haffner PAGM of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT, a V.: Ill.: Brother 33^o, and a member of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260. Firstly it was necessary to gain the approval of the two Chapters and then to approach the Supreme Councils' of each Jurisdiction to get their blessing. This being achieved the ceremonial for the meeting had to be organized, the development of a suitable Twinning Charter and the arrangement of presentations between the two Chapters. Having gained the appropriate approvals, the members of the Tour set off in late April to meet in Tel Aviv. The tour included three members of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260 and four other members/ex-members of the Order.

On the afternoon of the 29th April all the Masons on the tour assembled at the masonic Temple Berkowitz St Tel Aviv for a meeting of the Lodge of the Holy Land No 50 Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The lodge was opened at 5 pm after which we were received as a delegation prior to the Grand Master of Israel M W Bro Avi Baranes entering the Lodge. A short lecture on Freemasonry was given by R W Bro Elkan Levy, then the Grand Master gave his greetings indicating the pleasure they gained by being able to meet with members of a sister jurisdiction. R Wor Bro John Armfield Grand Registrar then suitably replied on behalf of our Grand Master M W Bro Derek Robson. The Lodge then closed and the room was prepared for a meeting of the 18th Degree of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the State of Israel.

The Chapter opened at 7.10 pm with the MWS and the Representative of the MWS of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter present in the Lodge Room. At the instruction of the MWS the DC then admitted the office bearers. When they were in position the Knights (not Princes) were admitted in order of Degrees held: 18, 25, 30, 31 and 32. When they are in position the First General and Second General tested those present for the password. Brethren with drawn swords forming an arch of steel stood on each side of the room to receive members of the 33^o and as the Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC) enters last they clang their swords above his head. The MWS tendered his sword to the SGC which was returned to him to complete the opening of the Chapter. After welcoming visitors in general and the Australian delegation in particular the MWS commenced the Twinning ceremony with in part the following words; "this Alliance straddling a distance of 20 thousand kilometres, unites us all, across two oceans and three continents to put into practice the goodwill and principles of our fraternity., it allows us to share our knowledge and experience in teaching and learning."

A round table was then placed in the centre of the Lodge Room and one by one the four to sign the Twinning Charter were escorted to places around the table: first Em.: Bro Stewart Grant 32^o CoM representing the MWS of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter, then Bro Isaac Maimon 32^o MWS, Ill.: Bro Ilan Segev 33^o GSG, and finally M.: P.: Bro Yaacov Trostler 33^o SGC for the State of Israel. After a prayer the brethren were asked to remain standing (Upstanding) during the signing of the four twinning Charters. There was further due ceremony as we were individually escorted back to our seats in the East.



Isaak Maimon, Yaacov Trostler, Illan Segev, Stewart Grant E & P Bros Rowland Milbank, Wayne Perks, & John Armfield watching Signing the Charter of Twinning

The MWS then asked the representative of the MWS of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter to address the meeting. Em. Bro Stewart Grant 32° CoM did so giving greetings from the SGC for Australia and the MWS of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter, he explained the development of the Universal ritual in Australia and presented the MWS of the Max Polliack Sovereign Chapter with a photograph taken at the recent enthronement of Ill Bro Eric Okely, a Sceptre for use by MWS of the Max Polliack Sovereign Chapter and a Boomerang crafted by a member of the Wiradjuri Tribe to remind the Max Polliack Chapter that we are from Australia. Bro Isaac Maimon Immediately put away his Sword which he had been using to give appropriate knocks and indicated that in future he would use the Sceptre which had originally belonged to St Paul Sovereign Chapter Lane Cove.

The MWS then asked Bro David Gassner to present their gift to the Sydney Sovereign Chapter. Bro Gassner then presented a sealed package which when opened revealed a pyramid sculptured and polished by Br Gassner out of Malachite Limestone from King Solomon's Quarry (Tzedikiah's Caves under Jerusalem) and embellished with an 18° Jewel, engraved with a **Rose, 18°**, and Bro Gassner's signature so that each side of the Pyramid has a different symbol.



Bro Knight Isaak Maimon 32° MWS with Sceptre, Em Bro Stewart Grant 32° CoM with Pyramid. Bro Knight David Gassner 30°

The MWS then presented Em.: Bro Stewart Grant 32° CoM with a Jewel as Representative of the Max Polliack Sovereign Chapter to the Sydney Sovereign Chapter noting that he had a similar jewel showing that he is the Representative of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter in the Max Polliack Sovereign Chapter. The MWS then declared that from this day onwards all Knights of the twinned Chapter will be simultaneously recognized as honorary members and Knights/Princes of our mirrored Twin Chapter.

The MWS then called upon the SGC for Israel M.: P& Ill Bro Yaakov Trestle 33° for his comments and well wishes. These being given V.: Ill.: Bro Joe Haffner 33° was invited to respond on behalf of M.: P.: Bro Peter Rowland 33° SGC of the Australian Jurisdiction. This he did conveying greetings from the SGC and the Supreme Council. V.: Ill.: Bro Joe Haffner 33° went on to comment on the uniqueness of the twinning and the importance of the brotherhood of man declaring "*Shalom Aleichem*" and quoting that great text from the VSL "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity"

The MWS then spoke at some length regarding his mother Lodge in NSW Lodge Woollahra No 341, and of his long association with V.: Ill.: Bro Joe Haffner 33°. The Chapter was then closed in due form at 8.10 pm and we all retired to join the members of the Craft and the ladies present for the festive board which in Israel is called "The White Table". What a wonderful night it was for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the Universality of Freemasonry, and the start to a magnificent three week tour of Israel and Romania.

On return to Australia the Pyramid was presented to the MWS and other members of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter by those of the Chapter who had been present on the Tour.



V.: Ill.: Bro Joe Haffner 33°; Em.: Bro Stewart Grant 32°; Ill.: Bro Eric Okely MWS; V.: Ill.: Bro Dominic De Candia 33° GSG H.: E.: ; V.: Ill.: Bro Richard Pickering 33°; E&P Bro Adam Green; with the Pyramid.

Later at a meeting of the Prince Charles Edward Sovereign Council at which all the members of the Supreme Council were present Em.: Bro Stewart Grant 32° CoM gave a report to the assembled Supreme Council for Australia on the Twinning Ceremony and showed them the Malachite Pyramid from King Solomon's quarries.



Members of the Supreme Council for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia together with III.: Bro Eric Okely MWS The Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260, Em.: Bro Stewart Grant 32°CoM Representative of the Max Polliack Chapter No 4 and Recorder of the Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260, and V.: III.: Bro Joe Haffner 33° organizer of the Tour to Israel with the Pyramid presented by The Max Polliack Sovereign Chapter No 4 of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for The State of Israel.

Members of the Supreme Council from left to right are:

M.: P.: Bro Peter Rowland 33° Sovereign Grand Commander (SA); V.: P.: Bro Ian Tilbury 33° Lt Grand Commander (NSW South);
 M.: III.: Bro Bill Thompson 33° G Prior (Vic); M.: III.: Bro Jim Gist 33° G Treasurer General H.: E.: (QLD North);
 M.: III.: Bro Bill Morgan 33°G Chancellor (Tas); M.: III.: Bro Alan Charlton 33° G Regisatrar (SA);
 M.: III.: Bro Greg Summerhayes 33° G Marshal (NSW North); M.: III.: Bro Cyril Hondris 33° G Captain Genereal (WA);
 M.: III.: Bro Colin Mander G Director of Ceremonies (QLD South).

Dominic,

These Annexes are included for your records to complete the Historical Record of the actual meeting which apart from my and Joe's speeches is contained in the booklet titled Program and Ritual for the First Twinning ceremony.

Annex A: Address by Me.: Bro Stewart Grant 32° Come

MWS, M.P. and Ill. Bro. Yaakov Trestle SGC for the A&A Scottish Rite for the State of Israel, I bring you greetings from Most Powerful Brother Peter J. Rowland, SGC for the A&A Scottish Rite of Australia. This is indeed an historic occasion and we have all taken part in a wonderful and inspiring ceremony My MWS Ill Bro LT Eric Okely RAN sends his greetings from the Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260 to you MWS and to all present. He regrets very much that he is unable to be here tonight and has asked me to give you this letter of greeting from him to you.

MWS, our ritual is somewhat different in Australia as we were spawned from the Scottish and English Jurisdictions we generally follow elements of their workings. The Australian Supreme Council was formed in 1985 under the sponsorship of The English and Scottish Supreme Councils. Both those jurisdictions as I am sure you are aware have a requirement for a belief in Christianity, and so originally did the Australian Jurisdiction, become one more of the 5 or 6 Supreme Councils to do so out of the over 60 Supreme Councils throughout the world. As our Jurisdiction became established there were those among the Order who wished to make the Australian Jurisdiction and the beautiful inspiring ceremonies of the Order available to all masons. MWS earlier you quoted Albert Pike saying: "the principles of Freemasonry as a universal philosophy allowing the faithful of various religions to sit together and work in harmony for the progress of Humanity as a whole". That indeed was the view taken by the Australian Supreme Council. I recall prior to this happening I sought to pursue the idea of universality and equality for men of all faiths. I researched a paper for my own Chapter on Universality and the various meanings of INRI, and came across the work of Ill. Bro. Leon Zeldis 33° who unfortunately is unable to be here tonight but his work was most helpful in the preparation of that paper. Suffice it to say the Supreme Council for Australia in 2007 authorised the use of a Universal Ritual for any Chapter under its jurisdiction that wished to accept members of all faiths. I became a founding member of the first such Chapter The Sydney Sovereign Chapter No 260 when it was consecrated on 10th March 2008. Within The Australian Jurisdiction we now have 5 Chapters using this Universal Ritual. The Sydney Sovereign Chapter has members of the Jewish, Moslem and Buddhist faiths and includes a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of NSW & the ACT in MW Bro Greg Levenston who with his partner attended the first of these Tours in the Footsteps of Freemasonry. We call ourselves Princes in the 18th degree and beyond that Ill Brethren or Eminent Brethren if rewarded with recognition for service to the Order.

MWS I have here some small presentations to recognise this significant event of twining between our two Chapters. Firstly a photograph of the ugly faces of our members taken last month at our Enthronement Ceremony when Ill Bro Okely took the chair. You will see that on that occasion V P Bro Ian Tilbury our Lt G C was present. He will become SCG in June and V Ill Bro Ken Mobbs who will at the same time join the supreme Council. Also MP Bro Jack Ball PSGC whom some of you will know. This special Gift is from the Chapter and in our Jurisdiction is a Sceptre carried by the MWS of a Chapter. It has been retrieved from a consolidated Chapter and been embellished with parts of the chain of a member of the Supreme Council. Lastly but not least you need to be reminded that we are from the antipodes; and so we give you this boomerang crafted by an Aborigine from the Wiradjuri Tribe.

MWS we who are here tonight are enjoying ourselves immensely and are looking forward to some most interesting days ahead. We look forward to the day when you and any of your members are able to join us in Sydney Australia

Annex B: Address by V.: Ill.: Bro Joe Haffner 33°

Most Wise Sov. Bro Dr. Isaac Maimon – Sublime and Valiant Prince of the Royal Secret, Most Powerful and Ill. Bro Yaakov Trostler 33°, Sov. Gr. Comm. of the Supreme Council of the 33rd & last degree of the A&A Scottish Rite for the State of Israel, Ill. Bro Ilan Segev GSG of the S.C. for the State of Israel, Sov. Princes, Honoured Guests and you all, my esteemed Brethren in your ranks, qualities and distinctions. On behalf of M Powerful & Ill Bro Peter Rowland, Sov. Gr. Commander and all the members of the Supreme Council 33° of A&A Scottish Rite for Australia, I convey to you the most sincere greetings and blessings.

As it is already tomorrow in Australia, and our Brethren have already lived our present calendar day, if you wonder what tomorrow will be like... ask your Twin Chapter in Sydney... It is already tomorrow Wednesday 30 April down – under, and according to Internet weather reports, it is a normal calm, glorious Sunny day of PEACE, and so it'll be tomorrow here as well. *Hivenu Shalom Aleichem!* We brought Shalom, Peace, to you in our Hearts, to share with all of you – Peace for Israel in an inspiring peaceful Neighbourhood.

Most Wise Sov., You have quoted our Illustrious Teacher MP Bro. Albert Pike which in his “Morals and Dogma” has proven his great visions and impregnated our Order with an imprint of a great philosopher and a leader of magnificent value. In his spirit and inspired by him, the SAAR for Australia has created Universal Chapters such as our Sydney Sov. Chapter, a wise decision that opened the doors to the Scottish Rite to Brethren who otherwise would have never had the opportunity to enrich themselves with the lofty teachings of the Rite.

In relation to the Twinning of tonight I can only quote a modest exclamation taken from the most inspiring book in my Library:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Tonight, we have bound a knot and consecrated it with the signature of our most Illustrious Brethren. We have thus created a UNITY between your Chapter Max Polliack in Israel and our Sydney Sov. Chapter, but even more than that, we have embodied the symbol of Twins. Twinning has always meant uniting efforts towards reaching a common aim, along history. Twinning is the base to every Alliance. Blue Lodges all over the world have twinned in an effort to establish a powerful link that has resulted in sharing experience and the acquiring of greater Masonic knowledge.

Let us not forget for a moment our promise to remain faithful to the solemn pact we have signed tonight and that we would not spare any effort to continue and communicate in order to strengthen the link we now share in the Universal Chain of Brotherhood.

May this Twinning, first and unique in the World, be an example and a model for all the other entities of the A&ASR all over the world, to strive to equal and emulate. Amen