



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U.S. GRAND LODGE OF ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS  VOLUME I, ISSUE 3 1 May, 1998e.v. 0 in 8, 7 in 2, IVvi e.n.

From the Grand Master

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

As most probably realize, the Law of Thelema was not entirely the result of praeterhuman forces. Crowley, as a scholar and even in his role as Prophet, was strongly influenced by the lives, ideas and works of many men and women who came before him. The road to *The Book of the Law* was built over many, many years by many, many hands now long stilled. So it is with all the Great Principals of our Order, spiritual, philosophical, and practical.

The roots of our Order extend deeply into history, well before the advent of the New Aeon and the birth of such men as Crowley, Reuss, Kellner, and Doinel. It is these roots which have provided, and continue to provide, food and water to the Scarlet Flower that grows in the enclosed garden of our Order; and we must know and appreciate those roots if we are to truly know and appreciate that Flower.

With this in mind, I have decided to establish a program within the U.S. Grand Lodge which will formally recognize men and women of the past who have contributed in diverse but important ways to the development and advancement of the great principles of our Order. Men so recognized will receive an honor called the *Order of the Lion*; women will receive the *Order of the Eagle*. Nominees for these honors must be historical (as opposed to purely mythological) men and women, and must have died at least eleven years before award.

Any member of U.S. Grand Lodge in good standing of at least Third Degree may submit a nomination to any Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the U.S. (directly or indirectly); but all such nominations must be accompanied by a thorough, well-researched and documented essay defending the nomination. Such essays must be type-written or printed, must include a brief biographical profile of the nominee, and must clearly and eloquently demonstrate why the nominee should be considered for the Order of the Lion or the Order of the Eagle. Meritorious nominations will be forwarded to the Supreme Grand Council for further consideration. Notification of awards, along with selected nomination essays, will be published occasionally here in *Agapé*.

Love is the law, love under will.

Sabazius



Lon's Travelogue

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Last year I had the good fortune to attend the first O.T.O. National Conference in Akron, Ohio. To my surprise, the event was a profound and powerful personal experience. It was more than a convention. It was a reorientation of Stars. For many of us it was the first real opportunity to look beyond the solar systems of our local Lodges and Camps and see our place (and our potential place) in a greater Thelemic galaxy. Last week in England I caught a breathtaking glimpse of what I believe could be the macrocosmic manifestation of the Akron experience; a reorientation of Stars on a global scale.

Ironically, the magnet that would draw Thelemites of all political and fraternal persuasions from all over the world was not a fraternal convention or a rock concert or a festival. It was the most civilized and innocuous of events...an art exhibition. THE ART OF ALEISTER CROWLEY...AN OLD MASTER.

For weeks prior to the event the chat-lines were buzzing with strutting and posturing amongst and between the various factions of the modern Thelemic movement. But as the date of the opening drew near, the rhetoric started to cool and pledges of tolerance were tentatively proffered. Pubs near the exhibition were suggested. Details of travel itineraries were exchanged. Before I left on April 8th I actually believe I sensed among a few adversarial correspondents a level of real anticipation to meet one another.

I was not disappointed. The exhibition was marvelous and exceeded my every expectation. But even greater work was done each night when the gallery doors closed...in the pubs, restaurants, hotels and homes. I wish I could say that great peace treaties were signed and that everything that currently irritates the various facets of Thelemic organizations had been sorted out. But I cannot. I can say that for many of us there is now a face behind the name; an intelligent and sincere Thelemite behind the harsh and often thoughtless late-night e-mail assaults; and perhaps even a new and respected friend or two behind the demonized antagonist.

Below are my diary notes.

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Wednesday, April 8th 1998 E.V.

First Day Feast of the Writing of the Book of the Law

1 P.M. PDT, Cheers Bar, Los Angeles International Airport

My plane for London leaves in two hours. I just converted most of my money to pounds and have settled down with a Guinness to quietly read the First Chapter of Liber AL. Coincidentally, I recall that it was nine years ago to the day that Constance and I first feasted with our European Brothers and Sisters after officiating at Fifth Degree initiations in Aberderon, Wales. I wonder how many of the old 'Knights of Aberderon' will be in London.

Thursday, April 9th 1998 E.V.

Second Day Feast of the Writing of the Book of the Law

12 P.M. GMT, London Heathrow Airport

Read Second Chapter of Liber AL while standing in the passport queue. I am picked up at the airport by Clive Harper, the senior O.T.O. representative in Great Britain who drives me to his home in High Wycombe so I can shower and dress. It is perfect English holiday weather, bitter cold and rainy.

4:00 P.M., October Gallery, London

My first glimpse of THE ART OF ALEISTER CROWLEY exhibition. The October Gallery is located on Old Gloucester Street not far from the British Museum and Atlantis Bookshop. It is the first public exhibition of Crowley's art since his one man show at the Porza Gallery in Berlin in 1931. It is nearly closing time when Clive and I arrive, but there are still 15 or 20 people viewing the exhibition. I meet the primary director of the show, Brother John Bonner of Shemesh Lodge, and several other local members. Everyone is extremely cheerful and relaxed, and appear very pleased at how the exhibition is being received since its opening on April 7th. Clive leaves me at the Gallery to run some errands giving me the opportunity to savor the show.

The first thing that strikes me is the venue itself. In the past it had been a private boys school and still bears evidence of its Dickensian history. The words "OBEY THEM WHO HAVE RULE OVER YOU" is chiseled dourly upon the mantle of one of the austere fireplaces. Instead of covering up this admonition our English brethren have had the subtle wit to hang Crowley's famous self-portrait as The Great Beast, Logos of the Aeon directly above it.

There are a total of fifty-four works of art, mostly AC's but a few by others, including portraits of Crowley by Lionel (Leon) Engers-Kennedy and Augustus John. There are also a dozen works by Freida Harris including a poignant pencil sketch of Crowley on his death-bed. Of the non-Crowley works, the most fascinating to me are eleven of Harris' early drafts of the Thoth Tarot including two versions of the FOOL unmistakably sporting the cherubic face of Harpo Marx.

The works are well lit and displayed more or less chronologically (moving deosil) on eight suspended panels and the two end walls. With the exception of "May Morn" I don't believe I have seen any Crowley works in color. He is fantastic. Especially the watercolor portraits of women and fantasy landscapes from his 1934-36 German period. Nevertheless, everybody's favorite seems to be *Four Red Monks Carrying a Black Goat over the Snow to Nowhere*, a 1923 Goyaesque little masterpiece in oil that has all the elements of divine terror and humor that you want from Crowley.

At closing time Brother Bonner removes for safe keeping several items from a glass display case. The first is Crowley's much photographed Janus-headed bronze wand. It is a magnificent (and heavy) piece. As John removes it from the case I meet Thelemic recording artist Massimo Mantovani. John allows us to shamelessly pose for photographs with the wand. There is another wand in the case. This one is made of polished dark wood and has grotesque faces carved near the top. I believe there is a picture of Crowley holding it in Equinox III, 10. The last item in the case is Crowley's Baphomet seal ring. Unlike the Ankh af na Khonsu seal ring, this little beauty is a delicate cameo of the man-headed-rooster-bodied-ram's-head-butted thing with a man's leg coming out of its chest....oh, you know what I mean!

6:00 P.M., Atlantis Bookshop, London

Not wishing to mar my image as a shameless self-promoter, my publisher, Samuel Weiser, and Airlift Distributors arranged for me to plug my new book, *Angels, Demons, & Gods of the New Millennium*, at Atlantis Bookshop. Since 1922 Atlantis has been Europe's most famous occult bookshop. As such, it was most certainly frequented by Crowley and often served as one of the few outlets for his self-published works. It's about a ten minute walk from October Gallery. Outside the shop we meet brethren Shawn Kelley and Carrie Tilley from California and Hank Hadeed and Elizabeth McBryde from Portland, Oregon.

We discover that other old friends are waiting at the Plough (a nearby pub). As the signing isn't scheduled until 6:30 we retire there. Sure enough, Arild Stromsvag (Knight of Aberderon) of Norway is holding court explaining how American beer is like making love in a canoe. Nodding his head in agreement is Swedish publisher and O.T.O. celeb Carl Abrahamsson and his lovely friend Benedicte and at least twenty others. Thank God I've brought plenty of refills for my Crowley-headed Pez dispenser.

6:30 - 7:30 P.M., Atlantis Bookshop, London

Signing goes very well. The tiny shop is packed with people and lots of books are sold and signed. Here I meet (and I might say cordially) several members of the various contending forces in the Thelemic world. Gerald Suster and his wife make an appearance. During the question and answer period Gerald asks if I think that Thelema is bigger than any one organization. (I, of course, answer "Yes.") and his wife asks me how I keep my shirts so white and bright and free of wine stains. (I told her it was a new shirt.) My thanks to Caroline at Atlantis for a wonderful and ego boosting event. After my moment in the sun we adjourn for pizza where we talk much of Thelema and little of politics.

Friday, April 10th 1998 E.V., (Good Friday) High Wycombe

Third Day Feast of the Writing of the Book of the Law

7:30 A.M. Read Chapter Three in bed. Later in the morning we are off to the Hell Fire Club caves of Sir Francis Dashwood with American friends Shawn, Carrie, Hank and Elizabeth and our hosts; Clive and Deb Harper with their enthusiastic offspring Alex and Fiona. Indescribably cozy pub lunch in West Wycombe.

3:00 P.M. Clive and I set out for Hastings and the home of John Bonner and Sue (Soror Estella, Lodge Master of Shemesh Lodge) to meet with Hymenaeus Beta.

8:00 P.M. Friday to 4:30 A.M. Saturday, April 11th Hastings

John and Sue welcome Clive and me to their lovely home overlooking the sea where we enjoy a delightful dinner and a full evening of degree work which I later dub "The Battle of Hastings."

Saturday, April 11th 1998 E.V. (First day of Passover and Holy Saturday, the day Christ had the good sense to stay dead!)

1:00 P.M. London, October Gallery

Meeting of the Areopagus. Soror Helena has arrived from the U.S. All of us are very tired. Mercifully, the agenda is routine and the meeting is relatively short. (Thanks to the Gods the days of the 15 hour meetings seem to be over.)

4:00 P.M. London, October Gallery

Meeting of the various senior members and leaders of international bodies including old friend and Knight of Aberderon Oliver (from Slovenia), new friend Ranko (from Croatia).

Sunday, April 12th 1998 E.V.

1:00 P.M. London, October Gallery

Kenneth Anger's lecture and slides of the Abbey of Thelema. Clive and I are late to be admitted. The gallery was filled to standing room hours before the presentation. This has to be counted as the most well attended single event of the week. Anger, who in 1955 painstakingly stripped the whitewash from the walls of the old Abbey of Thelema to reveal the bizarre and beautiful artwork beneath, is resoundingly applauded for his heroic efforts.

5:00 P.M. London, Neals Yard, Covent Garden

The icing on the cake. Gnostic Mass is celebrated by the members of Levanah Encampment. Beautiful ceremony. (Oh those English accents!) Fantastic venue and glorious energy.

My diary doesn't end here. The days and nights that followed were packed with field-trips and fabulous food and drink with friends old and new from around the world. But I'll stop rubbing it in now. The real news to report is my perception of a tangible shift in Thelemic consciousness. I believe that each of us who allowed ourselves to become even for a moment a part of this new social paradigm can now add to our litany of claimed titles (real or imagined) the most honorable and optimistic appellation "Ambassador."

Love is the law, love under will.

Lon Milo DuQuette, U.S. Deputy Grand Master General

The 32 page color catalogue *Aleister Crowley: An Old Master* is available from O.T.O., P.O. Box 684098, Austin, Texas 78768 \$20 postpaid USA. A high quality print of Crowley's self portrait as The Master Therion is \$75 postpaid US from the same address.

Local Body Reports

Bubastis Lodge, Dallas, TX

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

In the past year, Bubastis Lodge has regularly performed initiations in the Man of Earth Triad. Currently, we have twenty-two active members and several others that are inactive. The Lodge has been performing the Gnostic Mass regularly since 1989. Monthly business meetings are also held in order to keep everyone up to date on Lodge activities and to get input for future events

In April, we began performing the Gnostic Mass on a weekly basis. In addition to the Mass, we performed the Invocation of Horus and celebrated

ΑΓΑΠΗ

The Official Organ of the U.S. Grand Lodge of Ordo Templi Orientis

Published quarterly by Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A., a California not-for-profit religious corporation with business offices at P.O. Box 32, Riverside, CA 92502-0032.

O.T.O. U.S.A. is a duly recognized Grand Lodge of Ordo Templi Orientis, an international religious organization with business offices at JAF Box 7666, NY, NY 10116, and corporate headquarters at P.O. Box 430, Fairfax, CA 94930.

Donations, legacies and bequests made to Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A. are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Agape is distributed to all local bodies in the U.S.A., and is available as a downloadable file in color at the U.S. Grand Lodge website (<http://otohq.org/oto/>). Local body officers are requested to copy and distribute *Agape* to the members of their Camps, Oases, and Lodges.

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the three days of the writing of the Book of the Law by holding readings of the individual chapters. Following the reading of Chapter Three, we held the Gnostic Mass with a new Mass team. Soror Conscientia Clara debuted as Priestess, Frater Nur-I-Siyah performed the role of Priest and Frater Fdisk debuted as Deacon. This summer, Bubastis Lodge, Khonsu-Thoth Oasis, and Chango Camp will be hosting an EGC Gnostic Mass Conference. It will take place on August 14th and 15th at a scenic lakefront convention site. The focus of the event will be the performance of the Gnostic Mass. Speakers and subjects and currently being finalized, but the topics will include: the history of the Mass, the role of the Saints, a panel discussion on differing interpretations of the rubric of the Gnostic Mass, and the universal symbolism of the Mass. Proposed workshops include costuming design and building temple furniture. For further information, visit our EGC Conference website at <<http://web2.airmail.net/otontex/>>. We can also be reached at:

Bubastis Lodge, P.O. Box 180342, Dallas, TX 75218-0342

Love is the law, love under will.

Frater M.S., Secretary, Bubastis Lodge, OTO



Knights Templar Oasis, Cambridge, MA

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Winter Solstice was a very festive season at Knights Templar Oasis, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. First, we celebrated our bi-coastal Gnostic Mass with a visit by Sr. Caitlin from Thelema Lodge in Oakland, CA. and Frater Aladdin from Tahuti Lodge in New York City. We performed the Mass in its classical form for initiates and guests at the Cambridge Masonic Temple. Two of our guests have since taken Minerval vows, and in general, the membership was in ecstasy.

The following weekend, Sr. Caitlin did her magick again at KTO's private temple in Amesbury, MA. She is far and away the most charming and interesting foreign dignitary with whom we've had the honor to extend our northern hospitality. We look forward to her next venture eastward.

KTO began its second series of classes at Arsenic and Old Lace, in Brookline, MA. This series encompasses Book 4, part II, and is a practical application of the Cabala to the process of Magick as defined and taught by Therion. These classes are taught by Fr. Gallahad and Abrasax.

Fr. Abrasax was invited to produce The Rite of Saturn for Tahuti Lodge's spring series. He created it with his Oasis in Boston, and brought it to NYC for the March 14th opening.

On March 21st, KTO celebrated our first Ceremony of Achievement Recognition. This year, we recognized Fr. Parsaval, II^o for his initiative and skill for erecting our web site, and Fr. A Ka Dua, 0^o, for his expertise in expanding it. Also, Sr. E.C., I^o, for her excellent artistic skills in creating the KTO logo, our outstanding t-shirts, and turning our little newsletter into a magazine; and Bradley Slate, I^o, for his musical expertise which has transformed our rituals into vibrant performances. Lastly, Fr. Gallahad, I^o, is recognized for skill and fealty beyond the expectations of his grade. He overcame the stigma under which our Order has suffered for many years, here in the North East Kingdom, to create an enduring relationship with the Cambridge

Masonic Temple, where we performed the Gnostic Mass at Solstice, and our Equinox Ceremony. In general, Fr. Gallahad has proved as flexible and penetrating as water. When he's found a crevice, he flows in and fills it. Our Oasis takes pride in his humility, good nature, and demand for excellence.

On March 28th, we performed II^o consecrations, and on April 25th we welcomed five new I^o members to our growing roster.

In short, the 93rd year was a prosperous one for The Knights Templar Oasis, and the 94th is off to a great start.

Love is the law, love under will.

Abrasax V^o, Master, KTO



Important Notice To All Body Masters

It is a requirement of the U.S. Electoral College that all Official Bodies must submit an Annual Report by February 15th of each year. This is an official notification that Annual Reports **have not been received** from the following O.T.O. Bodies:

418 Lodge
Anaitis Camp
Camp of the Sacred Drum
IAO-Abrasax Oasis
K.A.L. Camp
Kali Lodge (suspended as of 4/4/98 ev)
Khemennu Camp
Magick Theater Camp
Rosa Mundi Camp
Starry Arch Camp
Syntaxiss Camp (suspended as of 4/4/98 ev)

Body masters **must** contact the Electoral College **immediately** to make arrangements to submit this report. Failure to do so may result in the closure of the above-listed bodies at the Summer meeting of the U.S. Electoral College.

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A Note From The Editor

In order to make AGAPE as useful a publication as possible to our membership, we will be running a short list of Announcements in each future issue. If your Camp, Oasis, or Lodge is having an event that is open and of interest to initiates nationally, such as a retreat, festival, or conference, we'd love to hear about it and pass on the info. Similarly, will also (perhaps less happily) notice the Greater Feasts of initiates. Please send all pertinent information to content@babalon.com or to AGAPE, P.O. Box 3203, Austin, Texas 78764-3203 Please be advised that your text may be edited for brevity, due to our space considerations. In addition, we will be running Local Body Reports as space allows - please contact the editor if you wish to submit a report.