

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 2

the Watermark

Canada's Online Masonic Philatelic Newsletter



You'll Shoot Your Eye Out!

In my favorite holiday film, "A Christmas Story," be speckled Ralphie is mesmerized by the Holy Grail of air rifles "the Red Ryder 200-shot range model air rifle" and at every turn in his desire to get one for Christmas he is told to forget his quest because he will shoot his eye out! Eventually his persistence pays off and he gets his dream gift only to take a ricochet into his glasses and nearly shoot his eye out. But all ends well, it's only a scratch and his quest pays off. How many times in our lives do many well-meaning people continuously warn us to not take a chance because we will get injured in the process and discourage us from pursuing a meaningful goal. My 27 year-old Type 1 diabetic son Derek just completed a personal journey to the base camp of Mount Everest to raise awareness about the plight of adult diabetics in the developing world (the month before he participated in and completed the "Tough Mudder" competition). These adults who had previously received treatment for juvenile diabetes from aid agencies get cut off because they become adults. Though they grew up, their diabetes did not go away, and many of them live in poverty and cannot afford test strips and insulin and die prematurely due to diabetes. As a supporter of "Insulin For Life" he chose to take action to bring attention to the plight of the poor and be an example of goodness in action.

Last year my son donated a goat to a family in need in lieu of a Christmas gift for my wife and I. This year he gave us a lesson in what a man with severe diabetes can do despite the fact that nearly everyone in his life told him to not travel to Nepal and hike up 18,000' to the base camp because it was too dangerous. If he wanted one for Christmas, I would buy him a Red Ryder air rifle, because he isn't worried about shooting his eye out. Instead I think I'll donate a goat to someone who can use one.



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Sing A Song of Nationhood

What do the countries of Austria, Biafra, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, India, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, Rhodesia, Russia, South Africa, Great Britain, Uruguay, Paraguay and the United States of America have in common?

At one point in their history Freemasons had a part in creating their national anthems!

National anthems often come and go throughout history as countries political climate changes, resulting in some countries having had several different anthems or popular songs that its citizens' identify with. When you consider how many men of liberty, poetry, and music have been Freemasons over the years it should not come as a surprise that several countries would have a Masonic connection to their anthems.

Ecuador



The current national anthem of Ecuador was established in 1948 and Antonio Neumane Marno composed the music to the 1865 lyrics written by the poet Juan Leon Mera. Brother Neumane (1818-1871) was a composer, pianist who was born in Corsica, France of German parents. He was the first Director of the National Conservatory of

El Salvador

The lyrics of National Anthem of El Salvador were written by Juan José Cañas (1833-1915) an inspired poet and distinguished military general.



France



Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle (1760-1836) was a French military officer known for writing the words and music of the *Chant de guerre pour l'armée du Rhin* in 1792, which would later be

known as La Marseillaise and became the national anthem of France. The author of the three Musketeers' **Alexandre Dumas** (1802-1870) penned another national anthem of France, *Le Chant des Girondins* (The Song of Girondists), which was used during the

Austria and East Germany

Both countries national anthems "Die Kaiserhymne" or "Kaiserlied" and "Hymne an Deutschland" set their lyrics to the music of **Franz Joseph Hayden** (1732-1809) a member Loge Zur wahren Eintracht "to maintain harmony", in Vienna.



Rant: That Don't Impress Me Much

I recently read an article on one of the many Masonic blogs I read, about a recent en-mass raising of 82 candidates at a Master Mason degree in Texas. The article explained that it wasn't one of those events that we occasionally hear about wherein large clumps of men receive all three degrees in one day. No, no this event was better than one of those cattle herding events because all 82 men had already had their EA and FC degrees in their own lodges before attending this "special event". The author of the article stated, *"the raising is done pretty much the same as a raising in the local Lodge. The main difference would be that candidates go through the gates about eight at a time"* and *"Total time from beginning to end was about 3 ½ hours. It is quite a sight to see 82 Brothers circumambulating around the Lodge. It requires about a dozen "mangers" to make it work."*

Maybe it's because of where I come from, but you can call me kooky and slap me with a fish but come on, in my opinion this wasn't a raising, it was a spectacle, designed more to impress the Grand Master and the rest of the crew than it was about impressing the candidates. What a shame and a farce, these 82 men were robbed of one of the most awe inspiring and deeply personal positive experiences a freemason can

have in participating in such a poignant and moving degree that is performed for him by his brethren. Over the past 32 years I have cringed every time I attended or participated in a raising when there was more than one candidate and I refused to conduct such an event when I was a WM. This degree of all degrees is so special and should only be given to one person at a time, but too many lodges insist on cattle herding several candidates (up to five) because it was too much work or too inconvenient to conduct several MM degrees. Most of the Lodges I have been to or belonged to (I moved around a lot in my career) don't do much other than holed boring meeting and perform poor quality degrees! I know that everything in Texas is supposed to be big but herding 82 men through a degree eight at a time in a mere 3 ½ hours is nothing more than a spectacle, one in which the candidates lost out. The only other thing I can say about that, is by quoting the words of the great (and gorgeous) Canadian Country music star "Shania Twain, OC"; "That Don't Impress Me Much"!



Canadian Mason of the Month

The Right Honourable Sir John Alexander MacDonal

Most countries have their George Washington, that first political leader to assume the position of a country's first founding founder. Canada is a relatively new and did not become a country until 1867 when five of the existing provinces joined to create a confederation. MacDonal was born in Glasgow Scotland; his family emigrated to Kingston Ontario, when he was five. He was Canada's first Prime Minister and his political career spanned almost half a century and he served as Prime Minister for 19 years. Sir John A. was an active

Freemason. Initiated: 1844 *St. John's Lodge No. 5, Kingston Ontario*, Affiliated: May 11, 1869 *Civil Service Lodge No. 148, Ontario* and the Honorary Past Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

Sing a Song continued...

Italy

Goffredo Mameli (1827-1849) was an Italian patriot, poet and writer. He wrote the lyrics of the current national anthem of Italy.



Great Britain

Though it is not the official British Anthem, "*Rule Britannia*" was considered by many to be the unofficial anthem. Written by **Thomas**



Augustine Arne (1710 - 1778) in 1740. Arne also wrote a version of "*God Save the King/Queen*" in 1745.



Hungary

The poet **Ferenc (Frans) Kölcsey** (1790-1838) wrote the words to musical prayer "*Himnusz*" which became Hungary's national anthem in 1844.

Greece

The lyrics to the Greek national anthem, "*Ymnos Eis Tin Eleftherian*" (Ode to Freedom) were written by composer **Dionysios Solomos** in 1825.



Portugal

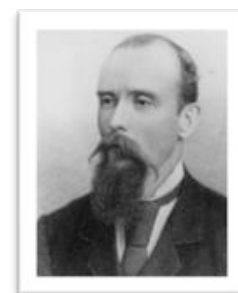
Pedro I

(*Dom Antonio Pedro de Alcantara Bourbon*) was not only the Emperor of Portugal and Brazil, but he was also an accomplished musician. He is credited with writing "*Hymn to the Constitutional Charter*" in 1834.



New Zealand

The 19th century poet **Thomas Bracken** (1843-1898) wrote "*God Defend New Zealand*" one of the country's two official anthems.



Philippines

The national anthem, of the Philippines "*Lupang Hinirang*" has three versions in three languages. The English version "*Philippine Hymn*" was written in 1938 by Senator and Past Grand Master **Camilo O. Osias** (1889-1976).



United States of America



The official anthem of America “the Star Spangled Banner” was written by poet **Francis Scott Key** and set to music by Brother **John Stafford Smith**. But America has other unofficial anthems including “God Bless America” written by Brother Irving Berlin. Unfortunately a bill to make it official was defeated because he was

Jewish and not born in the USA! The pledge of allegiance was also penned by a freemason Brother Rev. **Francis J. Bellamy**.



Paraguay & Uruguay



Composer **Francisco Acuña de Figueroa** (1790 -1862) wrote the lyrics to both Paraguay’s anthem “*The Republic or Death*” and Uruguay’s national anthem.

The musical score for tiny nation of Luxembourg’s’ national anthem music “*Ons Heemecht*” was written by the composer **Jean Antoine Zinnen** (1827-1898) in 1864.



Luxembourg

South Africa

South African composer

Cornelius Jacob



Russia

Dmitry Stepanovich Bortniansky (1751-1825) was considered by many to be Russia’s musical genius. The author, poet and musician composed the music to “How Glorious is Our Lord in Zion” which was used as one of the Russian empires pre revolutionary anthems.



Former Countries of Biafra & Rhodesia

The national anthem “*Land of the rising Sun*” of the former country of Biafra was set to the music of Finnish composer **Jean Sibelius** 1865-1957. Rhodesia’s anthem “*Rise O Voices of Rhodesia*” was set to **Ludwig von Beethoven’s** “Ode to Joy” which is currently being used for the anthem of the European Union.





1988 Scott #388

Masonic Stamp of the Month

You have to look real close to see the Square and Compasses but its there. The top flag on the mast is in fact a black flag with the S & Q flying proudly in the breeze. The ship that bears the flag is the 93-ton schooner “Vixen” built in Peel by H. Graves. It is not known why she was flying the S & Q on her 1853 voyage from Peel to Melbourne Australia in a scant ninety-two days but it

is clearly there. None of the crew of 37 men has yet been identified as Freemasons, but hopefully someday research into the owners and crew will establish a Masonic connection. (*I have a list of the crew. Contact me if you want a copy*)

Another Masonic Father of Confederation Discovered

Thanks to Brother Stuart MacDonald, we can add another name of Freemasons to the list that was a “Father of Confederation”. Lawyer and politician, Edward Barron Chandler (1800-1880) was born in Amherst, Nova Scotia, and moved to Dorchester New Brunswick. He was elected to the New Brunswick legislature in 1827. He was delegate to the conferences in London, Charlottetown, and Quebec that led to Confederation in 1867. After refusing an appointment to the Senate he accepted an appointment, as the 5th Lieutenant Governor on the Province of New Brunswick in 1878. Brother Chandler was a member of Sussex No.4 Lodge in Dorchester, New Brunswick.



Probable Masonic National Anthem Composers

Four men who are believed to have been Freemasons that had a part in the creation of national anthems include; **Eusebio Lillo** lyricist of Chile’s “*Canción Nacional*”. The poet **Rabindranath Tagore** for India’s “*Jana-Gana-Mana*” (Thou Art the Ruler of the Minds of All People) and Bangladesh “*Amar Shonar Bangla*” The 2nd President of Argentina **Alejandro Vicente López y Planes** wrote “*Himno Nacional Argentino*” in 1813 and Cuba’s **Pedro Peracho Figueredo** penned “*El Himno de Bayamo*”.

