

TRANSACTIONS THE AMERICAN LODGE OF RESEARCH

word "Tuile." The Tegulator is mentioned in the Fabric Rolls, but never by any chance in any connection with the Masons or any kind of stonemasons or their work, but always in a class completely separate and distinct. A typical entry is such as this, of the year 1422; it is from the part of the Roll giving the accounts of the "Keeper of the Rents" several entries later than the last section dealing with the masons, and gives miscellaneous payments for repair of property:

And in the wages of John Kyrkham tiler and plasterer for 61 days and a half taking 6d per day.

And in the wages of John Pullan tiler and plasterer for 28 days taking 4¼d a day.

And in the wages of John Clerk his servant for 65½ days taking 4d a day.

Such evidence must surely be taken as clear and conclusive. The York Minster Fabric Rolls show us an organisation by Lodges, and in the Lodge the ranks distinctly recognised of Master: Wardens, Full Masons: Setters: Apprentices and Intaler. There is no mention of any more than one Intaler at any one time. In these Rolls there is one Master of the Lodge and one only; one Warden or sometimes none; several other full rank Masons, up to a total of about fifteen, several Setters, several Apprentices; one Intaler and one only, and he is seldom omitted.

We know exactly what his function was as an operative Mason; we find no other mention at all of anyone who can be regarded as a guardian of the Lodge. Although the Intaler was a skilled workman, these Fabric Rolls almost always mention him after the Apprentices. All these points together seem highly significant, and illuminating. The office of Tyler has no derivation from a man who laid tiles on a roof. In the Minster and indeed in most large mediaeval buildings such a layer of tiles would not be known or needed at all, but a man whose business was specialised carving was associated with masonry, although perhaps with a recognised difference, and such a man might well come to be distinguished in the Lodge from those who used the regular tools of a Master Mason, a Setter, or an Apprentice. He remained, I suggest, outside the door of the Lodge, but he was a part of the Lodge and not of some other distinct craft.

Such then is the information given by the Fabric Rolls of York Minster, in the Middle Ages concerning the organisation of the Masons' Lodges there in those days.

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MISCELLANEA

HISTORY OF THE CUBAN FLAG

By

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IN JUNE 1849, one hundred and ten years ago, the Cuban National Ensign was made in New York City, in a rooming house on Warren Street between Church Street and College Place, and flew publicly for the first time in New York one year later, fifty-two years before it flew as free Cuba's official emblem (*National Geographic Magazine*, May 1949, and "Masonic Symbolism in Cuba's Flag," by Charles A. Brockaway).

Probably no other country's flag was ever made with so little discussion and such general agreement with everyone present, and so quickly to come into reality as this flag.

The design of this flag (*National Geographic Magazine*, May 1949) was submitted to a group of Cuban citizens in exile by General Narciso Lopez, a Cuban citizen, born in Costa Firma, Venezuela, in 1798 (*Encyclopedia Americana*). Strangely enough, General Lopez, a Mason, fought as an officer in the Spanish Army against Brother Simon Bolivar, in his native Venezuela. Brother Lopez was forced to flee to the United States in 1848 for attempting a revolt against the Spanish government.

Among those present in the group of Cuban exiles were Miguel Teurbe Tolon, a Cuban poet and a Mason, Cirilo Villaverde and his wife Emilia Casanova Villaverde.

On Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1873 ("Masonic Symbolism in Cuba's Flag," Charles A. Brockaway) Senor Villaverde wrote a letter describing the events of the evening that led to the making of the Cuban flag. Brother Arturo Y. Casanova (Federal Lodge No. 1, F.A.A.M., Washington, D. C.), a grand nephew of Senora Villaverde, furnished the letter to Brother Brockaway. Quoting the letter:

"Now Brother Tolon," said Narciso Lopez, "let us design the flag under which Cuba will be free. This is my idea of it. The Symbolism underlying the design of the American Flag is the most beautiful to be found in any National Emblem. Let us design a flag for Cuba that shall express at once her past, our faith in her cause, and our hopes for the years to come. The three colors of Liberty are red, white and blue. Now let us take three stripes to represent the military departments into which Spain divided Cuba, just as the Americans used thirteen stripes to represent their thirteen colonies, but we must not make a meaningless modification of the American Flag, so we cannot use red and white. Nor can we use three white stripes separated by blue because the white of the outside stripes would become lost at a distance and

the blue only would be seen." Therefore, three horizontal blue stripes were separated by white, "for white," said Lopez, "represents the purity of purpose in a Republican form of government. But what shall we do with the red? Only two shapes are available if we are to follow the custom in National Flags. Neither a square or an oblong made a pleasing addition to the blue and white stripes." "Then," said Brother Lopez, "let us take the equilateral triangle, for besides its Masonic significance it is also a geometrical figure." It was suggested that this should include the All-Seeing Eye, but Brother Lopez objected that it would be too difficult to work in silk and bunting. And then he said, "Let us take the five-pointed star of the Texas flag because it also carries a symbolic meaning." This was drawn by Tolon and immediately illumined with the three colors of Liberty and, behold, a beautiful flag sprang forth, the flag that was to see Cuba free. The three blue stripes represented Military Rule under which Cuba lived from the day of its discovery rent asunder by the white of purity and justice. The equilateral triangle represents faith in God, while the Star of five points on the red field of the triangle represents fellowship under God, and in that faith and Fellowship Free Cuba rising from her blood-stained fields to the glory of an Independent Nation. That same evening Senora Villaverde stitched together some pieces of silk and made the first Cuban Flag, which she presented to Brother Lopez. Senora Villaverde was known as the "Betsy Ross of Cuba."

Brother Lopez was no doubt aware of the three oblongs in the Texas flag, as well as the flag itself being noticeably oblong, hence the decidedly oblong shape of Cuba's flag, more so than usual in national flags.

Brother Tolon also sketched Cuba's coat of arms (*National Geographic Magazine*, May 1949).

The Cuban flag flew publicly for the first time twelve hundred miles from Cuba, but only a short distance from where it was made. It was hoisted from the top floor of the *New York Sun* building at the corner of Nassau and Fulton Streets, May 11, 1850, by Moses Y. Beach, the publisher of the *Sun*.

The newspaper in calling the attention of its readers to the strange flag said: "High above is the flag of free Cuba. There is the flag which sooner or later will float over the Morro" (Cuban Masonic Records, Masonic Library, New York).

Eight days later, May 19, 1850, it flew for the first time over Cuban soil when Brother Lopez carried it as a battle flag when he landed at Cardenas, Cuba. This was the second attempt at freeing Cuba, although the first significant battle.

Brother and General Lopez made three unsuccessful attempts to free Cuba. The first attempt was in June 1849 in what was known as "The Round Island Expedition," the second, May 19, 1850, in "The Invasion of Cardenas," and his third and last in August 1851, "The Bahia Honda Expedition" (*Encyclopedia Americana*). Brother Lopez carried the Cuban flag in this invasion as in the invasion of Cardenas.

He was captured and executed before a firing squad September 1, 1851, in Havana.

It would be hard to imagine the price that Spain must have put on his head, having served in the Spanish army, retiring as a Colonel in 1822 and serving in various official government capacities in Madrid, later serving on the staff of Governor-General Valdez in Cuba, then to desert for the cause of freedom of Cuba (*Encyclopedia Americana*, Lopez-Lopez de Gomara).

The flag was not seen publicly again until October 10, 1868, seventeen years later, when General and Brother Carlos Manuel de Cespedes carried a flag with the Lopez colors through the ten-year war ending in 1878. Brother de Cespedes designed the Cuban Jack.

Another seventeen years passed before the Cuban flag was seen publicly when carried in the revolution that at last meant freedom for Cuba, starting February 24, 1895.

President and Brother William McKinley of the United States (Canton Lodge No. 60, F. & A.M., Canton, Ohio), declared war on Spain April 20, 1898, which was the start of what was known as "The Spanish-American War." It ended August 12, 1898. The Cuban flag was carried with the American flag until fighting ceased, and also during the American occupancy of Cuba, December 10, 1898 to May 20, 1902.

President and Brother Tomas Estrada Palma (initiated 1868 in a Lodge in Bayamo, Cuba; "Cuba's Good Government," by Vincent L. Puerta), the first President of Cuba, took office on that date, May 20, 1902, and the Cuban flag at last flew proudly over a free Cuba.

It was hoisted over Morro Castle by Brother Narciso Valdez, keeper of Morro Castle lighthouse.

I have had the pleasure of making a sight-seeing tour through Morro Castle and seeing the many interesting exhibits. Some wax works illustrate the kind of horrible punishment and death inflicted on the Cuban patriots that were unfortunate in being captured as political enemies of Spain during Cuba's fight for freedom.

Morro Castle, which had once been a place of terror, but no more to be feared, was probably chosen as the first official place to hoist their flag of final freedom, as a memorial to those that had been executed there in the cause of freedom.

How correct Publisher Beach, of the *New York Sun*, was when calling the attention of its readers to the strange flag hoisted May 11, 1850 from the top floor of the *Sun* building: "High above is the flag of free Cuba which sooner or later will float over Morro." It was later, fifty-two years later, when the flag, the design submitted by General and Brother Narciso Lopez to a group of exiled Cuban citizens in a rooming house on Warren Street in New York, was proudly and honorably flying where predicted, "sooner or later over Morro."

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NOTE: The first Secretary to President Palma, Cuba's first President, was Brother Gonzalo de Quesada, who was raised in Star of Cuba Lodge No. 742, New York, May 6, 1895. The Secretary's Records show that he was born in Havana, a lawyer, age 26.

January 6, 1896, Brother Quesada dimitted and became a member of a Lodge in Cuba. In later years, while a member of Cuba's Diplomatic Service serving in Washington, D. C., Brother Quesada visited Star of Cuba Lodge.

References

- (Article on flags) In *National Geographic Magazine*, May 1949, pages 637, 639, 651.
"Masonic Symbolism in Cuba's Flag" by Charles A. Brockaway. In *New York Masonic Outlook*, March 1931, page 216.
(Biographical article on Narciso Lopez) In *Encyclopedia Americana*, Vol. 17, page 618.
✓ (Cuban Masonic records, Masonic Library, New York) Unsigned notes in the reference file, New York Grand Lodge Library and Museum.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON

By

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ONE OF THE MOST beautiful and interesting Masonic buildings I have ever had the pleasure of seeing is Freemasons' Hall in London, England.

The Masonic Peace Memorial, as it is called, was erected as a Masonic Headquarters for the English Freemasons and as a monument in memory of the many Brethren who gave their lives in the First World War. It is located at Great Queen Street, Drury Lane and Long Acre in the West Central Section of London and occupies more than two acres of ground, its over-all dimensions being: 120 feet in length by 90 feet in width and 62 feet in height. The cornerstone was laid on July 14, 1927 by Field Marshall H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, K.G., M.W. Grand Master. He also had the privilege of officially opening the building on July 19, 1933, over six years later. It is said to have cost over three million pounds (£) and in those days, if you recall, we called a five dollar bill a "pound note."

To attempt to describe the many interesting and architectural beauties of this Temple would be impossible for a layman such as I, but it might be well to call your attention to the following major features:

On the ground floor may be seen the Entrance Hall with its circular staircases of dark and light Istri marble on either side, the Robing Vestibule, Cloak Room, Board and Committee Rooms, Administrative offices, etc., while the Lower Ground Floor houses the Registration and Staff rooms, Heating and Ventilating Equipment and Storage space.

On the first floor are the Grand Lodge Room or Grand Temple, Grand Officers Rooms, Museum, Library, Smoking Room and the like. On this landing, beneath a stained glass window is the Shrine in which is deposited the Role of Honor containing the names of the Brethren, arranged under their respective Lodges, who made the supreme sacrifice.

In the East of the Grand Lodge Room are the Grand Master's Throne with the chairs of the Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master and other Grand Lodge officers on either side. The walls of this room are Ashburton and Botticino marble surmounted by a mosaic cove, fifteen feet in girth and a beautifully decorated ceiling. I was told that the mosaics were the finest executed in England and it took sixteen Italian artists almost three years to complete the task. The main doors of the Grand Temple are bronze, weighing one and one-half tons each. On these are scenes depicting the Craft preparing and transporting materials