

Masonic Library & Museum Association

**An International Organization of
Librarians, Archivists, Curators, & Directors**

ANNUAL MEETING – 2013 Alexandria, VA

MINUTES

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Eric Trosdahl | Minnesota |
| Jesse Chariton | Illinois |
| Brian Rountree | Manitoba |
| Adam Kendall | California |
| Cathy Giaimo | Pennsylvania |
| Glenys Waldman | Pennsylvania |
| Aimee Newell | National Heritage Museum, MA |
| Mark Tabbert | GWNMA |
| Todd Johnstone & Rachel Coalman | Washington |
| Albert + Virve Martin | Georgia |
| Deb + Simon LaPlace | Connecticut |
| Helge Bjorn Horrisland | Norway |
| Hugh Young | Alberta |
| Jerry Kopp | Alberta |
| Val Korszniak | New Jersey |
| Mike Brumback | Indiana |
| Kelby Dolan | Indiana |

REGRETS

Neil Wynes Morse Canberra Masonic Centre Library and
Museum, A.C.T.
Charles Reid Canada (Ontario)
Diane Clements &
 Martin Cherry Library + Museum of Freemasonry [London, England]
Barbara Mechell Texas
Rodrigo Ortiz Florida

A] OPENING OF BUSINESS MEETING

The President, Mark Tabbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B] REPORTS

1] Minutes and secretary's report – Brian Rountree

Moved/Seconded: Brian Rountree, Albert Martin:
That the Minutes for 2012 be adopted as circulated.
Carried.

The Secretary sent out renewal forms this year and asked for payments to be sent to him: he then forwarded payments to the Treasurer. This helped to update the membership records.

| As of 21 September 2013 | 2013 | 2013 paid |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Institutional members | 76 | 16 |
| Personal members <i>Including Past Presidents</i> | 41 6 | 18 |
| Affiliate members | 26 | 8 |
| Removal* | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 149 | 42 |

* includes mail returned; by request; death

These numbers include new members during 2012-2013 hailing from

- El Paso, Texas
- Charleston, SC
- Miami, FL
- Edison, NJ
- Covington, KY
- Oakland, CA
- Pikesville, MD
- Mt Vernon, IA
- Chino Valley, AZ
- Charlotte, NC

One new member was not able to send money using his Florida bank so we worked it out that he could send his payment using PayPal and that seemed to work well.

Conversely, Canada Post [or perhaps the US Postal Service] lost a registered envelope in April 2013. The envelope contained cheques of approx. \$300 value for membership dues that I was sending to the Treasurer. It left Winnipeg and then Toronto and appears to never have arrived at a US destination. Eventually, in August, Canada Post gave us compensation in the amount of \$47 Cdn. There has been no explanation as to what happened to the envelope: it just cannot be found.

The senders were advised of what had happened. One reported that it would be cheaper to issue a new cheque than to put a “stop payment” order on the missing one.

This report is presented for Information Only.

Brian Rountree, Secretary

2) Treasurer’s report – Eric Troisdahl -- see Appendix 1

The Treasurer presented his report up to September 30, 2013.

Moved/Seconded: Albert Martin, Adam Kendall: that the report be received and accepted.

Carried.

3) Vice-President’s report—Adam Kendall

Our Facebook page to date has 1071 “likes.” We would like to see more of our artifacts on the site coming from a variety of the members of MLMA. When you do make a submission be sure to “watermark” your image.

We want to raise our profile among current members and encourage new members. We would like to get our members involved in

-- our conference

- The Quarry Project
- helping local members and lodge libraries

We could encourage our members to join local and national affinity associations [for libraries and museums and archives].

4) President's report – Mark Tabbert

Mark gave an overview of The Quarry Project. At this date there were 70 registered and, with the presenters, that gives approx. 100 people in attendance. Letters had been sent out to a variety of Masonic places and advertising had been done. One Short Talk Bulletin from the MSANA had been devoted to the Project.

Mark gave an overview of the weekend.

Concerning the future—Mark indicated that The Masonic Society would like to do this project again, with a different format and location. Perhaps it could be conceived as Part 2. They consider that our expertise fits in with their plans very well.

5) Webmaster's report – see Appendix 2

Motion/Seconded: _____: that we receive the report.
Carried

6) Overseas reports – see Appendix 3

- a) Library and Museum of Freemasonry – Diane Clements
- b) AMMLA [*Association of Masonic Museums, Libraries and Archives in Europe*] – Glenys Waldman
The Association's website is <http://ammla.org/jml6/>
- c) Scandinavia -- Helge Bjorn Horrisland

To add to his verbal report on activities in his area of the world, Helge mentioned the anniversary next year of the start of WW1 and the 700th anniversary of Jacques DeMolay.

C] OLD BUSINESS

1) Incorporation

Eric Trosdahl, Treasurer, indicated that he had received a Certificate of Incorporation from the state of Minnesota and that he was now working on achieving our non-profit status.

2) The Quarry Project

See above in the President's report.

D] NEW BUSINESS

a) Election of officers

Report from Nominating Committee chair, Bill Kreuger

- President = Adam Kendall
- Vice-President = Aimee Newell
- Secretary = Brian Rountree
- Treasurer = Eric Trosdahl

There were no other nominations, making these members elected by Acclamation.

Brian Rountree did indicate that this would be his last term as Secretary, therefore members have 2 years to decide if they want to take over.

b) Proposal for ML&M Assn. 17 Sep 2013

- Whereas the Masonic Library and Museum Association is the major representative of Masonic Libraries and Museums and,
- Whereas the Masonic fraternity appears to have no co-ordinating body for much needed archival activities and,
- Whereas much Masonic history has been lost because of this lack and,
- Whereas Archives, Museums and Libraries normally have much the same objectives,
- It is recommended that:

The word Archive be added to that association's name and that this body take on the task of educating and helping Masonic Organizations to establish archives and archival facilities for the purpose of saving as much Masonic history as is permitted. This activity would include setting standards for documenting, preserving, and making history information available to historians, researchers and others.

Proposed by Bro Albert Martin, Master Historian, Pythagoras Masonic Lodge No. 41, Decatur GA.

Discussion followed.

While members are in agreement with this proposal, it should be noted that any changes now would be expensive because we have become Incorporated.

We do have this idea as part of our Mission statement.

Archivists are included in our letterhead—see the start of these Minutes

c] Member news

Around the room with news and views—

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Hugh Young | G. L. Alberta plans to set up a museum |
| Mike Brumback | Indiana is making progress in its library |
| Albert Martin | Is here representing Pythagoras Lodge |
| Cathy Giaimo | Is re-writing the G. L. souvenir booklet |
| Eric Troisdahl | St. Pauls' Lodge is upgrading their building and organizing the title to the building |
| Brian Rountree | Starting work on a paper for a future ICHF |
| Mark Tabbert | Mentioned a few changes happening at the George Washington Masonic Memorial |
| Deborah LaPlace | Is reorganizing her library; prepared a paper on Hiram Bingham; cataloguing artifacts in the library |
| Val Korszniak | Is helping several local lodges organize their own libraries |
| Aimee Newell | April 11, 2014 is the next Symposium; there is a new book about the Massachusetts collection; there is a new history of the NMJ; working on a new book about Masonic aprons |
| Todd Johnston | The GL Washington State now owns its building and the library + museum is in its new space there |
| Helge Horrisland | Nothing to add to his earlier report |
| Glenys Waldman | gave a talk to the Philalethes Society at their annual meeting in February, called "Some Masonic Lights of Early Pennsylvania", in which she spoke about a few of the many |

illustrious Pennsylvania Masons in the generation after Franklin: primarily Major General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (1746-1807) and his brother, Speaker of the House Frederick Augustus Conrad (1750-1801), who were members of Lodge No. 3, Philadelphia

Mention was made of the ICHF 2015 meeting being held in Ontario, Canada under the joint sponsorship of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and of Brock University. No further details were available.

E] FUTURE MEETINGS

2014 - The library chair, Glenn Visscher, invites us to come to New Jersey.

Motion: Mark Tabbert/ Hugh Young: that we accept the invitation. Carried.

We would give the library/museum some “sweat equity” by using our expertise to work with and on the collection, at Glenn’s direction.

2015 – Possibilities mentioned include

- ✓ Lexington, MA [Aimee had previously indicated we could go there but we are allowed to decide on other places]
- ✓ Indianapolis
- ✓ Texas
- ✓ Chicago
- ✓ Deb LaPlace offered to host in Connecticut
- ✓ Todd Johnston said we could add Tacoma, WA to the mix

Discussion occurred.
No decision was made.

F] ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hugh Young / Albert Martin: to adjourn.
Carried.

APPROVED AT THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

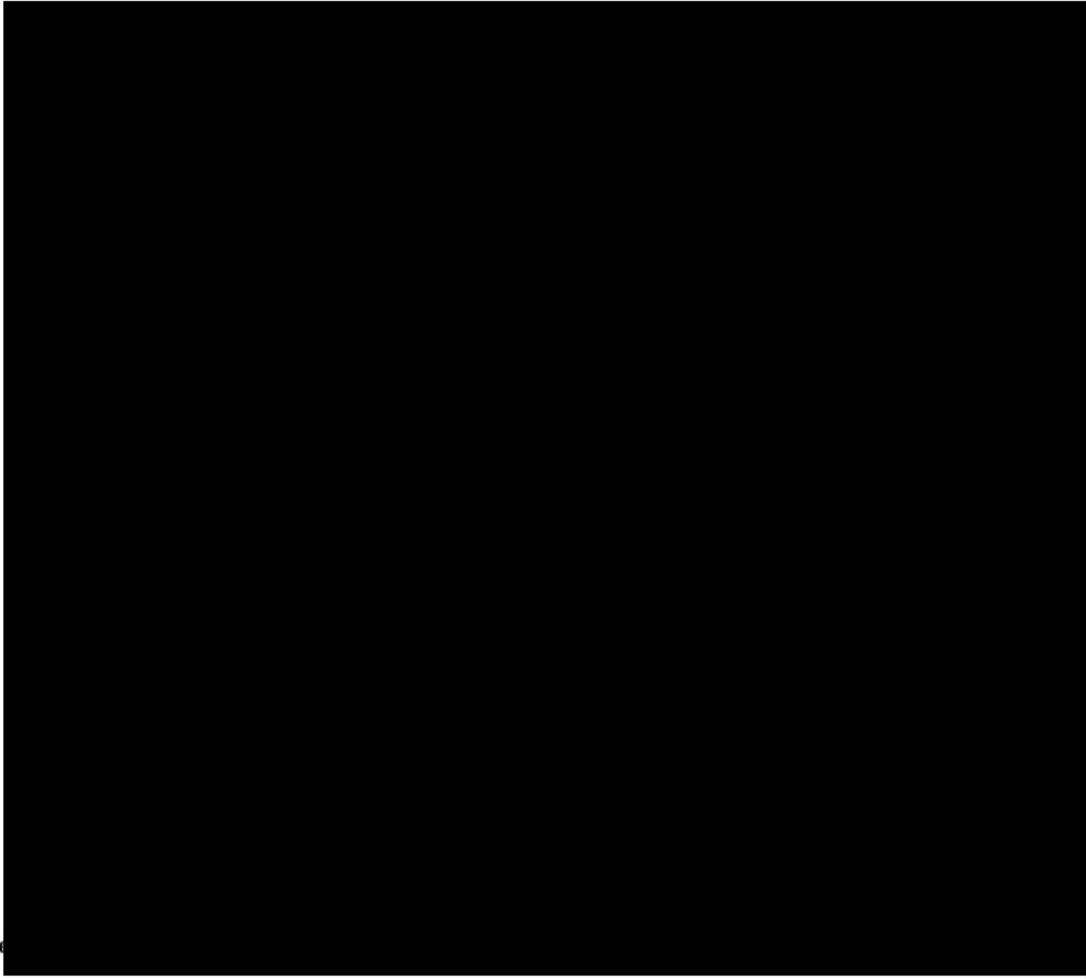
Signed:

ADAM KENDALL, President

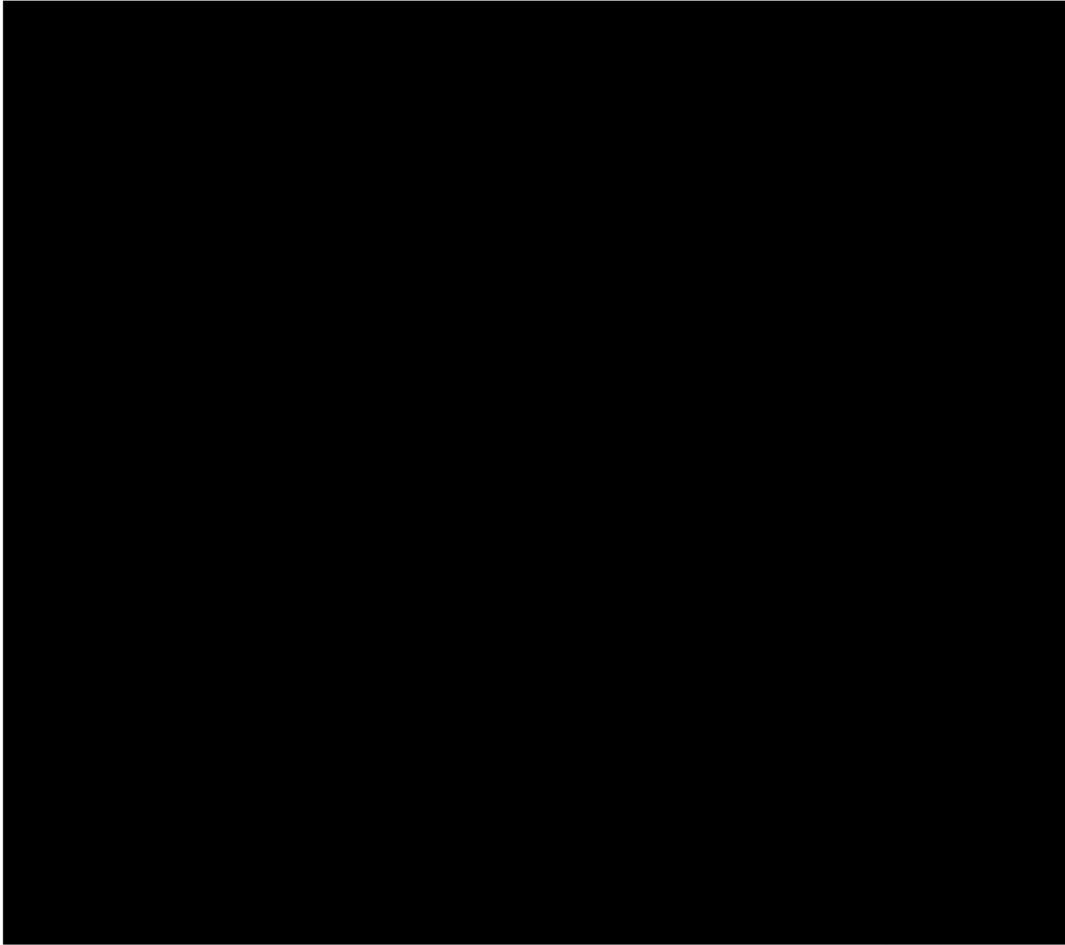
BRIAN ROUNTREE, Secretary

**APPENDIX 1
TREASURER'S REPORTS**

**MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
October 2012 through September 2013**



MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of September 30, 2013



APPENDIX 2

REPORT OF THE WEBMASTER - 2013

Masonic Library & Museum Association

THE CHANGING WORLD OF LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

When we became involved with MLMA initially, it seemed like 'just another Masonic organization'. How much our perception of this has changed over the past year with Ed assuming the duties of Grand Librarian for the Grand Lodge of Maine. Having been exposed far more than we could have imagined to OPACs, shelf labeling, public access, security, meaningful use, etc. etc., the need for contemporary and meaningful sharing amongst colleagues in this very narrow field seems much more germane.

AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

It's now much clearer to us that those who care for a library/museum relating to the fraternity of Freemasonry have not only a job (with or without compensation) but a labor of love. However, the shrinking Masonic membership to support collections coupled with the easy availability of information online (albeit FAR less complete and – in many cases – accurate) makes many, including those who fund our institutions and ourselves, begin to question the relevance of what we've accumulated and why it should continue being funded.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

If there's one thing that our deep exposure to the many facets of Library and Museum management has revealed during this past year, it's the need for a central repository for sharing: ideas, opportunities, motivations and, most especially, dreams and aspirations. In many other fields, professionals see themselves as 'colleague-competitors'. In this arena, however, we are all striving to 'do the right thing' and the success of one can be a success for all if we are ready to adapt and grow. It's the 'rising tide floats all boats' concept and using the many facets of social media, it can be done through MLMA!

WE WOULD ENCOURAGE...

Adam Kendall has given us just a brief taste of what can be done through his Facebook postings on the MLMA page – and we personally have found them delicious and enticing. If only many more members could begin using this or some other emerging technology to 'spread the word' about their institutions (and, simultaneously, MLMA), the mission and message of the relevance of Masonic Libraries and Museums could be far more widely felt. Even little things ("The Grand Lodge of Maine is pleased to announce that it's entire catalog is now available online...", for example) would show movement/progress and point to a need. Too old or too little time to use Facebook? Send it to us and we'll get it up there for you (but remember: "the times, they are a changin'" and you need to stay up-to-date with the world – as bizarre as it sometimes is!).

Using the social media outlets of the MLMA, your organization's commercial offerings (books for sale, etc.) could be more widely publicized. A press release to us could then be used to send it out in the organization's name. Some institutions have some things for

sale while others have none: it'd be great if we gave our member organizations a discount on whatever we had available – and publicize that through the MLMA website and other MLMA media outlets.

If someone has some artistic capabilities, perhaps a graphic proclaiming MLMA membership would be helpful in such a promotion? The opportunities are endless and although at times it seems like we're simply tossing rocks into a vast ocean of information polluted with sewage, one never knows where those ripples will wind up.

Further, and on a grander scale, setting up a combined Masonic OPAC as well as an inter-library loan cooperative amongst our institutions could be of great value as well. Just some of the many late-night ideas that we've discussed here at the King Castle! <grin>

Yes, we all have FAR too much to do 'in house' than to think about 'propping up' yet another group but having seen what great connections can be made through this organization, I believe that this is one which is truly worthwhile supporting.

On that very note, a very special thanks to Brian Rountree who reached out to help a struggling neophyte totally overwhelmed by the chaos he found when becoming Grand Librarian. His caring and concern was and continues to be MOST appreciated.

PLEASE let us know what we can do for the Masonic Library & Museum Association moving forward! Oh, and if you do come to Maine to visit (and if you don't, you're really silly!) and you head up to Bar Harbor (doesn't everyone?), PLEASE let us know. (Going from Bangor to the coast, you'll pass directly by our Grand Lodge building with the Library and (soon) Museum available to you regardless of the day/hour. We'd love to show you around. (We can also help you plan a trip here: Maine's #1 industry is tourism so we're all involved.... Think about it!)

Ed had planned to be with you this meeting but Brandy inconveniently tore her meniscus so Ed's saying home, getting in the way but attempting to help. Enjoy yourselves and each other and remember our best wishes to you in your ongoing efforts to serve Freemasonry!

Ed & Brandy King
MLMA Webmasters

#####

APPENDIX 3 OVERSEAS MEMBER REPORTS

THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY, LONDON REPORT TO MLMA 2013

This report is sent with our best wishes for a successful annual meeting.

Our exhibition this year *Encounters: Artists and Freemasonry* has drawn on our own collections and used loans from across Europe to explore individual artistic responses to freemasonry. William Hogarth or Alvin Langdon Coburn looked at freemasonry within their established fields of, respectively, satirical prints and photography. It has proved to be very attractive to the public.

A new exhibition opens in mid October 2013 (*Excellent Companions: Celebrating the Royal Arch*) to coincide with the special Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter which is celebrating its 200th birthday- if you take its birth as the Union in 1813. Despite the dubious chronology of this, it is an excellent opportunity to put on a display about the origins of the Royal Arch and explore its symbolism. Many objects have not been seen on display for many years. We are also including documents relating to the Union in the display.

Cataloguing continues across the collections. We have had a grant from the publicly funded Arts Council this year which has enabled us to catalogue over 1500 commemorative masonic medals including about 500 American and Canadian examples. This is all available on the catalogue pages of the website.

In partnership with the Public Catalogue Foundation ("PCF"), details and pictures of the 150 oil paintings in the collection at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street were made available in December 2012 as one of over 3,200 venues across the UK participating in a joint project between the PCF and the BBC to put online the United Kingdom's entire collection of oil paintings in public ownership ("Your Paintings"). The Freemasons' Hall contribution was managed by the Library and Museum who provided additional research into subjects and artists and obtained high quality digital images of all the paintings. It is one of many collections that are not in public ownership which have joined the project for the benefit of wider public awareness and research. A link to the Your Paintings website is provided via the Library and Museum website and at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/galleries/locations/the-library-and-museum-of-freemasonry-7075>

Our long term project to digitise masonic newspapers finally launched early in 2013 as Masonic Periodicals Online which includes all the editions of the specialist masonic press published between the 1790s and the early 20th century, a total of 75,000 pages, scanned and searchable on line. The database is accessible via the Library and Museum website at <http://www.masonicperiodicals.org>.

We have completed the microfilming of membership registers after 1886 and we are now finalizing how to make historic (pre 1920s) membership information available on a searchable database.

The UK government is funding an element of the commemoration of the First World War including (with the Heritage Lottery Fund) the First World War Centenary Partnership led by the Imperial War Museum (IWM), a network of over 1,000 local, regional, national and international cultural and educational organisations from 27 countries around the world. We have signed up to the Partnership in order to benefit from the publicity opportunities it offers and to help develop further links with other collections.

In planning exhibitions, displays and events relating to this Centenary, we have taken into account that Freemasons' Hall itself is a war memorial and that the centenary of the launch of the Masonic Million Memorial Fund is not until 2019 ie the end of the period. Next September we will open an exhibition entitled *The Turbulent Years: English Freemasonry and the First World War*. This is intended to be a broadly focussed exhibition looking at the years c1900-1930. We are working with a publisher on a book to be called *English Freemasonry and the First World War* to mark the launch of the exhibition.

Diane Clements/ Martin Cherry

=====

AMMLA

Association of Masonic Museums, Libraries and Archives

Vienna July 4 - 7, 2013 (2014: Poznan, Poland)

This year's conference was held at Schloss Rosenau near Zwettl (a town northwest of Vienna, not far from the Czech border), the home of Graf Leopold Christoph von Schallenberg (1720-1797), who had 7 rooms of the palace furnished as lodge rooms. It is now the home of the Austrian Masonic Museum.

The theme was European anti-Masonry, for which our host, Dr. Peter Back-Vega, mounted an exhibit, to which the Museum of Our National Heritage and the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania contributed images. A few AMMLA members last year said they wanted to hear about anti-Masonry in the United States (so Glenys gave a short talk, "Anti Masonry in the United States - A Brief Overview », which relied greatly on the excellent work of our own Jeff Croteau. It seems that all most Europeans know is something about the Morgan Affair. The paper emphasized that there is much more than the Affair, which was put in historical context, and went on to talk a little about the Anti-Masonic Party, and anti-Masonry today – especially about the Southern Baptist convention and Dr. Gary Leazer.

In addition to the papers on anti-Masonry, there were presentations on the new Masonic Museum in Prague, and the German Masonic Museum in Bayreuth (where AMMLA met in 2009), which has a renovated exhibition hall and a new exhibition.

The meeting opened with a memorial tribute to Michel Brodsky founding member of AMMLA, who died earlier this year (adapted from President François Rognon's Homage): "Michel Brodsky was one of the first to see the need for exchanges between the various sources of studies on the history of freemasonry; he organized the first European conferences of research in Masonic history with the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Very early on, Brodsky saw the interest in the creation of an association of the

European Masonic Museums. He was the first brother from the European Continent to become Worshipful Master of *the* research lodge, England's Ars Quatuor Coronati. Diane Clements, Director of the Library and Museum of UGLE, said of him, 'Michel's name and work will be well known to many of members of AMMLA. That is a tribute to his cosmopolitan approach. He has always keen to build links between collections (and the individuals that were involved with them) and set an example with his enthusiasm for Masonic research. We must preserve this enthusiasm...'"

The Masonic Museum of Corfu, Greece, represented by Curator Spyros Andriotis, was welcomed as a member of AMMLA.

*Glenys Waldman, Librarian
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania*

=====

Scandinavia

1. Project started to digitalize 17th century archives in GL Sweden, Denmark and Norway sponsored by the national archives in each country.
2. Annual meeting between Grand Archivists, held in Stockholm February 2013 started working on joint archive registry.
3. Formal agreement between GL Norway and National Archive of Norway for storage of non-ritual archivalia.
4. Repatriation negotiations between Norway and Russia on pre-1940 archives continues.

Submitted for Information by
Helge Bjorn Horrisland
Norway