FREEMASONRY
IN HONG KONG

AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY

District Grand Lodge
of
Hong Kong and The Far East
DATE
6-11 May 2017

VENUE
The Rotunda
Exchange Square One & Two
Central
Hong Kong
OPENING CEREMONY

6 May 2017
AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN HONG KONG

1717-2017 CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
FREEMASONY'S HONG KONG CONNECTION // HISTORY OF ZETLAND HALL

Zetland Hall is Hong Kong's masonic centre and home of Hong Kong's Freemasons.

There have been three Zetland Halls in Hong Kong.

In the early 1840s, before the first hall was built, lodge meetings were held in hired rooms.

FIRST HALL

The first Masonic Hall in Hong Kong was built in 1844 by The Zetland Lodge No. 105 E.C., at the corner of what is now Zetland Street and Ho Man Tin Street.

The building was named Zetland Hall in honour of the Lodge that built it. The Zetland Lodge itself was named as a complement to the then Grand Master, Thomas, Second Earl of Zetland, who was the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1844 to 1870.

Lovingly referred to by the brethren as “The Bungalow”, it was completed, and the first meeting of the Zetland Lodge was held there on 13 October 1853.

SECOND HALL

The Bungalow was deemed too small and in 1905 it was replaced by a second, larger and more impressive building erected on the same site.

The second Zetland Hall was bombed heavily during the World War II. This sadly accounts for the loss of almost all pre-Second World War District records.

In 1946, the site of this hall in Zetland Street was sold to the Hong Kong Electric Company for HK$380,000.

THIRD HALL

Between 1946 to 1950 the Freemasons of Hong Kong met in rented temporary premises while a site for a new hall was found.

The current site at 1 Kennedy Road, previously the St George Hotel (preumably bomb-damaged), was subsequently purchased. Plans for a new building had been drawn up by the Masonic Institute whilst at Stanley Internment Camp during the war years.

Construction of the hall began in 1949, with the foundation stone being laid on 2 April 1949. Work was started in January 1950, and the Hall was dedicated to Masonic use in an impressive ceremony on 21 January 1950.

香港共濟會備仁會館歷史

香港共濟會備仁會館於1950年1月21日落成並正式成立。會館位於香港九龍九龍仔，原址為當年香港國際會館，現在為九龍仔社區中心。
Zetland Hall is a Masonic Centre owned and operated by the Lodges that meet in Hong Kong.

Currently there are 32 Lodges that meet here under the auspices of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as a wide variety of English, Irish, and Scottish side-branches.

As well as being the venue for Masonic meetings, Zetland Hall is available to host private functions.

Facilities at Zetland Hall include:
- Two Masonic lodge rooms
- Museum containing many items of Masonic interest
- Library with over 1,000 books on Freemasonry and related topics
- Fully licensed bar
- Chinese, Asia and European lunch and dinner catering
- Banquet Hall for over 120 people
- Changing room with showers

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FAMOUS PAST FREEMASONS IN HONG KONG

Sir Paul Chater (1846 - 1926)
District Grand Master from 1881-1906
Co-Founder of Hong Kong Land

Sir Catchick Paul Chater was descended from a line of Armenian Christians in Calcutta. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1864, aged 18, as a bank clerk working for the Bank of Hindustan, China and Japan. Listening and learning as he went along, within two years he resigned and established his own business as a broker. In 1876 he formed a partnership with a new friend.

Sir Paul developed many projects for the extension and benefit of Hong Kong with many successful businesses and companies but none more successful than the founding in 1889 of The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, later to become Hongkong Land in conjunction with Jardine.

Sir Paul was a pillar of the Hong Kong Community and came to be known as the "Grand Old Man of Hong Kong". He was a Justice of the Peace and a member of both Legislative and Executive Councils. Sir Paul spent much of his money on good works and in 1902, he was knighted for his achievements.

Masonic

Sir Paul was a dedicated Freemason. Both his public and private philanthropic contributions throughout his Masonic tenure were thoughtful, generous, impeccably on-point and generally well estimated by the men before him. He had been approached to help whatever cause was needing his contributions.

He was a member of the Perseverance Lodge of Hong Kong No. 1163 and Past Master of Victoria Lodge of Hong Kong No. 1016. He was appointed District Grand Master of Hong Kong and South China in 1881 at just 35 years of age and held this position for 23 years, retiring in 1905. However, he was missed out of Masonic retirement not once, but twice afterwards to install new District Grand Masters in Hong Kong.

On his retirement, the Craft established the Chater Masonic Scholarships Fund Trust as a memorial to his leadership. This charity still exists today and provides scholarships not only for children of Freemasons, but also for other children in Hong Kong. It was in his memory that the Paul Chater Lodge of Installed Masters, No. 5391 was named on his consecration in 1902.
FAMOUS PAST FREEMASONS IN HONG KONG

Sir Kai Ho Kai (1859 – 1914)

Lodge St. John No. 619 S.C. and Founding Member of the University Lodge of Hong Kong No. 3665
Barbier, physician and first president of the University of Hong Kong

Sir Kai Ho Kai, CMG, JP, MCBO was born Ho Tin-kau (Chinese: 翁錫蕃) in 1859. He played a key role in the relationship between the Hong Kong local community and the British colonial government.

In 1872, at the age of 13, Sir Kai Ho Kai was sent to England to study at Pinner House School, Middlesex, Kent. In September 1875, he registered at the University of Aberdeen. In 1878, he became the first Chinese qualified physician.

He returned to Hong Kong in early 1880 and established a new hospital for the Cantonese community. He was later appointed to the British Medical Board and worked for a number of health-related establishments that otherwise would have been inaccessible to the public.

In 1887, the Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese was opened. Sir Kai Ho Kai made it an initiative that Chinese medicine practitioners' work should benefit from an institution that focused on Western medicine. This College later became the basis from which the University of Hong Kong was established in 1912.

After the college was opened, the first class of students included Sun Yat-sen, studied in the hospital with Sir Kai Ho Kai and other doctors during the teaching.

In 1912, the colonial government agreed to start a new university, named the Government Medical College. The HK Technological College was the Medical and Engineering Faculties, and an arts faculty. Not long after the Sir Kai Ho Kai was promoted. He was later also a member, with Sir Paul Chater, of the Legislative Council.

Sir Kai Ho Kai is also remembered as a supporter of the Reform Movement and a teacher of the student Sun Yat-sen, who would become the founding father of the Republic of China.

Clearly his efforts in setting up and developing the College and subsequently the University, as well as his work of public works, led to the recommendation of his knighthood.

Richard Charles Lee (1905 – 1963)

District Grand Master 1957 – 1963
Prominent businessman and philanthropist

R.C. Lee was born in Hong Kong in March 1905, when China was still ruled by the Manchu Emperors.

His father was Lee Hyan, whose name and ancestral ties are commemorated in the streets and buildings of Chipping Bay, Upper Avenue, Lee Garden Pl, the Lee Theatre, Sunning Rd, Shek Hoi Ho, Ting Ping Rd., Fan Shu Rd, etc., as well as in the rear of the company he launched - Vantage Development Ltd - which still owns a considerable amount of real estate in the district.

In 1910 the family moved to Macau and R.C. Lee was sent to school in England in 1917 (aged 12) before going on to study Civil Engineering at Oxford University. He graduated in 1921.

R.C. Lee married Eithne in 1928 and returned to Hong Kong the same year to run the family business.

His interest in Freemasonry dated back to his student days at Oxford University. He was initiated into the University Lodge of Hong Kong No. 3665 in 1929.

After being installed as Master of the University Lodge of Hong Kong in 1948, he rose up the ranks to副 President.

R.C. Lee was installed as District Grand Master in 1961 for the British Chinese District Grand Lodge, and held the position for over 25 years until he passed to the Grand Lodge in 1983 at the age of 78.

In addition to his many Masonic duties, he was heavily involved in the development and governance of Hong Kong, not only as Chairman of the company established by his father, but also as a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils. He was a prime mover in the advancement of higher education and served on the governing Council of both the University of Hong Kong and the Polytechnic University, as well as a member of the Hong Kong University Council and President of the Hong Kong Professional Housing Authority.

AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
LIST OF CRAFT LODGES
IN HONG KONG
(ENGLISH CONSTITUTION)
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY //

VALUES & PRINCIPLES
OF FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry has always been about making good men better. Individuals are reminded to shape their lives round five core principles.

INTEGRITY
We say what we mean and we keep our promises.

KINDNESS
Although our families come first, we believe in playing a key part in our communities and plan our time and money to charitable ventures.

HONESTY
We pride ourselves on openness, about what being a Freemason means for us.

FAIRNESS
We treat everyone as equal – we listen to others, explore any differences and look for common ground.

TOLERANCE
We respect the opinions of others and behave with understanding towards them.

Freemasonry isn’t just about brotherhood and friendship; it’s also about helping our local and global community.

Although an international fraternity with over six million members worldwide, Freemasonry still works very much within the local community.

1717-2017  CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY // CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Freemasonry puts its principles into practice through its charitable activities. We believe in interacting and working closely within our local communities to help all people in need and their communities as a whole.

Here are some examples of Freemasonry contributing to the Hong Kong community, including a host of masonic and non-masonic charities:

China Coast Community

China Coast Community (CCC) is a unique Care and Attention Home in Hong Kong, which was set up in 1978 to provide residential care for English speaking elderly persons who have spent a significant period of their lives in Hong Kong or the Far East.

Over the years the China Coast Community has received donations from the various Masonic charitable bodies in Hong Kong to help fund refurbishments and also support some resident Freemasons who are in financial need and without relatives still in contact with them.

Teddy Bears for Children in Hospitals

Teddy Bears for Children in Hospital is an annual activity in which many Masonic teddy bears are presented to children at various hospitals in Hong Kong just before Christmas.

Since 2001, Freemasons in Hong Kong, in consultation with the Hospital Authority, have funded the operation to produce and distribute over 18,000 bears to more than 10 hospitals in the territory.

Each year a group of brethren and their partners take pride in volunteering to present the bears to the children, bringing a happy moment to the them and hospital cares.

HELPING HAND

Helping Hand is a charity dedicated to serving the needy elderly people in Hong Kong.

Established in 1978 to rehouse the elderly living in squalid caged bed spaces, the charity currently operates six elderly homes plus the only holiday centre for the elderly in Hong Kong.

Helping Hand now looks after over 800 elderly with residential homes and serves an additional 10,000 elderly members of our community and their careers every year through the Holiday Centre and other outreach programmes.

Freemasons in Hong Kong have been supporting the charity for many years and have provided financial assistance to undertake renovation works to three of the elderly homes.

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY // CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole — both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

ANNUAL FREEMASONS WALK FOR CHARITY

In 2016, the Freemasons Walk for Charity was organised and held in Peng Chau to raise funds for InspireHK — a charity that has been helping underprivileged children and teenagers through sports programmes and activities since 2012.

Many Freemasons, their families and friends participated in the charity walk and in addition, our Masonic lodges in Hong Kong supported this important and healthy fund raising event.

SUNBEAM CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION

The Sunbeam Children’s Foundation provides shelter, education, healthcare, social support and career guidance to orphaned and disadvantaged children, from young infants to teenagers — many of whom have no family support of any kind.

Since 1995, the Sunbeam Village in Baolian, Guangdong, PRC has provided children in a remote community with safe accommodation and access to education. Children under their care have grown to become healthy, thriving young adults who have gained tertiary education and entered the workforce.

Several Masonic lodges have been supporting the Sunbeam Children’s Foundation over the years by sponsoring projects and making unconditional donations.

BAKED ALASKA FESTIVAL FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Each year, we host the ‘Baked Alaska Festival’ — a giant Christmas Party for underprivileged children in our Masonic centre Zetland Hall.

The children arrive for lunch and are treated to an array of snacks and treats followed by games and entertainment whilst our musically-inclined Brethren play Christmas music.

The highlight of the day is when children receive their Christmas presents from Santa Claus and the Baked Alaska is served with lashings of chocolate.

FISHING FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Fishing for Handicapped Children is an annual activity which provides an experience of outdoor fishing to handicapped children who are attending the three special schools of the Spastic Association Hong Kong (SAHK).

Now, after ten years, the annual event has gained momentum and support from the parents, the school, SAHK and Freemasons in Hong Kong. Since 2013, the event has expanded to cover the children in all three schools under the SAHK.

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Freemasonry, one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations, has always stood for fairness, tolerance, non-discrimination, inclusiveness, self-improvement, giving to others and supporting the less fortunate in society.

Freemasons are constantly reminded to act in a way that is honest, ethical, law-abiding and sets a good example. Although our traditions and symbols date back centuries, the values they represent are timeless ones that transcend religious or political differences. We believe they are as relevant today as they have ever been.

We are not a religion and we encourage members to follow their own diverse faiths. In fact, discussing religion and politics is forbidden in Lodges. Long ago Freemasons realised that these topics are the source of some of the greatest divisions and disharmony between men and so we focus on areas of harmony rather than disagreement.

Freemasonry believes that respecting and understanding our differences is a crucial step towards building a society and a community with true harmony and peace.

Today freemasonry means different things to each of those who join. For some it's about making new friends and acquaintances. For others it's about being able to help deserving causes – making a contribution to family and in the community. And for them all, it is an enjoyable and fulfilling activity.
GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP & ETHICS //

SQUARE & COMPASSES

The Square and Compasses is the single most identifiable symbol of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry uses the square and compasses to teach and remind us of the basic guidelines for our dealings with other men. The square symbolises integrity, truthfulness, and honour, while the compasses symbolise the importance of self-control, or keeping emotion and prejudice within bounds.

These symbolic emblems are very similar to the ancient Chinese philosophy of "義和矩" (compasses and square) in "孟子•離婁上" (literature by Mengzi: "Li Lou Shang"). In Chinese literature, it is mentioned that Lu Pan (呂班), the patron saint of Chinese builders and contractors in China, used the Compasses and Square "義和矩" to ensure his works met the highest standards, operatively and morally. The Lodge of Lu Pan No. 1987 was consecrated in Hong Kong in 1990 as a tribute to Lu Pan and to commemorate these values.

MASTER LU PAN

The great demand for the work of Lu Pan (c. 507–444 BC) supposedly compelled him to invent and improve a number of carpenter’s tools - the saw, the square, the plane, the drill, the shovel and an ink marking tool - to complete his many projects more quickly. His wife was also credited with inventing the umbrella in order to permit him to work in inclement weather.

There is a temple, Lu Pan Temple (呂篔先師廟) located in Kennedy Town, Hong Kong, which is dedicated to Lu Pan. First built in 1694, the temple is now classified as a Grade I historic building.
UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND (UGLE) TODAY

UGLE is headquartered in Freemasons’ Hall, London. Freemasons have met on this site for over two centuries. The present Freemasons’ Hall was built between 1927 and 1932 as a memorial to the 5,000 members killed during the First World War. It is one of the UK’s finest Art Deco buildings.

UGLE now has over 200,000 members who meet in 6,800 Lodges across England, Wales and in a number of Districts and Lodges across the world.

The District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong and the Far East is one of 42 districts and groups under the guidance of UGLE.

The current Grand Master of UGLE is HRH Duke of Kent.

1717-2017 CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
It’s 300 years since four London Lodges met to establish the world’s first Grand Lodge of Freemasons. Today there are over 6.5 million Freemasons worldwide.

2017 is a special year for the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) as it traces its roots to this historic meeting. Celebrations range from giving a film crew unique access to the people and traditions behind Freemasonry to a year-long programme packed with events. Car rallies, church services, fund-raisers and family fun days – there is something for everyone.

Some of the larger tercentenary celebrations in the UK and Hong Kong are:
- Tercentenary Grand Ball (London)
- Masonic Meeting at Royal Albert Hall (London)
- Music Gala Dinner (Hong Kong)
- Thanksgiving Service at St John’s Cathedral (Hong Kong)
AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
FAMOUS FREEMasons
Freemasons who made our world beautiful and entertaining
FAMOUS FREEMasons

14 U.S. presidents were known to be Freemasons

George Washington (1732 - 1799)
The 1st President of the United States

James Monroe (1758 - 1831)
The 5th President of the United States

Andrew Jackson (1767 - 1845)
The 7th President of the United States

James Polk (1795 - 1849)
The 11th President of the United States

Jame Buchanan (1791 - 1868)
The 15th President of the United States

Andrew Johnson (1808 - 1875)
The 17th President of the United States

James Garfield (1831 - 1881)
The 20th President of the United States

William McKinley (1843 - 1901)
The 25th President of the United States

Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)
The 26th President of the United States

Howard Taft (1857 - 1930)
The 27th President of the United States

Franklin Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)
The 32nd President of the United States

Warren Harding (1865 - 1923)
The 29th President of the United States

Harry Truman (1884 - 1972)
The 33rd President of the United States

Gerald Ford (1913 - 2006)
The 38th President of the United States

DID YOU KNOW?
One of the most iconic buildings in the world, the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., was the creation of a commission of architects who were almost all Freemasons.

The ceremonial placement of its cornerstone was conducted in Masonic ritual by the President of the United States, George Washington, and assisted by the Grand Master of Maryland, Joseph Clark, on October 31, 1793.

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STATUE OF LIBERTY AND FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry has been behind many significant historical achievements. One of the best known of all monuments inspired by Freemasonry is the Statue of Liberty.

Designed to celebrate the centenary of the American Revolution, although not completed until 1886, the statue was the work of Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, who was a Freemason and the values he found in the Craft greatly influenced his work.

Funding for the statue came largely through the efforts of Freemasons in France and America – including the future President, Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1886, when the Statue was formally dedicated, thousands of Freemasons paraded in New York City, joined by President Grover Cleveland and many other dignitaries.

Today, a large plaque, adorned with the square and compasses, tells the millions of visitors to Liberty Island each year of Freemasonry’s role in the creation and erection of this world-renowned symbol of freedom.

FIRST MASON ON THE MOON

The second man to walk on the moon, astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin was the first Freemason to set foot upon the celestial globe.

There have been nine Masonic Astronauts since Buzz went into space.

1717-2017 CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY
Freemasons celebrate its 300th anniversary with a commitment of continued contribution to the community

Perched on the intersection of Kennedy Road and the Peak Tram overpass is an old, historic building Zetland Hall, a private club. Freemasons’ lodges have been meeting there since 1950. This year it celebrates the 300th anniversary of the world’s first Grand Lodge (now the United Grand Lodge of England) by holding a public exhibition at the Rotunda, Exchange Square 1, from 9th to 11th May.

Freemasons, often referred to as one of the oldest non-religious social networking societies of like-minded individuals, are constantly reminded to live just, upright and moral lives by a “peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by signs”. “Peculiar” in this case means special or distinctive. Fraternal relationships and good citizenship are reiterated at lodge meetings by a series of dramatic stories acted out by lodge members. If such good stories were widely circulated, their dramatic effect would be lost when enacted at lodge meetings, thus spoiling the enjoyment of the members.

Freemasonry is not a secret society but a society with secrets. Traditional methods of recognising each other are passed on to junior members. There are no secrets that can be considered subversive to God, man or the laws of the land in which we live. This demand for privacy and propensity for drama has generated the myth that it is an elitist and secretive organization wielding great influence.

The folklore has been compounded and widely portrayed in hit movies such as National Treasure, The Da Vinci Code and best-seller fictions such as The Lost Symbol. Freemasons have chosen to ignore such fictional portrayals. Their high principles have induced influential men throughout modern history to join, including Presidents, Monarchs, politicians, public servants, scientists and entertainers. The mysteries surrounding this six million strong group of men deepen with every Google query; many search results have nothing to do with the freemasonry practised at Zetland Hall.

Integrity, kindness, honesty, fairness and tolerance are the standards by which Freemasons are taught to live by. The aim is to make good men better. By integrity, we ask our members to say what we mean and keep our promises. By kindness, we believe in playing a key role in our communities, and giving time and money to charitable ventures. By honesty, we treat everyone as equals, listen to others, explore any differences and look for common ground. By tolerance, we respect the opinions of others and behave with understanding towards them.

In Hong Kong, there are about a thousand Freemasons governed by the English Constitution. While many expat members have left Hong Kong since 1997, young local membership has been growing steadily. Mr Vivian Lee, the District Grand Master of Hong Kong and the Far East of the English Constitution, said “We welcome like-minded individuals to inquire if they are interested in joining this fraternity. Much information can also be gleaned from www.ugle.org.uk. Freemasonry means different things to different members – making new friends, contributing to society, celebrating a long tradition, experiencing personal growth, taking up a hobby and having fun.”

Over the years, Hong Kong Freemasons have been active in extending charitable activities, taking up a hobby and having fun. A Masonic Teddy Bear

Freemasons have regularly donated to the China Coast Community, a unique residential care home for English speaking elderly persons. Another early initiative was to support Helping Hand, which today operates six elderly homes and a holiday centre, the Charles Kao Foundation for Alzheimer Disease received donations from Freemasons to support raising school children’s awareness of Alzheimer’s disease, which may hit their elderly grandparents or other relatives at home.

Freemasons arrange the production and distribution in person of teddy bears in paediatric wards of over 30 hospitals in Hong Kong. Underprivileged children are invited to Zetland Hall to enjoy a Christmas lunch, fun and games, and presents from Santa Claus.

Last year, the focus was on a group called InspireHK, a charity that targets underprivileged children and teenagers through sports programmes to develop their character and sportsmanship, providing them with values such as perseverance and teamwork so that they may contribute to society in later life. Freemasons, their families and friends raised HK$750,000 from amongst themselves via a number of charity events, including a sponsored walk for this project.

In addition to charitable activities organized at District level described above, individual Lodges also have their own charity initiatives benefitting a diverse group of worthwhile causes for residents of Hong Kong. Just last Saturday, 29th April, a group of Freemasons and volunteers brought handicapped children for a fishing trip and had a delightful afternoon in Tin Shui Wai.

Freemason and volunteers taking handicapped children to a funful fishing event.

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“Freemasonry in Hong Kong: Local Heart, Global Soul”

An exhibition celebrating 300 years of Freemasonry

• 6th - 11th, May 2017
• 9am-7pm, daily, except 6 May, open at 12nn
• The Rotunda, Exchange Square I & II

Teddy Bears For Children in Hospitals. A happy afternoon for the children and hospital carers.

"Freemasonry in Hong Kong: Local Heart, Global Soul"