

THE JOURNAL OF THE MASONIC SOCIETY

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Sections

- 4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 5 NEWS OF THE SOCIETY
- 9 CONFERENCES,
SPEECHES, SYMPOSIA &
GATHERINGS
- 10 MASONIC NEWS
- 35 FROM THE EDITOR



Articles

- 14 MASONIC INFLUENCE
ON THE ORDER OF
THE ARROW

BY WILLIAM HIGHSMITH
- 16 MOZART'S
THE MAGIC FLUTE:
AN ESSENTIAL
INTRODUCTION TO
THE MYSTERIES OF THE
SCOTTISH RITE
SYMBOLIC DEGREES

BY MARC H. CONRAD

Masonic Treasures

- 2 MOMENTO MORI
- 36 THE ALAMO AND
THE MASONS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
- 32 FREEMASONRY AROUND
THE WORLD:
THE GRANDE LOGE
NATIONALE FRANÇAISE



- 19 THE AUGUST
ORDER OF LIGHT –
AN HISTORIC REVIEW

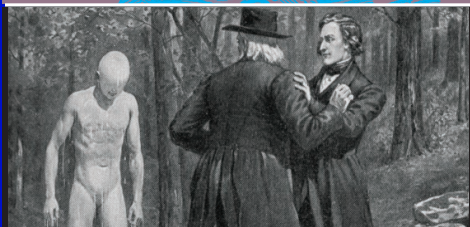
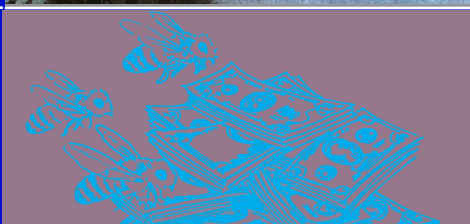
BY YASHA BERESINER
- 21 WHO WAS ADONIRAM?

BY W. BRUCE PRUITT

Reports

- 11 2009 MASONIC WEEK

BY JAY HOCHBERG



- 24 DESIGNS UPON THE
TRESTLE BOARD:
SETTING GOALS AS A
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

BY CORY SIGLER
- 25 DUES THAT DON'T:
DECONSTRUCTING
MASONIC DUES MYTHS
AND FABLES

BY NATHAN C. BRINDLE

COVER: This month's cover features "The Geographer" (De Geograaf) by the Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675), painted in 1669. It is one of a pair of Vermeer paintings (the other is "The Astronomer") that depicts one of the liberal arts and sciences. Both a square and compasses are in the painting, along with the terrestrial globe. The subject is believed to have been Antoine Van Leeuwenhoek, the father of microbiology, and a member of London's Royal Society. Could there be a connection with the formation of modern Freemasonry?