



# *The Byzantium*



*United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine*

Volume XXI

October 2014

Issue 1

## **THE GRAND SOVEREIGN**



**William R. Miller**

## GRAND SOVEREIGN' S BIOGRAPHY

On November 2, 1935 Bill was born in Seattle, Washington, becoming the second generation born there. He was educated in the public schools of Seattle, Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO, and Sioux City, IA. He received a B.S. in Industrial Administration from Iowa State University, Ames, IA. He retired July, 1994 as Facilities Resource Manager, The Boeing Commercial Airplane Co., after a nearly 38 year career. Bill and high school sweetheart Maralyn Edwards were married October 12, 1957 in Knoxville, TN. Maralyn graduated from Highline College, Des Moines, WA and is now retired. She is a charter member of Pyramid Chapter, O.E.S., and a majority Rainbow member with the Rainbow Grand Cross of Color.

Son Brian is a Past Master Councilor of Federal Way Chapter, Order of DeMolay and earned the Representative DeMolay Award. He graduated from Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA and married Shelley Lanier, R.D.H., also an EWU alum. They have three boys, Jeremy and Kyle (members of Edward James Chapter, Order of DeMolay) and Brandon (member of Des Moines Chapter). Daughter Kathleen is a Past Worthy Advisor of Pyramid Assembly, Order of the Rainbow for Girls. She was Grand Representative of Connecticut and received the Grand Cross of Color. Katie is a cum laude graduate of Whitworth College, Spokane, WA and has one son, Colin Ancel.

While in College Bill was active in Delta Upsilon social fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi professional fraternity, Gamma Greek honorary, Lampos science honorary and Pershing Rifles, R.O.T.C. honorary. He is a member of Marine View Presbyterian Church; Association of Washington Generals, (Board of Directors 1985-1988); Boeing Management Association, 1962-present; Federal Way Foundation Board of Directors, 1988-90; Federal Way Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Month, March, 1981; Federal Way School Board 1975-1986, serving three terms as president; Washington State School Board of the Year 1980; National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network representative 1983-86, Delegation chairman 1986; Selective Service Local Board No. 12, Vice-chairman 1981-2001.

He is a Senior member, Morningside Chapter Order of DeMolay; Representative DeMolay Award; Zerubbabel Key; Legion of Honor 1973; Dean of Tacoma LOH Preceptory 1983; Advisory Board, Federal Way DeMolay Chapter, 1963-73, Dad Advisor, 1973-76; Member DeMolay Alumni Association; Washington State DeMolay Foundation Board of Directors 1990-2007; elected a member of the DeMolay Supreme Council 1994, where he served as Grand Orator 2008-09 and retired in 2010. Received the DeMolay Guild of the Leather Apron in 2010; Rainbow Advisory Board 1967-1970; Rainbow Dad 1978; Grand Cross of Color 1971; Washington Idaho Rainbow Foundation Board of Directors, 2000 to 2007; Pyramid Chapter No. 257, Order of the Eastern Star 1960-present, Charter member, Worthy Patron 1969-70.

Bill was made a Mason in Queen Anne Lodge No. 242, Seattle, WA, March 12, 1959. Demitted to Thornton F. McElroy Lodge No. 302 in Federal Way. Appointed Chaplain in 1960 and progressed to Worshipful Master in 1966. Will serve again as Master in 2016. Plural member in Frank S. Land Lodge No. 313, Des Moines and Glacier Lodge No. 10, Anchorage, AK and member of Southern California Research Lodge. Charter Life Member of Pacific Rim Lodge No. 12, Vladivostok, Siberia, Russia. President, Tacoma Pierce County Junior Warden's Club 1964; Master's and Warden's Association 1966 and Past Master's Association 1983. Received first Grand Lodge appointment in 1966, followed by several committee and officer appointments culminating in election as Junior Grand Warden, June 1986 and Grand Master of Masons in Washington, 1989-90. Currently serving as Fraternal Correspondent. Served on the program committee for the 1990 Conference of Grand Masters and as an appointed, then elected member of the Fraternal Relations Committee of that Conference, 1989-93. Elected a member of the Board of Directors of the National Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children 1988-1994 and president 1992-94.

Joined Tacoma Scottish Rite in November 1966. Venerable Master, 1984 (centennial year); Wise Master, 1972-73; Commander, 1988; Master of Kadosh of the Consistory, 1990. Knight Commander Court of Honor, 1973; Coroneted Thirty-third Degree Inspector General Honorary, 1985; appointed Personal Representative of the S.:G.:I.:G.: for the Orient of Washington, 1990-1992. Appointed Deputy of the Supreme Council 1993. Elected and crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Washington, October 1993, where he served for twenty years, the final three as Grand Minister of State. The Scottish Rite Research Society, 1992. Royal Order of Scotland, 1972, appointed Substitute Provincial Grand Master in 2014; Honorary member of the ROS Provincial Grand Lodge of British Columbia, 1992; Thistle Clan Chieftain, 1990-1993, corresponding secretary 1985-present.

Member and past presiding officer of Chapter, Council, Commandery (KCT), York Rite College (OPC, past Deputy Grand Governor and President of the Council of Associate Regents), SRICF College (IX°), Royal Ark Mariner, Jesters, and Masonic Order of the Bath.

Member of KYCH, Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Sovereign Order of the Triangle, Grand College of Rites, The Philaethes Society, The Phylaxis Society, Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not, National Sojourners, Inc., Heros of '76, Los Hermanos de la Corbata de Moño, The Operatives (VI°), Scarlet Cord, Secret Monitor, and Afifi Shriners.

Bill became a member of Pacific Council No. 30, Allied Masonic Degrees in 1985, serving as Sovereign Master in 1991. He was appointed a Member of the AMD Grand Council progressive line in 1998, and served as Sovereign Grand Master, KGC in 2006.

He joined Great Chief's Council No. 0, Knight Masons in 1989 then became a Charter member of Clontarf Council where he served as Excellent Chief in 1999. He was appointed Grand Sentinel in the Grand Council advancing line in 2009.

Bill became a Charter Member of Trinity Chapel No 12, Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, in 1999; was the Founding Eminent Prior of Tahoma Chapel No 30 in 2004, Worthy Master 2005; Provincial Grand Secretary, 2005 – 2010, appointed Grand Cellarer 2007, Past Grand Marshal 2012, and is currently serving as Provincial Grand Prior 2014.

He was invited to join the Great Priory of America, Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cite Sainte, (C.B.C.S.) in 2000 and currently serves as Prefect for the Western Prefecture.

He was invited to join St. Alban Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine in 1983 and served as Puissant Sovereign in 1991; Grand Standard Bearer 2002-2003, Grand Orator 2004-2005 and 2006-2007, Grand Marshal 2008-09, member of Jurisprudence Committee 2005-2010. He was elected Grand Almoner in 2009.

**2014-2015 UGIC GRAND OFFICERS INSTALLED IN DAYTON**



L to R: Very Illustrious Grand Senior General, KC R. Stephan Doan; Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, KC William R. Miller; Most Eminent Grand Viceroy, KC Robert S. Finley; Very Illustrious Grand Junior General, KC Joseph C. Harrison, Jr ; Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, Fred Kleyn, III, KGC; and, Illustrious Grand Almoner; KC James E. Winzenreid.

## THANKFUL

I heard the story of a man who said “I am very happy; I have good health, sufficient income and no debts.” And I too, can say I am very happy, I have reasonably good health, sufficient income but I cannot say that I have no debts. I owe so much to so many of you, to all of those (both living and deceased) who had a part in giving me various opportunities to serve. To the many of you who have worked with me through these years, you know that I owe much to Freemasonry. It has provided me the opportunity to serve God, my Country and Humanity and the joy and satisfaction which that service has given to me. Also, for that opportunity to make so many wonderful friends all over the United States of America, Canada and beyond. And, although I am greatly indebted to you and to our Fraternity, I am rich, yes, very rich.

For all of this, I am most thankful.

*Burch E. Zehner, KGC*  
Past Grand Sovereign  
(June 2014)

UGIC Appointed Officers ~ 2014-2015 and Grand Trustees





Andre E. Lovas  
Grand Chamberlain



Marcos D. Ostrander  
Grand Orator



Gregory R. Klemm  
Standard Bearer



William B. Brunk  
Grand Marshal



Joseph W. MacIntyre  
Grand Herald



Richard E. Van Tassell  
Grand Sentinel



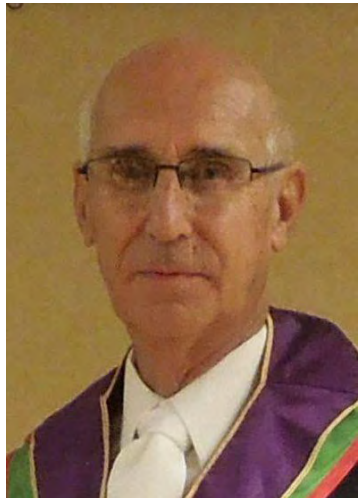
Ronald E. Wood, Jr.  
Grand High Prelate



E. Jeffrey Craig  
Grand Chaplain



Darly L. Price  
Grand Chaplain



Charles L. Stuckey  
Grand Trustee (2015)



Joe R. Manning  
Grand Trustee (2016)



Fred E. Allen  
Grand Trustee (2017)

***PAST GRAND SOVEREIGN BURCH ZEHNER PRESENTING  
THE KNIGHT COMMANDER OF CONSTANTINE TO KC  
RICHARD BALAS, THE PAST INTENDANT GENERAL OF  
PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN, IN DAYTON, OH.***



L: KC BALAS and R: KC ZEHNER

(see *The Byzantium* October 2013 issue for a description of the Knight  
Commander of Constantine award)



## ST. GEORGE'S CONCLAVE No. 79 – PORT GLASGOW

On 15 April 2014, the Conclave, under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Imperial Council of Scotland, held the installation of officers. The installation was a great success, and everyone retired to a superb buffet with speeches following. Em Kt Grant was installed in a most able manner by Rt Em Kt John while the Viceroy and officers were installed by Ill Kt Matt. The other members of the installing team acted as General, Herald, and Prelate.



The installing team L – R: Em Kt Nigel Spike, Past Sovereign Queen's Conclave No. 56 (Glasgow); Ill Kt Bill Norquay, Past Sovereign St. George's Conclave No. 79 (installed as EVE – Eminent Viceroy Eusebius); Rt Em Kt John McAlpine, KGC, Past Sovereign Queen's Conclave No. 56 (Glasgow), installed Sovereign; Em Kt Grant Macleod, MPS (Most Puissant Sovereign or the reigning Sovereign), St. George's Conclave No. 79; Ill Kt Matt Macleod, PS, Queen's Conclave No. 56 (Glasgow); Em Kt David Morrison, PS, Queen's Conclave No. 56 (Glasgow); Ill Kt Andy Gillick, PS, St. George's Conclave No. 79.



Left photo is Em Kt Grant Mcleod, Most Puissant Sovereign of Saint George's Conclave No. 79. FYI, Em Kt is Eminent Knight, a title similar to Worthy or Worshipful Master. Also, Ill Kt is Illustrious Knight, a title for the Intendant General. Rt Em Kt is Right Eminent Knight, a title give to a Past Sovereign with extra service to the Order by the Grand Imperial Council of Scotland.

## *CITY OF MEXICO CONCLAVE*

The City of Mexico Conclave was chartered on 24 May 1944. And, on Saturday, 24 May 2014, the Conclave celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in San Luis Potosi, a central location for members throughout Mexico. The special event was coordinated by the KCs from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. During the afternoon the KCs and their ladies enjoyed a tour of the city, and a wonderful Mexican comida of various local foods. That evening there was a Conclave Anniversary Assembly followed by a superb dinner with the ladies.



Seated L to R: KC Ricardo Ruiz, Eminent Viceroy; KC Jaime Galicia, Puissant Sovereign (with Conclave Charter); and KC Denny Strole, IG Division of Mexico/Guatemala. Standing L to R: KC Jack Norman; KC Oscar Castillo, KC Gerardo Manjarrez; KC Heriberto Rodriguez; and, KC Leobardo Castellanos.



## GRAND SOVEREIGN VISITS ENGLAND

Grand Sovereign Bill Miller attended the Annual Meeting of the Grand Imperial Council of England and Wales held at Great Queen Street in London July 1, 2014. A new Grand Sovereign was installed at this meeting, after which the outgoing Grand Sovereign simply returned home where tradition has it that he will remain relatively inactive for a year. In this case however, he will be inactive in the Red Cross of Constantine only because he will become Pro Grand Master of the Mark in England and Wales.



Grand Sovereign Miller pictured with the Grand Sovereigns of Greece and Scotland in the robing room. Photo taken by the Intendant General of Utah, KC Glen Cook.

## ***EL SALVADOR CONCLAVE INSTITUTED***

On Saturday, 23 August 2014, the EL SALVADOR CONCLAVE was instituted in San Salvador, the capital city. The Petition for Dispensation was approved at the UGIC Annual Assembly in Dayton, OH, and signed by the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, KC Bill Miller; and Attested by the Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, KC Fred Kleyn. The Illustrious Intendant General for Mexico, Guatemala and now El Salvador, KC Denny Strole, conducted the Special Assembly. All of the Charter members of the new Conclave were present.

First on the agenda was the presentation of the Dispensation, announcing the Charter members' names, and declaring the names of the new Sovereign and Viceroy. Following the presentation of the Dispensation, the Conclave officers were installed. The Sovereign, KC Enrique Allwood, was presented a Sovereign jewel, and the Viceroy, Eduardo Villavicencio, was presented a Viceroy jewel; KCs without a member jewel were each presented one.

Joining the event were several KCs from the Guatemala Conclave: the Sovereign, Viceroy, Treasurer and acting Recorder. The Guatemala Conclave created many of the KCs who now have become Charter members of the El Salvador Conclave.

Finally, the Sovereign was escorted to his station, and was presented the framed Dispensation document as well as an appropriately engraved gavel for the Conclave. The Sovereign then gave his remarks to all assembled, which were followed by remarks by several other Conclave members and visitors.

The entire proceeding was well received by all. The El Salvador Conclave is pleased and enthusiastic to be the newest Conclave.



Front Row, L-R: KC Gustavo Delgado, KC Pedro Moreno, KC Enrique Allwood (Sovereign), KC Denny Strole (IG), KC Eduardo Villavicencio (Viceroy).

Second Row, L-R: KC Franco Benedetti, KC Ernest Quiñonez Papini, KC Abraham Aviles, KC Carlos Araujo R., KC Oswald Hernandez-Huerta (Recorder).

Third Row, L-R: KC Rene Vela, KC Alejandro Zabaneh, KC Wilfredo Bonifacio Cordova.

Below: At the altar for the reading of the Dispensation.



## **PUERTO RICO CONCLAVE**

While in Dayton, OH, in June, the Puerto Rico delegation met with the Grand Sovereign Bill Miller



L to R: KC Ramon Montañez, KCC, Past Intendant General of Puerto Rico; Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, KC Bill Miller; KC Jose Lopez, Intendant General of Puerto Rico; and the Conclave Puissant Sovereign, KC Ariel Rodriguez.

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### ***143<sup>rd</sup> UGIC ANNUAL ASSEMBLY***

The 143<sup>rd</sup> UGIC Red Cross of Constantine Annual Assembly will be held in Seattle, Washington from 4 – 6 June 2015. This is one of the premier events of the year, and always exciting to interact with Knights Companions from around the U.S. and the World! See pages 24 and 25 for information concerning the general venue and registration form. DON'T WAIT, mark your calendars now. You will not want to miss this wonderful event!



## ***QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA***

This article was forwarded from KC Ted Mc Cauley, the Grand Viceroy of Queensland in 2013. Ted is now Grand Cross of Constantine. He is also the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Queensland to the York Rite in Idaho. His purpose in sending this article was to show that “the Red Cross of Constantine is alive and well in Queensland, Australia.” The photo below was taken at the Grand Enthronement of The Grand Imperial Conclave of Queensland in February 2013.



L – R: Right Illustrious and Eminent Knight Ted Mc Cauley, KCC, Grand Viceroy and Most Illustrious Knight David Cowin, GCC, Grand Sovereign.

## ***SAN LORENZO CONCLAVE***

The installation ceremony and annual banquet of San Lorenzo Conclave was held on Saturday, 15 February 2014, in Panama City, Republic of Panama.



L – R: RWB Gerard Dowden, DGM, District Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at the Panama Canal; KC Marcos Avila, Puissant Sovereign, San Lorenzo Conclave; S.K. Larry Brown, Right Eminent Division Commander, Representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar to Panama; MWB Juan Pablo Iglesias Martino, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Panama; KC Marcos David Ostrander Mulford, IG Division of Panama and Sovereign Grand Commander Panama; Ill Alberto Thompson, Potentate, Abou Saad Shriners, Panama.

## ***JOAN OF ARC CONCLAVE, RENO, NEVADA***

On 12 July 2014, at a special assembly, the Conclave was privileged to Install Most Worshipful John M. Buffington, Grand Master of Nevada, and KC Robert Peterson, as Knights Companions. After the Assembly, the ladies joined the 17 members for a great dinner in a private dining room in Harrah's Casino in Reno. Welcomed as dinner guests were KC Earl Purington, Father and KC Jefferies and their ladies.



L to R, front row: PS Don Drake, Recorder; MW Reed Moseley, PGM; KC Robert Peterson, KC Gene Nelson, Puissant Sovereign; MWB Buffington; and, MW Gordon Wessell, PGM and IG for Nevada..

L to R, back row: KC Robert Duncan; MW H. Wayne Kingsley, PGM; KC Thomas Hultin, PS; KC Ed Davis, Viceroy; KC Dalton LaRue; KC Steve Robison; and, MW David J. Morgan, PGM.

Photo by: WM Wayne Perkins, PGM.

### ***From the Editor***

This issue of *The Byzantium* is quite complete with a variety of photos, articles, and items of interest. Thank you to all who have contributed from not only the United States, but from around the world! I have tried to include all the inputs, and those few that do not appear will be in the February 2015 issue.

Again, many thanks for your inputs. If your Division or Conclave is not represented here, you should designate a Public Relations person to get photos and write captions and articles, and send them in.....all are most welcome and appreciated.

In Faith, Unity and Zeal,  
Denny Strole, Editor

Intendant General Divisions of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador



### *St. Gregory Conclave, Chattanooga, TN*

The Conclave held its annual business meeting and picnic on 23 July 2014 at the residence of KC Hoyt Samples, with the ladies in attendance. It was an honor to have the Illustrious Intendant General, KC Richard Van Tassell, in attendance; he updated the Conclave on up-coming events and offered his assistance as the Conclave moves forward. Everyone is looking forward to degrees being conferred at the annual Assembly in Nashville in January 2015. All the KCs and their ladies thoroughly enjoyed the picnic!



Seated (left to right): KC Jim Arnhart, KC David Nelson (Sovereign), KC Hoyt Jones, KC Richard Petty, KC Richard Smith, and, KC Bobby Officer (Most Excellent Grand High Priest).

First Row (left to right): KC Rick Genter, KC Ron Oslin, KC Johnny Thompson, KC Bobby Green (Treasurer), KC Terry Plemons, KC Buster Cravener, KC Robert Hall, KC Richard Van Tassell (Illustrious Intendant General), KC Bill Barber (Recorder).

Second Row (left to Right): KC Bill Sylar (Viceroy), KC Calvin Grant, KC Justin Huggins, KC Hoyt Samples, KC David Olds, KC Joe Gebis, KC George Stansberry (Most Illustrious Grand Master), KC Glenn Butler, and KC Frank Smith.

## ***A BIT OF HISTORY* (continued from the February 2014 Byzantium)**

The setting up of divisional lines in an organization was and is almost always accompanied by differences of opinion, struggles for personal power, lapse of faith and ill feeling. Local groups reach out for their self-identification and the distinctive characteristics of the widely separated regions of the nation make mutual understanding difficult.

When the dissolution of the Sovereign Grand Council of the United States of America seemed certain, the influential leaders in the Order sought to obtain control of the State Grand Councils by re-organizing the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Grand Cross of Constantine of the United States of America which had been created June 21, 1877. The Grand Council of Illinois, however, withdrew from this Supreme Grand Chapter in 1911 and established the Grand Imperial Council of the Imperial Ecclesiastical and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine for the United States of America that was to become known as the "Empire of the West."

This withdrawal apparently caused emotions of deep bitterness, hard feelings and such misunderstanding that when in 1919 an effort of merger of all Councils was proposed, it was ultimately defeated.

During the meeting of the Grand Imperial Council of Pennsylvania, held October 16, 1935, this Grand Council considered the questions of changing its designation into one conforming more to its constantly increasing jurisdiction and one broad enough to permit assuming jurisdiction over all the Atlantic coast states, and it was therefore resolved that the Council change the name of the Grand Jurisdiction from the Grand Imperial Council of Pennsylvania to the Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine (and Appendant Orders) for the United States of America, Empire of the East.

Two divisions in Empires were thus set forth, one to be called the West, the other the East, each created with the hope that a most harmonious relationship would come into existence and that the Order could look forward to a greater and brighter future.

A great fraternity composed of outstanding men of the Masonic world cannot for long remain divided. Time passes and old controversial matters give way to new membership who do not understand the old differences. Newer generations of Knights Companions seek to go forward as one united group to attain greater objectives. As early as the late 1930's representatives of both Empires began a series of conferences. Inter-jurisdictional visitations became regular and honorary memberships were conferred by both Empires on Knights Companions of the other.

Discussions of a merger of the two Empires began in October 1954. Throughout 1954 and early 1955 the merger of the Empire of the East and the Empire of the West continued, and in June 1955 two committees were formed by each Empire to develop terms of the union. The "Terms of the Union" proposed by these two committees was dated February 20, 1956, and outlined the recommended progression to a single United Grand Imperial Council. The draft of a Constitution and laws was left to the committees of both Grand Imperial Councils that had drawn up the "Terms of the Union" to be presented at the joint meeting to be held at the time of the Conference of Grand Masters in February 1958 in Washington, D.C.

The proceedings of the United Grand Imperial Council of February 18, 1958, at Washington, D.C., states that "in every organization there are dates or occasions or events that stand out as long as the organization exists," and gives that date as such a milestone in the history of the Red Cross of Constantine.

The "Succession of Reigning and Associate Grand Sovereigns" was listed from February-July 1958 through 1967, alternating annually from both Councils. Sir Knight Ford Q. Elvidge, K.G.C., was the first Grand Sovereign, and in his Allocution to the United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, meeting in the Order's Annual Assembly at Seattle, Washington, July 26, 1958, said: "...I have not been unmindful of the distinction accorded me in permitting me to be the first Grand Sovereign of the United Organization. I have a full appreciation of the honor. I regard the Red Cross of Constantine as the outstanding Masonic organization in the country. No other organization carries on its membership roll and among its ranking officers so many leaders in Freemasonry all over the United States."

And, today the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders continues to prosper as a most prestigious organization and leader in Freemasonry. Knights Companions be proud of your heritage, and keep the distinction of being a Knight Companion an ideal that others wish to emulate!

### ***WISCONSIN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY***

On 19 July in Eau Claire, WI, at the Regional Assembly, the photo below was taken immediately following the Conferral of the Senate of Sovereigns; in the back row are the newly enthroned Sovereigns.



L-R, front row: KC Fred Kleyn, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder and PGS; KC Robert Finley, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; KC Bill Miller, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign; KC Gary Beier, Illustrious Intendant General –Wisconsin.

L-R, Back row: KC Kenneth Bales, Sovereign, Nicolet Conclave, Green Bay; KC Lou Metz, Sovereign, St. Wilfred Conclave, Milwaukee; and, KC Jon Grinde, Sovereign, Winnebago Conclave, Madison.



## The Chrismon

By KC Vincenzo Pulvirenti – Eboracum Conclave Catania, Sicily, Italy

Early Christian figurative art often used a highly symbolic language that scholars have sometimes found arduous interpreting.

In our vast iconographic heritage, the symbols closely linked to the name of Jesus Christ – the so called Christograms – played an important role in a time when the Church was in the process of changing the religious beliefs of the Romans' in order to carry the cause of the cult of the One God. It is the period of charismatic Constantine, the Emperor who led the transition to a new institutional and religious reality within the Roman Empire.

In their respective writings Eusebius of Caesarea and Lactantius celebrate Constantine's imperial career from its beginnings. Though treating the subject differently, they both emphasize the extraordinary nature of Divine manifestation on the eve of the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. Eusebius, in *Life of Constantine* (4:24), written around AD 337, describes the vision – appearing to the emperor as a sign in the sky - of a column of light in the shape of a cross bearing the following inscription: “In Hoc Signo Vinces”, while Lactantius, in his *How the persecutors Died* (44:5,6), dated between AD 313 and 316, relates that Constantine, inspired by a prophetic, oneiric vision of his own victory under the sign of the God of the Christians, had his soldiers paint on their shields the mysterious emblem obtained by the superimposition of the letters *Chi* and *Rho* evocative of the name of Christ in Greek.

Lactantius' treatise therefore represents the birth certificate of the Chrismon monogram, originally a symbol of victorious strength that would eventually take on a weightier semantic relevance. The simple design of the Chrismon and its immediate recognition have been key to its remarkable diffusion not only as a symbol of the faith of a victorious emperor, but also as one of the most popular, even universal, iconic images of the Christian religion.

The Monogram, if surrounded by a laurel wreath or by a circle, acquires an astral symbolism which, in accordance with the Scripture, identifies Jesus with the Sun and the Light, where both Sun and Light are associated with God or prophecy heralding the coming of the Messiah. For instance, the prophetic book of Malachi, ends with the promise by the Lord about a “Sun of Justice”: “*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall (Mal. 4:2)*”; the Book of Wisdom too makes the same association: “*Clearly we have strayed from the way of truth; the light of justice has not shone for us, the sun has not risen for us. (Wis. 5:6)*”; as does Isaiah: “*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Is. 9:1)*”.

The solar metaphor in relation to the Messiah, is well attested also in the New Testament. Thus, as the Sun shines upon the whole Earth, Jesus Christ enlightens the conscience of all peoples. To mention but a few examples of this from the Gospel and Revelation: *The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up ... And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light (Matt. 4 :16; 17:2); To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79); and he had in his right hand seven stars. And from his mouth came out a sharp two edged sword: and his face was as the sun shineth in his power. (Revelation 1:16).* [Continued next page]

As in the case of Moses (Ex 3: 2-4), in Eusebius' account too, God reveals Himself to the emperor in the form of 'light', a sign of the victory which was to mark the advent of a new imperial policy championing the new religion. [continued next page]

In fourth century Roman society - still divided along the lines of pagan religion and Christianity - the divine origin of Constantine's imperial mandate was emphasized not only by the above mentioned historical sources by Lactantius and Eusebius, but also by the generic reference to divine inspiration as in the phrase *instinctu divinitas* which is featured on the Triumphal Arch in Rome. A carefully worded allusion to the divine, aimed at glorifying the victor of the battle of the Milvian Bridge as well as to promote the belief in the "divinitas" as the ideological basis of the Imperial power. Hence, the rising prominence of the legend of a Supreme Being who would grant emperor Constantine divine protection in all circumstances.

In order for this new imperial strategy to achieve political legitimacy, the special relationship between the divinity had to become public knowledge. The minting and circulation of new coins, was both an official means of propaganda and a medium capable of reaching every region of the empire.



*Sarcophagus of Anàstasis – detail  
4rd century Rome. Musei Vaticani*



*Follis of Constantine.  
AD 327 London. The British Museum*

Thus, in AD 327, the mint of Constantinople, increased the striking of the follis, the bronze coin (see picture above) which featured, on the obverse, the effigy of Constantine and the inscription "CONSTANTINUS AUG MAX". On the reverse we can see the 'Imperial Labarum' with its three medallions (standing for the Emperor and his two sons) on top of which is set the *Chrismon*, whilst below we read the phrase "SPES PUBLICA CONS".

The monogram, the stylized Cross obtained through the intersection between the vertical staff and the horizontal crossbar and the serpent pierced by the saving trophy, are three precise references to the dream mentioned by Lactantius, the heavenly vision reported by Eusebius and the creeping evil mentioned in the book of Genesis: "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Gen. 3:14-15).

Besides its religious overtones, the artifact is quite relevant in historical terms it being regarded as one of the most ancient pieces of evidence bearing witness to Constantinian Christograms. Also unique is the coincidence between the issuing of the coin and the disappearance the official iconography of the old imperial insignia, as they can still be seen, for instance, on the Roman Triumphal Arch in Rome, built as a tribute to Constantine. It is as if the new symbolism had become the emblem of the 'saving weapon' against all powers and foes, superseding the earlier, glorious military insignia. [Continued next page]

Truth be told, Constantine's religious conversion to Christianity is still controversial. Whilst for some it arose from a profound conviction of the soul, for others it was an act dictated by realpolitik principles to further imperial ends through the enforcement of one-sided, intolerant and inflexible politics in the social fabric of the Roman Empire. Fact is, Constantine was and remains a complex character and figure, often victim of contrasting readings. On the one hand, we have knowledge of the claims by his detractors, among whom we can especially remember Zosimos of Panopolis, a fourth-century pagan Gnostic mystic who, in his manuscript *New History* gives a very negative account of the Emperor. This work has, however, been of little relevance, flawed as it is, by the lack of reliable sources. [This concludes *The Chrismon*]

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### ***SAINT ALBAN CONCLAVE...Seattle, WA***

On 17 August 2014, the Conclave met at the home of KC Doug and Diane Baker, whose home is located on the Puget Sound, a relaxing setting for this annual event. Conclave members and families enjoyed great BBQ steak and salmon prepared by KC Don Wertman augmented by steamed clams from the Sound! It was a great buffet table!



L to R: KC Jim Stephens, PS; KC T.H. Dick Dickason, PS; KC John Brett, Viceroy; KC Richard Kovak, Sovereign; KC William R. Miller, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign; KC Sam Roberts, Grand Master of WA; KC Doug Baker, PS and Secretary.



## ***SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY in Denver, CO***

The SW Regional Assembly, hosted jointly by the Mt. of the Holy Cross Conclave (Denver) and the Sangre de Cristo Conclave (Pueblo), was held in Denver on 18 and 19 July. KC Jerry Fenimore, IG of Colorado, welcomed 90 delegates and 40 ladies from throughout the SW Region. On Saturday morning, all degrees were exemplified in full regalia, and were well received by the 14 KCs who received the degrees. The ladies enjoyed a fashion show during their luncheon planned by the ladies of the host Conclaves. On Saturday afternoon, the College of Viceroys and the Senate of Sovereigns were exemplified for the 10 and 8 KCs, respectively. All enjoyed the Hospitality Room, courtesy of the host Conclaves, throughout the event. The Saturday night formal banquet was wonderful, and entertainment was provided by the First Colorado Regimental Civil War Band who performed patriotic and popular music to everyone's delight! The 2014 SW Regional Assembly was a resounding success, and will be fondly remembered by all!



L-R, front row: KC Fred Kleyn, Grand Recorder and PGS; KC Robert Finley, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; KC Bill Miller, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign; KC Steven Doan, Grand Senior General; and, KC Burch Zehner, PGS.

L-R, back row: KC Richard Butterfield, IG New Mexico; KC Jerry Fenimore, IG Colorado; KC David Kussman, IG Southern California; KC Denny Strole, IG Mexico/Guatemala; KC Gerry Ford, Past IG Colorado; KC Bruce Pruitt, IG California Northern; KC Bob Elsner, IG Arizona; and, KC George Wessell, IG Nevada.

4 - 6 June 2015 Sea-Tac Marriott Hotel, 3201 South 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188

The SEA-TAC MARRIOTT HOTEL - is located across from the International Airport with free shuttle service to/from the Hotel. Enjoy a healthy meal and drinks at the bar and restaurant. Dine on regional cuisine including salmon, crab, clams, oysters and delicious steak in a casual setting. Enjoy a workout in the fitness center or take a plunge in the indoor pool. Stay in control of all your business needs at the 24-hour business center or through free wi-fi in your room. For free shuttle service to the hotel call the hotel - (206) 241-3298.

GRAND ASSEMBLY AREA ATTRACTIONS - Area attractions include:

The Museum of Flight which houses airplanes and artifacts of a century of flight. Planes displayed include the world's first fighter and the record setting Concorde. You can explore the original Air Force One and a Space Shuttle Trainer. [www.museumofflight.org](http://www.museumofflight.org)

The EMP is the only museum of its kind in the world. Explore some of the most significant moments in rock music, science fiction and popular culture through EMP's impressive exhibits and interactive installations. [www.EMPmuseum.org](http://www.EMPmuseum.org).

Pacific Science Center includes hands-on exhibits stretching throughout five buildings, a cutting edge IMAX film in either 2D or 3D, a planetarium show or a live science show. You could even finish off your visit with a laser light show. [www.pacificsciencecenter.org](http://www.pacificsciencecenter.org)

Ride the Ducks of Seattle, a WWII amphibious vehicle that tours you through historic Pioneer Square, Seattle's spectacular waterfront and the downtown shopping district. Then, splash into Lake Union for a thrill of a lifetime! When was the last you drove a truck into the water on purpose? [www.ridetheducksofseattle.com](http://www.ridetheducksofseattle.com).

Seattle Aquarium gives you a chance to discover playful sea otters, graceful octopuses, luminous moon jellies and more. Be amazed by Window on Washington Waters, a 120,000 gallon exhibit with daily diver shows. Touch live sea creatures in the tide pools. Immerse yourself in the Underwater Dome's 360' view. Take a virtual trip to the tropics in the Pacific Coral Reef exhibit. [www.SeattleAquarium.org](http://www.SeattleAquarium.org)

Other attractions include the Seattle International Film Festival - [www.siff.net](http://www.siff.net).

GRAND ASSEMBLY TOURS: The Friday Cruise, Salmon Bake and Native Cultural Show. Tillicum Village is located on pristine Blake Island State Park and treats you to a cultural experience found only in the Northwest. Enjoy breathtaking views and a colorful narration as you cruise across Puget Sound. Dine on a wonderful salmon buffet and enjoy Coast Salish Native storytelling and dance during your 4 hour round trip adventure. You have a choice of two tours on Saturday (make your choice on your registration form):

1. Pike Place Market - the oldest continually operating market in the United States. Founded in 1907, Seattle's downtown public market offers fresh produce, unique foods and handmade arts and crafts, overlooking the Elliott Bay waterfront. Watch the market fishmongers toss around salmon, visit the first Starbucks Coffee Shop, enjoy the music and antics of talented street performers, and soak in the unique ambiance of Seattle's most popular attraction. This nine-acre historic district hosts over 10 million visitors each year. [www.pikeplacemarket.org](http://www.pikeplacemarket.org).

2. Seattle Center - First built for the 1962 World's Fair, the 74 acre Seattle Center campus is located just north of downtown Seattle, and offers a fairground, park, and arts and entertainment center all year round. Journey skyward for a 360 degree view of Puget Sound from the Space Needle, hop on the Monorail for an elevated glide to downtown Seattle, or cavort in the shooting waters of the International Fountain.

DRESS FOR MEN & WOMEN: All Assembly meetings will be coat and tie with jewel. The Saturday evening Banquet is formal with black tuxedo or white dinner jacket (with jewel and sash) for the men and the ladies always know what to wear. For all tours the dress is casual.

**UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE  
143rd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY - June 4-6, 2015**

Seattle Airport Marriott  
3201 South 176<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98188  
(206) 241-2000

\$129 + tax single or double occupancy  
Room reservations must be made before May 15, 2015 to receive  
"UGIC Red Cross of Constantine" discounted rate

Registration Fee \$160.00 per person

Registration begins Thursday at 9:00 AM Hotel first floor

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's Name if attending \_\_\_\_\_  
First and Last First and Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Location of Conclave \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_ National Office \_\_\_\_\_

Have you made your reservations with the Hotel?  YES  NO

(If you have ambulatory difficulties, please advise the hotel when you register.)

I (we) are Flying  Air Line - \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ I (we) will depart on \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE) (TIME) (DATE) (TIME)

**Registration Fee of \$160.00 Per Person includes:  
Thursday Reception, Friday Lunch, Friday Boat Cruise and Dinner,  
Saturday Lunch, Tours and Saturday Banquet.**

Number \_\_\_\_\_ @ (\$160.00) each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Knight Comp Lady

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Will attend the Thursday Evening Reception, June 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Will attend the Friday Men's and Ladies Lunch, June 5<sup>TH</sup></b>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Will attend the Friday boat Tillicum Village Tour/Salmon Dinner and show, June 5 <sup>th</sup>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Will attend the Saturday Men's/Ladies Lunch/Tour June 6<sup>th</sup></b>                               |
| Tour choice -            |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pike Place Market  |
|                          |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle Center (site of the Space Needle) with admission to Chihuly Glass Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Will attend the Saturday Grand Banquet, June 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Entrée choice -          |                          | Grand Banquet entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Seared Pork Chop with a cider apple glaze                   |
|                          |                          | Grand Banquet entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Halibut crusted with horseradish and lemon sauce            |

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Wheel Chair \_\_\_\_\_

ATTIRE FOR MEETINGS – COAT, TIE AND JEWEL

SATURDAY BANQUET – FORMAL, SASH AND JEWEL

Make Checks Payable To: **"143rd Annual Conclave"**

Mail Check and Registration To: Jerry E. Whitney (206) 241-7510  
231 South Normandy Road j.whitney@comcast.net  
Burien, WA 98148-1709

This completed form and your check must be received by May 8, 2015

NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 15, 2015





**RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE  
PO BOX 1606  
EL CAJON, CA 92022-1606**

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