

**Dr Ferdinand Saumarez Smith - Freemasonry and the Enlightenment: Insights
from the Debate on the Eleusinian Mysteries**

This is an **OPEN** Meeting and non-Masons are welcome to attend.

How did we get from a late seventeenth-century European world in which pagan gods were explained as corrupted versions of various biblical narratives to a late eighteenth-century one in which the opposite could be claimed: that Christianity was pagan in its deepest origins? This paper will argue that it was through the reception of the Eleusinian mysteries in eighteenth-century British, French and German thought that the history of religion came to be written in this new way. For the antiquarian freemasons William Stukeley and Andrew Michael Ramsay, in particular, they contained traces of a prior revelation of Christianity to Adam and the biblical patriarchs, the remnants of which they believed were contained in Masonic ritual. In Masonic thought of the second half of the eighteenth century they played a dual role; for the French physiocrat Antoine Court de G  belin they were evidence of primitive deism, a view he shared with Voltaire, and the ultimately social purpose of religion; and for the German philologist Johann August Starck, these ‘deist’ origins contained a seed which was essentially ‘Christian’ and which had evolved into Christianity over time. These debates revise our understanding of the process of Enlightenment and the influence of Freemasonry upon it, foregrounding attempts to reconcile the rise of modern paganism with ideals of ancient Christianity within the broader transformation of historical consciousness.

Ferdinand Saumarez Smith, PhD (2022), King’s College London, is a historian of ideas and religion and the director of Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation in the UK. He has curated exhibitions and organised cultural preservation projects worldwide.

The meetings of the Lodge are held on the Second Thursday in November (Installation), Third Thursday in February, Second Thursday in May and September, and the Fourth Thursday in June.

Next meeting: Thursday 13 November 2025 (Installation)

at Freemasons’ Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2 5AZ

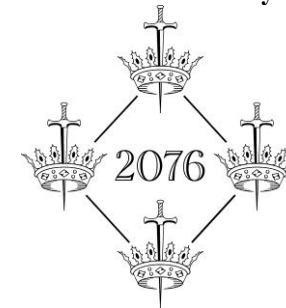
The Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge are on the second Wednesday in March, June, September and December

Should any member’s contact details change, please inform the Secretary.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE NO. 2076

The Premier Lodge of Masonic Research

Consecrated 12 January 1886



Master

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July 2025

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are desired to attend the duties of the Lodge at Freemasons’ Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ on **Thursday, 11 September 2025, at 4.00pm.**

By Command of the Master,

Yours sincerely and fraternally

R.D. Soames
Secretary

Dark suit (no gloves) - Undress Regalia

This is an **OPEN** meeting & non -masons are welcome.
The **Lecture** will be given in the **Lodge room at 4.30pm**

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2024-2025

Bro. Trevor McKeown.....	Master
Bro. Richard Gan, PAGDC	Senior Warden
Bro. Roger Pemberton, ProvGM (Shropshire) .	Junior Warden
Bro. Dr Rob Hammond.....	Chaplain
Bro. Dr Ric Berman, PGSwdB , PM.....	Treasurer
Bro. Rob Soames, PAGDC	Secretary
Bro. Dr John Wade, PJGD , PM.....	Director of Ceremonies
Bro. David Peck, PM	Almoner
Bro. Fabio Venzi, GM RGLI	Charity Steward
Bro. Clive Moore, PAGStdB	Senior Deacon
Bro. Mike Karn, PJGD	Junior Deacon
Bro. Brian Price, OBE PAGDC , PM.....	Assistant Director of Ceremonies
Bro. Martin Faulks AGPurs	Assistant Secretary
Bro. Gerald Reilly.....	Inner Guard
Bro. Mike James	Tyler

Immediate Past Master: Bro. David Peck

MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

Prof. Aubrey Newman, **OSM, PJGD**; Dr Brent Morris, **PJGD**, PM; Dr Trevor Stewart, PM; David Peabody, **PGStB**, PM; Robert Cooper, PM; Antony Baker, **PJGD**, PM; Prof. Roger Burt; Prof. James Campbell, **DepGSuptWks**, PM; Prof. Andreas Önnerrfors, PM; Arturo De Hoyos; Mark Tabbert; Hugh O'Neill PM, Dr Mike Kearsley **PAGDC**; Dr Paul Calderwood, **PGSwdB**; Kent Henderson; Dr John Reuther **PSGD**; Christopher Powell, PM; Adam Kendall; Helge Horrisland; Iain McIntosh; Dr Oscar Alleyne; V. Rev. Leif Grutle; Dr Felipe Corte Real de Camargo; Dr David Harrison; Dr Timothy Blakemore; Prof. Remzi Sanver, **GM Turkiye**; Brendan Kyne; Andrew Farleigh.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

The Most. Hon. the Marquess of Northampton, **DL, PProGM**;
Dr James Daniel, **OSM, PSGW**, PM; Yasha Beresiner, **PGStB**, PM,
Yoshio Washizu **PGM Japan**

MASONIC LODGE BUSINESS

1. To open the Lodge.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 26 June 2025.
3. To welcome visitors to the Lodge, particularly members of the Correspondence Circle and especially Brethren from overseas.
4. To elect a Master and a Treasurer for the ensuing year. The only nominations of which the Secretary is aware are W.Bro. Richard L. Gan as Worshipful Master and W. Bro. G. Reilly as Treasurer. In accordance with the Book of Constitutions, it is the intention of the Master to declare them elected unless any member calls for a ballot.
5. To elect a Tyler for the ensuing year.
6. To resolve that the WM Elect shall be empowered to appoint the rest of the Officers.
7. To receive a report from the Almoner.
8. To receive Propositions.
9. To close the Lodge.
10. To receive the Lecture (c.4.30pm)

Post-Meeting Arrangements

We look forward to welcoming members of QC Correspondence Circle (QCCC) and all others to the lecture and to stay afterwards and chat with the speaker and members of the Lodge. Following the Lecture there will be a Drinks Reception in the Bar on the ground floor at Freemasons' Hall, at a nominal cost of £10.

Please book using the website booking form.

There are no formal dining arrangements on this occasion, but some QC and Circle members will be dining informally. If you would like to book to join them, please contact Bro Hugh O'Neill at mail@hughoneill.co.uk, before 3 September at the latest.

THE NORMAN B. SPENCER PRIZE ESSAY

Non-members of the Lodge are reminded that they are eligible to enter the competition whether they live in the United Kingdom or abroad. It was instituted to encourage brethren to take an interest in Masonic research and those who have not previously undertaken study of this kind will find that it is a remarkably interesting and satisfying activity. Further details are provided on our website:

<https://www.quatuorcoronati.com/research/spencer-prize/>