



The Quill



The American Commandery's Newsletter of the Order of Saint Joachim

Subject: March 2018 Message

My dear Confreres and Consours,

It is finally beginning to hint at the stirrings of the Spring season and the change to Daylight Savings Time has arrived. This letter is penned during the increase in daylight as we proceed with our year. Of course the theme is our annual oblations, most currently the Grand Chapter oblations and later (or concurrent) the Commandery's oblations. At the risk of repeating, I will anyway...This year we have the benefit of the entire oblations donated to the Order to be tax deductible up to the limit the law permits by provisioning them through the American Commandery. To ensure that our membership obtains the maximum benefit, the Order has approved our Commandery to receive the Order's oblations of 50 GBP to be provided to us by March 31st. The Commandery's oblations of \$50.00 USD are due on June 20th. Should there be some confusion in the logistics of this, be rest assured that we are in constant communications with Grand Chapter and will account for everyone's submission of their oblation.

Section 6 of our Order's Constitution states, and I quote:

OBLATIONS, FEES & FINES

- 1) Petitioners (Expectants) to the Order shall pay an oblation to Grand Chapter as may be determined and published from time to time. This should be paid on application and will be refunded if, for any reason, the application is not successful.
- 2) Promotions from Expectant to Knight/Dame shall pay a further oblation in the amount set out in the Order's regulations, such oblation to include the cost of the basic insignia of the rank of Knight/Dame. The oblation will be paid before the nominees shall be approved and should approval not be given, the oblation will be returned to the member.
- 3) Promotions from Knight/Dame to Knight/Dame Commander or Knight/Dame Commander to Knight/Dame Grand Commander shall pay a further oblation to Grand Chapter in the amount set out in the Order's regulations. The oblation will be paid before the nominees shall be approved and should approval not be given, the oblation will be returned to the member.
- 4) The amounts of each oblation and passage fee shall be determined and published annually, if changed, by Grand Chapter.
- 5) There shall be, in addition to the oblations due for entry or promotion, an annual oblation. The annual oblation shall be decided each year and published by Grand Chapter.
- 6) Annual fees will become due each year on the commencement of the financial year (March 31st), and will be charged to members in advance on the due date.
- 7) Any member joining after September 30th in any year may be excused the annual oblation on the following March 31st.
- 8) Any member not paying the required oblation on request shall have committed a dishonourable act and

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may be fined and the act noted on the member's record. Any member who has not paid any due fee and/or fine after six months may be expunged from The Order at the recommendation of the Grand Chancellor and by the will of the Grand Master.

9) Any act of dishonour, negligence or omission by a member, at the order of the Grand Military Knight, may have a fine levied in an amount determined and published from time by Grand Chapter.

10) In the case of financial hardship brought to its attention by a member, Grand Chapter may waive, reduce or defer any entrance, passage or annual fee.

Our Commandery has discovered, through its communications with leaders in Puerto Rico, that the USO doesn't have a permanent presence. There are four contingency centers to help our military and associates as they continue to recover from the storms of last year. It will be a long and arduous process. Our Military Knight, Col. (Ret.) Dr. Mark Smycynski, KJ has been in contact with Fort Buchanan's Post Commander and has been informed that there is effort underway to established a permanent presence of the USO initially in that location. The procedure is in progress and our Commandery has been invited to participate in the founding of that Center. Our leadership has conferred and cannot think of a better use of the funds collected than to fulfill our Order's mission in the U.S. by participating thus with the USO and the U.S. military leadership in Puerto Rico. You can expect to hear more later this year.

We have an exciting year ahead crowned with an Investiture Ceremony scheduled for September 15th in San Antonio, Texas at the Mission Concepción. The gala following the Investiture ceremony will take place at the historic Menger Hotel. We hope you can make it. We have negotiated a group rate of \$159.00/night at the Menger, please mention 'The Order of St. Joachim' when booking your room should you choose. I wish you and your families the best this year and pray for the continued strength and support of our Order's American Commandery.

DEO, PRINCIPI, LEGI

Martin von Grossmann

Lt. Col. (ret.) The Chevalier Martin von Grossmann, GCJ

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On the Insignia of The Equestrian, Secular, and Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim
Antonio M. Wendland, KCJ



Our Order was originally founded under the name *The Knights of the Order of Jonathan, Defenders of the Honour of Divine Providence* in 1755. We know this from a number of sources and documents including a copy of the Statutes and Rules of the Order published in 1756 under the title *Statuts L'Ordre de la Très Glorieuse Mémoire de la Divine Providence*. French (and Latin) was commonly used by Courts around Europe in the 17th and 18th Centuries. We also know of the early history of The Order from another tome from 1764, copy of the statutes of The Order of Jonathan. The reference to Jonathan was removed in 1767 and in 1785 The Order's constitution was amended and we became *The Equestrian, Secular and Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim*.

This history has been chronicled in our Order's website, where one can find additional information and detail along with links to the books mentioned here and much more (see: <https://www.stjoachimorder.org/history.htm>).

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As The Order evolved from its early days, so did the badges and accoutrements that conveyed both rank and membership. The insignia of the original Order of Jonathan was indeed quite different from today's cross in many respects.

The Grand Master's collar included a banner with the Order's oldest motto: "Junxit Amicus Amor" (love hath united friends). The order originally took its name from Jonathan, a figure in the Bible's Book of Samuel, Chapter 20, which tells of the enduring friendship between David and Jonathan. The Order's motto Junxit Amicus Amor (Love hath united friends) is a reference to their close friendship. The white, eight-pointed cross adopted the letters FSCV (Fide sed cui vide - "Trust, but be careful in whom you trust") which appeared on the arms. It appears there were different insignia for the different offices of the Order, much like a Masonic lodge's officers' jewels.

In the late summer of 2017, Chevalier Ugnius Mikučionis discovered a description of The Order's original collar and other information of the insignia at the time. He shared the citation as follows: Ficht, Wilhelm. 1918. "Der Jonathaner Orden und seine Umwandlungen in den Orden der Göttlichen Vorsehung und den Skt. Joachimsorden." In: Quellen zur Geschichte der Freimaurerei, 1918, Vol..1, pp. 201-244. Soon after, Confrere Cole Gallup produced a magnificent graphical rendering of these insignias and share them with The Order via the Facebook group.

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Earlier that summer, I had decided to take some time away from my job at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where I help oversee a group of researchers involved in reforming domestic education at the K-12 level, and visit the jewel of our campus library system, the Houghton Library, in search of what we might have on the history of our Order.

Houghton Library is Harvard University's principal repository for rare books and manuscripts. Harvard's first special collections library began as the Treasure Room of Gore Hall in 1908. In 1915, this collection moved to the newly built Weidner Library. In the late 30's, the university, in an effort to allow the collection more room to expand, it began the appropriations and development that lead to the eventual construction of the Houghton. Construction was eventually completed in 1941 and the library opened its doors the following year.



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As with many things on campus, access is limited to those with connections of employment, enrollment and a limited few academic visitors and the like. So I felt it was my duty as a member of The Order to open this resource to us and see what I might find.



What I found was that among the rare book stacks, the university was in possession of a copy of Charles Hamilton Smith's *Orders of Knighthood Drawings*, circa 1845 from the Harry Elkins Widener Collection. It took some time to get both the approval of the library system for my reason so view the book as well as to prepare it for my perusal. A week after the request was formally made and all of the paperwork was submitted, I received word that my change to see the book had been granted and a date and time had been set.

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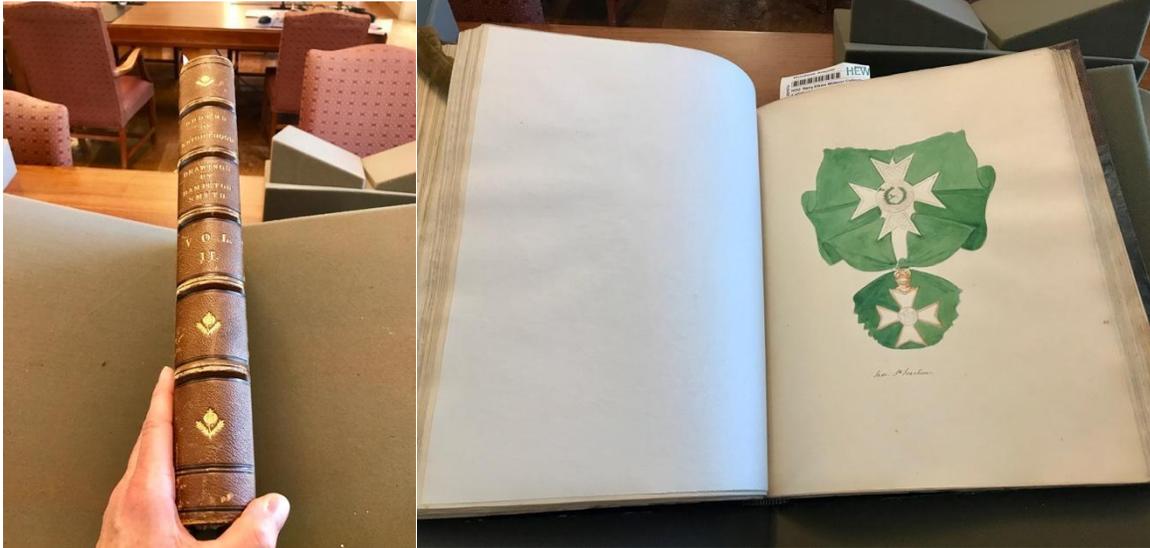
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It was with a slight sense of trepidation that I arrived that day not sure of what I was about to see. Arriving at the library and having passed security, I was

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presented with rules of comport and asked to empty my pockets of all items. I was told that paper and pencil would be provided but nothing else would be allowed pass that point. I nervously asked if I could bring my phone so that I may take pictures of the book as needed and to my thrill I was informed that is would not be a problem at all and that it was more or less expected that I do but that I would need to silence my device before entering the next room.

As pictures are worth many many more words than the reader likely wants to read, I leave you with just a few more. As I hope you are too, I was floored by all of the large and drawn and painted plates in a massive volume of the two-book set. As a collector of Austro-Hungarian miniature Orders (from post Napoleonic era to the onset of the Great War), to see all of these images was indeed an emotional experience. Most of all, I was able to find the plate of our Order and take several pictures which I shared with our community on Facebook. Our own crosses have changed very little in the 150 years since the one depicted in the book. I hope you enjoy seeing it and others as much as I did.

If anyone is interested in seeing more of the illustrations, please feel free to email me at awendland@verizon.net and I would be happy to share photos of plates not included in this article.

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Meet and Greet

April 7, 2018

We are having a "Meet and Greet" at the home of Evan Smith on April 7, 2018 at 1 PM. His address is 20679 Settlers Point Place Sterling, VA 20165.

Please email Evan at evansmith.100@gmail.com and copy me in at pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com to let us know that you are coming.

We are looking forward in meeting members of the American Commandery of the Order of St. Joachim.

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The American Commandery Medal

The two-tone gold medal, available as a miniature only, is a likeness of President George Washington in profile with a small enamel Order of Saint Joachim cross superimposed and "American Commandery - The Order of Saint Joachim" on the edge. The ribbon is dark blue with white stars.



The Washington Medal is available to our members at \$60.00. You can mail a check to the American Commandery-Order of St. Joachim to the following address: Martin von Grossmann, Order of St. Joachim, P.O. Box 789, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. Also, you can pay thru PayPal.

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