

## Join The Friends of The Library and Museum

By becoming a Friend of the Library and Museum, you help towards the cost of acquisitions and taking care of the existing collections of objects, books and archives. Friends receive a newsletter three times a year (in electronic format with a print option) and opportunities to attend private views of Library and Museum exhibitions and occasional special events.

- I/We wish to become  
**An Individual Friend**.....£25 p.a.
- We wish to become  
**A Lodge/Chapter Friend**.....£50 p.a.

I/We have completed the details overleaf and I/we enclose a cheque payable to the Library and Museum of Freemasonry.

Your Friends subscription is valid for 12 months from the date of application.

## Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, under the government's Gift Aid scheme, the Library and Museum can reclaim the tax you have already paid on your Friend's membership subscription.

Please tick  the box below if you wish tax to be reclaimed.

- Please treat all subscriptions/donations made by me to the Library and Museum of Freemasonry today and in the future as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

**Signed**

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**Date**

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You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year that is at least equal to the tax that the Library and Museum will reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs on your Gift Aid payment.

Please notify the Library and Museum at the address overleaf if you:

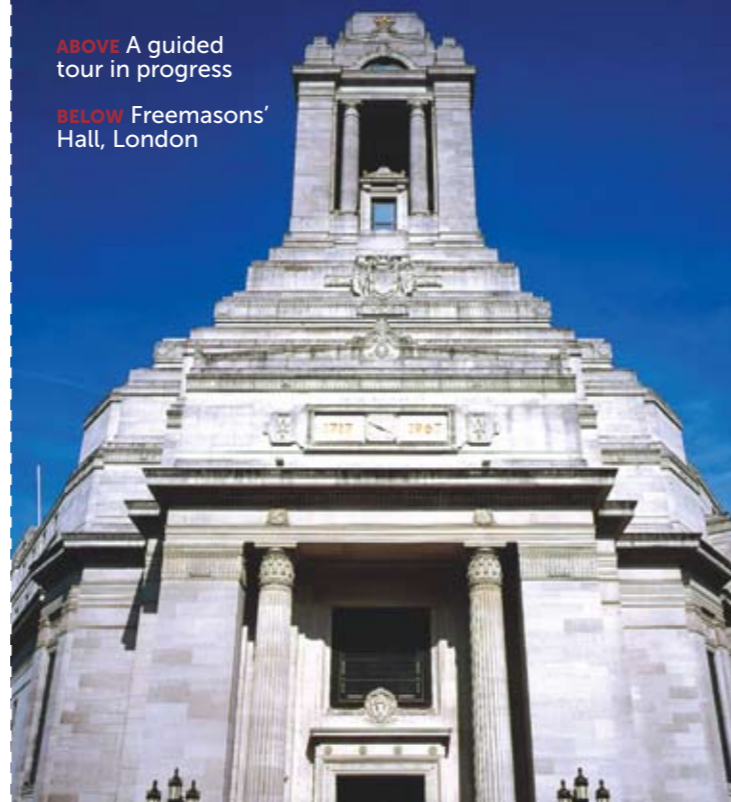
- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

The Library and Museum Charitable Trust of the United Grand Lodge is a registered charity No 1058497.



**ABOVE** A guided tour in progress

**BELOW** Freemasons' Hall, London



## Visitor information

The Library and Museum is **FREE OF CHARGE** to all visitors

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday, 10.00 to 17.00. Closed at weekends.

### Guided Tours

The Library and Museum is located in Freemasons' Hall which dates from 1927 and is a superb example of the Art Deco style of the period. Guided tours of the building (which start from the Library and Museum) are free of charge and generally available from Monday to Friday at 11.00, 12.00, 14.00, 15.00 and 16.00. However there are no tours on ceremonial occasions and visitors are advised to check in advance. On Saturdays guided tours must be pre-booked and a booking fee is payable. Call **+44 (0)20 7395 9257** for details.

### The Shop at Freemasons' Hall

The Shop sells a range of books, postcards, gifts and souvenirs about the history of Freemasonry and Freemasons' Hall and a special range of exhibition related gifts.

For enquiries call **+44 (0)20 7395 9329** or order online at **www.letchworthshop.co.uk**

### Disabled Access

The Library and Museum is located on the first floor of Freemasons' Hall – lifts are available which are suitable for most wheelchairs.

### Location

Freemasons' Hall is located on the edge of Covent Garden, where there are many cafés and restaurants. There are public car parks nearby.



### Contact us

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry  
Freemasons' Hall  
Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ

**Telephone**  
+44 (0)20 7395 9257

**Email**  
libmus@freemasonry.london.museum

**www.freemasonry.london.museum**

All details correct at time of going to print.

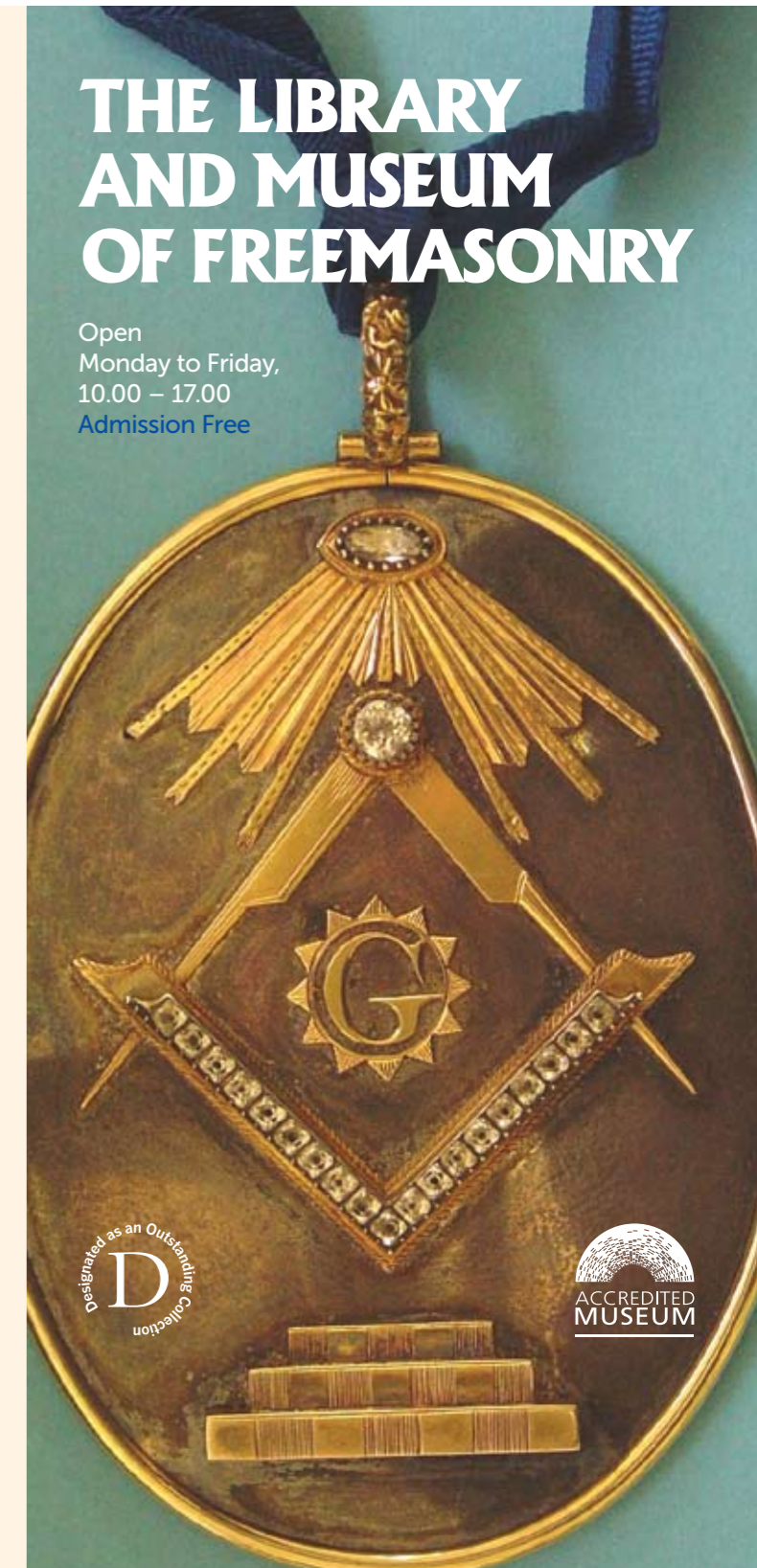
For a large-print version of this leaflet email libmus@freemasonry.london.museum or see the website or call +44 (0)20 7395 9257

### Venue Hire

As one of the finest Art Deco Grade II\* listed buildings in England, Freemasons' Hall is available for corporate hire. Please contact the Events Manager on **khaigh@ugle.org.uk**

# THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY

Open  
Monday to Friday,  
10.00 – 17.00  
**Admission Free**



Designated as an Outstanding Collection

ACCREDITED MUSEUM

TEAR- OFF PANEL / 96mm

97mm

BACK / 99mm

FRONT / 99mm



## Discovering Freemasonry

Freemasonry is a secular, fraternal organisation. It teaches its members moral lessons and self-knowledge through participation in a progression of allegorical two-part plays. These are learnt by heart and performed within each Lodge, following ancient forms and symbolically using stonemasons' customs and tools.

Discover more about Freemasonry and its history at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, which houses one of the finest collections of Masonic material in the world.

**COVER IMAGE** An English oval pendant collar jewel decorated with Masonic symbols c 1820

## Museum

The Museum contains an extensive collection of objects with Masonic decoration including pottery and porcelain, glassware, silver, furniture and clocks, jewels and regalia. Items belonging to famous and Royal Freemasons including Winston Churchill and Edward VII are on display together with examples from an extensive collection of prints and engravings, photographs and ephemera. The Museum displays explore the different ranks, offices and branches of Freemasonry and explain its symbolism, charities and traditions.

A series of temporary exhibitions portray stories from the history of Freemasonry and specific aspects of Masonic life.



## Library and Archives

You are welcome to use the Library and Archives for reference. They contain a comprehensive collection of books, music and manuscripts on every facet of Freemasonry in England as well as material on Freemasonry elsewhere in the world and on subjects associated with Freemasonry.

As the repository for the archives of the United Grand Lodge of England and the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and their predecessor bodies, the archive collections include papers relating to buildings and sites associated with Freemasonry, charitable bodies associated with Freemasonry, certificates, warrants and correspondence.

For details of how to research any masonic ancestors see the Family History page on the website or request a search form.

For more information see the website at [www.freemasonry.london.museum](http://www.freemasonry.london.museum) or search the collections at [www.freemasonry.london.museum/catalogue.php](http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/catalogue.php)

Staff are always pleased to help visitors with historical enquiries or to respond to telephone, written or e-mail enquiries (via [libmus@freemasonry.london.museum](mailto:libmus@freemasonry.london.museum)) and can advise about how to use Museum, Library and Archive resources. Staff cannot, however, undertake extensive research on individual enquiries.

## The Foundations of Freemasonry

The questions of where, when, how and why Freemasonry originated are still the subject of speculation. The general consensus is that Freemasonry descends directly or indirectly from the organisation of working stone masons who built the great cathedrals and castles of the medieval period. Their organisational unit, the lodge, began to admit men who were not working stonemasons beginning, in England, with Elias Ashmole who became a Freemason in Warrington in 1646. On 24 June 1717 four London lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron tavern in St Paul's Churchyard, declared themselves a Grand Lodge and elected a Grand Master. This was the first Grand Lodge in the world. It began to hold regular meetings and published the first rule book.

A rival Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1751 claiming for itself the title "Antients Grand Lodge". For 60 years, the two Grand Lodges co-existed before a Union between the two was completed in 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England.



**IMAGES, FAR LEFT** Grand Master's apron of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VII)

**ABOVE** Porcelain bowl c 1790

**RIGHT** Frontispiece by Benjamin Cole 1731

## Join The Friends of The Library and Museum (continued)

Title

Forenames

Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone number

E-Mail Address

Signed

Date

To become a Friend of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry please return this completed form to:

**Friends Department**  
The Library and Museum of Freemasonry  
Freemasons' Hall  
60 Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ