



The T. L. of R. Bulletin

Published quarterly by the Tennessee Lodge of Research

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FIRST QUARTER BULLETIN – 2024

DECEMBER 2 STATED MEETING

The meeting was held in the Lodge Hall of our “Home Lodge,” Sparta Lodge No. 99 in Sparta, TN. Fifteen members and visitors were in attendance. Brother George Walter Webster – Master Pro Tem presided. Sparta Lodge No. 99 was thanked for their excellent hospitality and for being our “Home Lodge. Brother Robert Officer thanked the Lodge of Research for giving Sparta Lodge #99 the distinction of being designated our “Home Lodge.”

Brother Stephen Robert Guendert, Ph.D., Local Secretary for Tennessee of the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle, presented “Quatuor Coronati and the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle” about Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 of the United Grand Lodge of England, “the world’s premier Masonic research Lodge,” and how Masons may receive an annual collection of the papers presented at this Lodge by joining its Correspondence Circle. Brother Guendert’s paper will be published in our 2023 Proceedings later this year.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

**We will meet SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd at BETHPAGE LODGE #521
602 Old Highway 31 E, Bethpage, TN 37022**

Our speaker will be Brother Wallace Edward Bernard, Charlotte Lodge No. 97 who will give a presentation on “The Night Bro. Lafayette almost drowned outside of Nashville.”

A meal will be served at **12:00 Noon Central Time**. The **speaking presentation** will begin at **1:00 PM**. The regular meeting of the TLR will begin following the speaking program.

REMAINING MEETINGS DURING 2024

June 1, 2024 (East TN) UNICOI LODGE #681 (Unicoi, TN) 1420 Unicoi Dr, Unicoi, TN 37692

September 14, 2024 (West TN) ARLINGTON LODGE #641 (Arlington, TN) 12044 Forrest St, Arlington, TN 38002

December 21, 2024 Sparta Lodge #99 99 Masonic Dr, Sparta, TN 38583

2024 OFFICERS

The officers elected and/or appointed to govern the Tennessee Lodge of Research for the Year 2024 are:

Master – George Walter Webster, Mascot Lodge No. 738, Mascot, TN

Senior Deputy Master – John Wiseman Simmons, Oakville Lodge No. 599, Memphis, TN

Junior Deputy Master – Wallace Edward Bernard, Charlotte Lodge No. 97, Charlotte, TN

Secretary/Treasurer – Michael Adam Neulander, Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 138, Culleoka, TN

Chaplain – David Edward Stafford, Ed.D., Bethpage Lodge No. 521, Bethpage, TN

Tiler – Timothy Clyde Webster, Mascot Lodge No. 738, Mascot, TN

TABLE AT GRAND LODGE

We will have our usual table set up at Grand Lodge on Wednesday, March 27 and Thursday morning, March 28. We will be located in the Grand Lodge Library across from the main entrance. At our table you may pay your

dues, petition the TLR, browse our books for sale, or sign your Lodge up to host a future meeting. Please feel free to come by and say hello.

ESOTERIC MASONRY

From *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FREEMASONRY* by ALBERT C. MACKEY M. D.

http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/mackeys_encyclopedia/p.htm

That secret portion of Freemasonry which is known only to the initiates as distinguished from Esoteric Freemasonry, or monitorial, which is accessible to all who choose to read the manuals and published works of the Order.

The words are from the Greek, *exōterikos* Exoteric external, and *esōterikós* Esoteric, internal, and were first used by Pythagoras, whose philosophy was divided into the exoteric, or that taught to all, and the esoteric, or that taught to a select few; and thus his disciples were divided into two classes, according to the Degree of initiation to which they had attained, as being either fully admitted into the society, and invested with all the knowledge that the Master could communicate, or as merely postulants, enjoying only the public instructions of the school, and awaiting the gradual reception of further knowledge. This double mode of instruction was borrowed by Pythagoras from the Egyptian priests, whose theology was of two kinds—the one exoteric and addressed to the people in general; the other esoteric and confined to a select number of the priests and to those who possessed, or were to possess, the regal power.

And the mystical nature of this concealed doctrine was expressed in their symbolic language by the images of sphinxes placed at the entrance of their temples. Two centuries later, Aristotle adopted the system of Pythagoras, and, in the Lyceum at Athens, delivered in the morning to his select disciples his subtle and concealed doctrines concerning God, Nature, and Life, and in the evening lectures on more elementary subjects to a promiscuous audience. These different lectures he called his Morning and his Evening Walk.

PYTHAGORAS

One of the most celebrated of the Grecian philosophers, and the founder of what has been called the Italic School, was born at Samos in the period of 586-69 B.C., the year 582 being favored as the probable one of his birth. Educated as an athlete, he subsequently abandoned that profession and devoted himself to the study of philosophy. He traveled through Egypt, Chaldea, and Asia Minor, and is said to have submitted to the initiations in those countries for the purpose of acquiring knowledge.

On his return to Europe, he established his celebrated school at Crotona, a Dorian Colony in the south of Italy, about 529 B.C., much resembling that subsequently adopted by the Freemasons. His school soon acquired such a reputation that disciples flocked to him from all parts of Greece and Italy. Pythagoras taught as the principal dogma of his philosophy the system of metempsychosis, or the transmigration of souls. He taught the mystical power of numbers, and much of the symbolism on that subject which we now possess is derived from what has been left to us by his disciples, for of his own writings there is nothing extant. He was also a geometrician and is regarded as having been the inventor of several problems, the most important of which is that now known as the forty-seventh problem of Euclid. He was also proficient in music and is said to have demonstrated the mathematical relations of musical intervals, and to have invented a number of musical instruments.

Disdaining the vanity and dogmatism of the ancient sages, he contented himself with proclaiming that he was simply a seeker after knowledge, not its possessor, and to him is attributed the introduction of the word philosopher, or lover of wisdom, as the only title which he would assume. After the lawless destruction of his school at Crotona, he fled to Metapontum, and sought an asylum from his enemies in the temple of the Muses, where tradition says that he died of starvation at near the end of the sixth or the beginning of the fifth century. Some claim the date to be 506 B.C., when he was about seventy-six years old.