

Not In



Daylight

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Special April 1 Supplement

The Rising Sun Armchair

The Animals, an early rhythm and blues rock band of the 1960s, secretly Freemasons from England, were correct:

There was a house in New Orleans they called The Rising Sun.

Recent Masonic research has determined that the House of the Rising Sun was the location of a Masonic Lodge under dispensation from the Grand Orient de France, prior to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

The Rising Sun Lodge in New Orleans has many namesakes including lodges of the same name in Nashua, NH, in East Providence, RI, and in other places.

To a degree, we are a rising sun lodge as well (i.e., a daylight lodge).

In any event, further research has determined that, at the insistence of Bro. Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, Bro. George Washington visited the Rising Sun Lodge in New Orleans and “borrowed” the Master’s Chair for use at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. This image of the chair comes from



the website at

<http://www.ushistory.org/more/sun.htm> .

At the top of the chair is a golden image of the sun. Close-ups of the sun detail may be seen on the cited website.

“George Washington used this chair for nearly three months of the Federal Convention’s continuous sessions.” *Ibid.*

Without reference to the chair’s Masonic origins, RW Ben Franklin, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, immediately made the connection when he saw the chair.

“James Madison reported Benjamin Franklin saying, ‘I have often looked at that behind the president without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now I... know that it is a rising...sun.’” *Ibid.*

We, too, can understand the meaning of the Rising Sun Armchair if we think about our ritual language during the opening of lodge, as spoken by the Senior Warden in the West, concerning the Worshipful Master’s duties in the East.

The Rising Sun Armchair now resides at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. If you visit, take a good look at that chair and imagine Bro. George Washington, himself a rising son of our new nation, sitting there as president of the Constitutional Convention.

The National Park Service, which operates Independence Hall National Historical Park, has no plans to return the chair to the Masons.

Masonite?

You may have heard of a Hittite, one in an ancient group of Indo-Europeans who moved into Asia Minor and formed an empire at Hattusa in Anatolia (modern Turkey) around 1600 BCE.

You undoubtedly have heard of a Semite, a member of one of various ancient and modern peoples originating in southwestern Asia, including the Akkadians, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Jews, and Arabs.

But have you heard of a Masonite? Recent archeological excavation near the site of King Solomon's Temple has revealed evidence of the existence and work of the Masonites of the ancient world.

Not far from Mount Moriah, archeologists last month discovered debris pits containing remnants of the Masonites' unsuitable materials for King Solomon's Temple. Among the builders of the Temple, the Masonites were known for their ability to make and use smooth engineered-wood boards for construction. However, their materials were rejected in the Temple's building due to deterioration from rain during the night season.

Consequently, the Masonites fell out of favor and their skills were forgotten until this recent discovery.

Nevertheless, vestiges of their artistry in the modern world have hinted of their existence over time, notably because of the use of products like theirs in present day construction sites, TV and movie studios, and for model railroad layouts, among other things.

Masonic Apron May Be Replaced as an Emblem of the Craft.

One might have thought that the Apron, an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, might continue

forever as one of the most visible and enduring symbols of Freemasonry.

Alas, commercialism has taken over. The canning industry, in particular, is lobbying Freemasons whithersoever dispersed around the globe to make a change.

The Masonic Apron may now be replaced by the Mason jar, in recognition that some of the rituals of Freemasonry might be seen as jarring.

As with Masonic aprons, the Mason jars would be suspended from the waist in lodge. They would thus be available to provide Masonic "Relief" for desperate Brethren enduring long meetings and rituals.

References

Here are some references to avoid being totally in the dark. Let there be light!

April Fools' Day:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools%27_Day

The Animals:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Animals

Louisiana Purchase:

<https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/louisiana-purchase>

The Rising Sun Chair:

<http://www.ushistory.org/more/sun.htm>

Marquis de Lafayette:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_du_Motier,_Marquis_de_Lafayette

Hittites:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/world-history-beginnings/ancient-egypt-hittites/a/the-hittites>

Semites:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/semite>

Masonites:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonite>

Mason Jar:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mason_jar

Respectfully submitted,
David I. Karp, Editor