

Introduction to Burma Freemasonry



British Rule

Following the the third Anglo-Burmese War of 1885 Burma was annexed to British India. A Lieutenant Governor was responsible to the Viceroy of India and governed as a province of India in 1897 until 1937. After the overthrow of the Burmese monarchy there was five years of widespread resistance and guerrilla war. The British were only able to take control in Lower Burma after the so called 'Pacification' of Burma politically and implement policies in practice. Burma achieved independence from British rule on 4 January 1948. (*Government House & Colonial Secretariat below*)



Burma Freemasonry

The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser (1884-1942), 10 March 1909, Page 4 Freemasons have long been in Burma, the Rangoon & Ormond-Iles Lodge No 1268 [EC] operated there until 1969. The Rangoon Lodge 1268 EC was consecrated on 31st May 1869 in Rangoon (now Yangon) and united with the Ormond-Iles Lodge, also meeting in Burma.

During WW2 the secretary, together with all Lodge papers and furniture, was evacuated by sea, but unfortunately was never seen again. It is assumed that it ended at the bottom of the Indian Ocean.

In September 1969 it was transferred to The UK where it has continued to meet on a regular basis with the full title - The Rangoon and Ormond-Iles Lodge No. 1268 EC.

Star of Burma No.614 E.C.

Serial Number: 2121

Warrant of Constitution: 9 April 1853

Warrant of Confirmation: 9 October 1860

2nd Warrant of Confirmation: 26th November 1903

1894 onwards: 614 (Installation December 1952)
Lodge Number (1832): 897
Lodge Number (1863): 614



Meeting Places of 614 EC

Jordah and Co. Offices, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies.

Lodge Rooms, Barr Street, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies.

Halliday, Bullock and Co. Offices, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies.

1853 Phoongee House, back of Soolay Pagoda, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies.

1863 House of Bro. Mc.Phail, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies.

1864 Freemasons' Hall, Boundary Road, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies
1884 Freemasons' Hall, Montgomery Street, Rangoon (Pegu), British Burma, East Indies

Opening of Rangoon Freemasons' Hall Rangoon.

On 18th January 1908 the foundation stone of "Freemasons' Hall" in Simpson Road was laid by W. Bro H. W. Watts, officiating Deputy District Grand Master of English Freemasonry in Burma, with great pomp and ceremony, as chronicled at the time.



The handsome structure was built on the site and recently formally opened. As far back as 1853, before the British occupied Rangoon, a few members of the Craft obtained a provisional warrant to open Lodge "Star of Burma" in Rangoon. The warrant of confirmation was received from England in 1860. The meetings of the members were held in various places in Rangoon because they had no building of their own. Eventually these enthusiastic brethren secured the site of their old hall in Montgomery Street for Rs. 10,000 and here they continued to hold their meetings. The Railways Company had acquired part of their ground and in consequence of the trouble caused by noises of railway operations, it was decided to sell the land and building, and they were purchased for Rs. 1,10,000. The ground on which the building is cost Rs. 43,000, and the cost including the ground amounts to something like Rs. 1,25,000.

The building is the exclusive property of Lodge "Star of Burma" No. 614 E. C.

The building committee of the Lodge were composed of W. Bro. H. W. Watts, W. Bro. W. Mutter and W. Bro. R. Philip. The Architects were Messrs Swales and Pullar, late of Swan and Maclaren, and the building contractors Messrs Martin and Co. The edifice is a two storeyed one. The entrance is from Simpson road with a carriage drive passing

underneath the portico and then leading to the back of the building to a large carriage shed where conveyances may be protected from the weather. There are also out-houses here for servants, etc. There are two halls in the ground floor, the main or banqueting hall, 55 feet by 35 feet, with an excellent flooring. The adjoining hall which is separated from the main hall by two archways is 52 feet by 40 feet. Next to this is the bar and adjoining the bar are the library and Secretary's Office. Behind the staircase leading to the lodge room upstairs is the ladies' cloak room and retiring rooms, then next to this the store rooms. Upstairs besides the lodge room there is a large anteroom, dressing rooms, lavatories, etc. The lodge room itself reflects much credit on the contractors. The building throughout is lit with electric lamps and fans. The arc lamps have been artistically arranged. Messrs Stewart Raeburn and Co. were contractors for this part of the work.

Freemasonry in Central Burma in Lodge Yenangyaung 4374

Date of Warrant or Constitution: 1921
 Warrant of Constitution: 2nd November 1921
 Consecrated 21st February 1922
 Date of Hall Stone Medal: 1921-1933
 Lapsed: March 1971
 Erased: 11 June 1975 due to the changed political situation in Burma.



Meeting Places 4374

1921 Yenangyaung, Province of Burma, British India
 1938 Yenangyaung, Colony of Burma
 1950 Freemasons' Hall, Chauk, Burma



Burma English Lodges Erased or Dormant

No.1268 Rangoon Lodge 1869

No.1376 Astraea 1871

No.1751 Palm Lodge 1878 Pegu

No. 2219 Mandalay Lodge 1887

No. 2526 Irrawaddy 1894

No. 2567 Acacia 1895

No. 2575 Fairclough 1895



THE CHARTERED BANK OF I. A. & C., RANGOON.



SOPAER'S BUILDINGS, RANGOON.



MESSRS. BULLOCK BROS.' OFFICES, RANGOON.



HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, RANGOON.

No.2645 Palm Lodge 1896 Bassein

No. 2924 Power Palmer 1902

No. 4603 Rangoon University Lodge 1923

No.4809 Alliance Lodge 1925

No.4973 Taunggyi Lodge 1927

No.3330 Pegu Lodge 1946

Burma Scottish Lodges

No.1377 Lodge Ady SC

No. 832 Lodge Victoria SC Rangoon 1890 (WM. Tan Kim-ho 1938)

No.834 Peace & Harmony SC 1952



RANGOON CLUB.



THE PEGU CLUB, RANGOON.



THE GERMAN CLUB, RANGOON.



THE GYMKHANA CLUB, RANGOON.



THE GRAND HOTEL, RANGOON.



ANANDA PAGODA, RANGOON.



THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, RANGOON.



RUSSIAN ALPHABET, RANGOON.



RUSSIAN WORD CARTON, RANGOON.



THE COLLOSSAL RECLINING IMAGE OF BUDDHA (PEGU).