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A Conference Report



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Quatuor Coronati 2018 Conference *Freemasons in the Transatlantic World*

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

A Conference Report by Shawn Eyer

The world-renowned Quatuor Coronati Lodge held its first conference in the United States from September 14 to 16, 2018. The venue for this historic occasion was the towering George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia—an outstanding venue for any gathering of Freemasons. Although Hurricane Florence threatened the southeastern coast, causing some concern to the approximately 180 attendees, the symposium turned out not to be affected as no significant storm effects reached the Washington, D.C., metro region. Participants

enjoyed a pleasant weekend in one of America's most historic cities.

The program included two and a half days of lectures and discussions. The selected speakers represented diverse perspectives, and—as one would always expect from QC—a great deal of original research was shared.

The opening plenary talk was by Prof. Paul Kléber Monod, author of *Solomon's Secret Arts: The Occult in the Age of Enlightenment* (Yale University Press, 2013). His topic, “The Conflicted Identity of Early Eighteenth-Century English Freemasonry,”



TOP LEFT: Dr. Ric Berman, FPS, offers opening remarks at the beginning of the conference. TOP RIGHT: The sessions were held in the spectacular theater space of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. BOTTOM LEFT: Dr. Paul Kléber Monod offers his presentation on "The Conflicted Identity of Early Eighteenth-Century English Freemasonry." BOTTOM RIGHT: Susan Snell of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London presents "Lovelace Overton: a Bajan's Transatlantic Experience of Freemasonry."

stimulated valuable discussion. Other presenters on Friday included Neil Wynes Morse, Susan Snell, a paper by Andreas Önnarfors (delivered by James Campbell), Robert L. D. Cooper, FPS (newly-minted), Mark Wallace, John Laurence Busch, Jeffrey Croteau, Eric Saunier, Jeffrey Kaplan, Marsha Keith Schuchard, and Hans Schwartz.

The Friday sessions were followed by a special demonstration lodge hosted by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, followed by a talk on the Masonic symbolism of the Capital region by Akram Elias, Past Grand Master of D.C.

Saturday began with a report from delegates of most of the United States' academic lodges, hosted by The Patriot Lodge N^o 1957 (George Mason University, Virginia) in the Memorial's North Lodge Room. Then, guests returned to the theater for the day's sessions. The first talks were given by Jackie Ranston, Andrew Hammer, FPS, and Erich Morgan Huhn. Just before lunch, I presented a summary of the Masonic work and influence of Rev. William Smith, Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania from 1779 to 1883 (some of which will be forthcoming in *Philalethes*). The remainder of

the talks on Saturday were given by Lucio Artini and Roberto Peticucci, Fernando Gil González, John Acaster, Adam Kendall, Felipe Corte Real de Camargo, Hilary Anderson Stelling, and Larry Adamson. The Saturday sessions were followed by a hearty dinner at a nearby restaurant.

On Sunday morning, the conference began with a plenary by Dr. Oscar Alleyne, FPS. The program closed with a lively debate between Ric

Berman, FPS (newly-awarded), and Susan Mitchell Sommers over the year of the establishment of the premier Grand Lodge of England. Throughout the event, several guided tours of the Memorial were offered by QC member Mark Tabbert (also FPS).

For more information about Quatuor Coronati Lodge—and to purchase a volume of the conference proceedings when it is issued—visit their website at <http://www.quatuorcoronati.com>.



TOP LEFT: Dr. Marsha Keith Schuchard presents “William ‘Hurricane’ Gilbert and the Wilder Shores of Freemasonry: Revolutionary Winds from Antigua, America, England, and Nova Scotia to Africa.” TOP RIGHT: Shawn Eyers, FPS, presents “William Smith: Priest, Educator, and Masonic Leader of Colonial and Revolutionary America.” BOTTOM LEFT: Dr. Oscar Alleyne, FPS, delivers his talk, “The Role of Men of Color in the Early Period of Freemasonry.” BOTTOM RIGHT: On behalf of the Philalethes Society, Richard Fletcher, FPS (left), invests newly-elected Fellows of the Society—Dr. Robert L.D. Cooper, FPS (center), and Dr. Ric Berman, FPS (right)—with their medals.