

T H E B E E H I V E A N D F R E E M A S O N R Y .

By BRO: GEO. W. BULLAMORE.

Notes on French Masonic Medals bearing as an emblem
a Beehive or Bee.

Read at the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, October 5th, 1923.

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THE BEEHIVE AND FREEMASONRY.

By BRO. GEO. W. BULLAMORE.

I have read with great interest the paper by Bro. Geo. W. Bullamore on The Beehive and Freemasonry and congratulate him on the erudition and trouble he has taken in compiling the matter enabling him to put it before the Lodge.

It may interest him and the Brethren of both the Inner and Correspondence Circles to bring to their notice the number of French Masonic Medals which bear the Beehive as a Masonic Symbol. I have always understood that in Masonry the Beehive and Bees were emblems of industry and his view that it also may be said to be a symbol of the resurrection of the soul is a new and interesting light.

In my French series of Masonic Medals the following all bear on the obv. or rev. either a beehive or bee. It will be noted that the first is dated 1760 and the last in date is 1882, but I am of opinion that some of the undated medals were struck after the latter date.

PARIS - LOGE POINT PARFAITE, 1760.

OBV : The square and compasses enclosing a triangle in which is the letter G. Legend L .'. FRANC .'. ET ECC .'. DES SINCERES AMIS OR .'. DE PARIS
(French and Scottish Lodge of Sincere Friends)

REV : A Beehive surrounded by swarming bees : on the ground in front of it are the square compasses, rule and gavel : in the background on the right is a small pillar and in the distance a temple. Legend, above, LABOR OMNIBUS UNUS (One labour for all) A border composed of a cable tow entwined in 15 love knots surrounds the field. Struck like a coin. Copper. Size 28 mm. Rare.

The medal was struck by the Lodge du Point Parfaite of Paris which has the date 5760. Besides this there are two somewhat similar medals of the same Lodge, but this one is the oldest. The date 5760 is that of the foundation of the Lodge and doubtless this medal was struck in commemoration of that event. The Lodge is said to have been the successor of the Lodge St. Louis de la Martinique, which was one of the three Parisian Lodges that worked during the scenes of the French Revolution.

PARIS DU POINT PARFAITE 5760.

OBV : A pyramid, on the right of which a man is seated ; behind him is an acacia bush and a globe ; at the foot of the globe a scroll with Masonic devices. In the sky above are nine stars in groups of three. In the background, faintly seen, is another pyramid and a pillar. Legend, □ DU POINT PARFAITE A L'O .'. DE PARIS * 5760 (Lodge of Perfect point. Orient of Paris, 5760)

REV : A circle formed by a snake devouring its tail, within which on a platform is a beehive, on the left of which is a square and rough ashlar and on the right the compasses and a perfect ashlar : above on the left the radiant sun. Below the platform a gavel and trowel crossed. Legend : ETERNITE CONSTANCE. Edge milled. Silver and bronze. Struck like a coin. The planchette is slightly convex on both sides. Size - 29 mm.

PARIS. LOGE OMNES IN UNO, 1760.

OBV : On a platform approached by steps, a beehive with swarming bees ; above is the radiant sun : on the left a Corinthian pillar with J. and on the right another with B. In exergue in three lines

FONDÉE LE 11^e


MOIS DE L'AN

5760.

(Founded January 5760)

REV : Two laurel branches crossed and tied abase, between which are the square and compasses hanging by a ribbon : below is a five pointed radiant star. Legend -
L. D. St J. S. L. T. R. D. St L. D. L. M. D. F. R.
(Loge de St. Jean sous le titre distinctif de St. Louis de la Martinique des Frères Réunis. St. John's Lodge, under the distinctive title St. Louis of Martinique of Assembled Brothers) The Lodge is stated by Merzdorf to have been founded 30th January 1762. This medal however carries the date of the foundation back 2 years, nominally, though as the 11th month of 5760 is January 1761 the true date is of course only one year earlier. This Lodge afterwards became Loge Point Parfaite. Silver and copper. Size 30 mm.

St. QUENTIN. LOGE St. JEAN, 1799.

OBV : A circle of five pointed stars surrounds the field in which a Mason wearing an apron, approaches an altar having seven steps ; on the front of the altar is a triangle, and on the top a sword and palm branch ; on the left is an olive tree, above, on the right, the moon breaking through clouds. Outside the circle of stars is the legend  DE LA PHILANTROPIE A L'O DE St QUENTIN 5799 * (Lodge of Philanthropy at the Orient of St. Quentin 5799)

REV : A circle formed by a snake, devouring its tail, within which on a platform is a beehive, on the left of which is a square and rough ashlar and on the right the compasses and a perfect ashlar : above on the left a radiant sun. Below the platform a gavel and trowel crossed. Legend : ETERNITE CONSTANCE. Edge milled. The Planchette is slightly concave. Silver and Bronze. Size - 28 mm. Rare.

PARIS : LOGE LA RUCHE, 1810.

OBV : A Beehive on a low platform and surrounded by swarming bees, below which are two olive branches crossed. Legend - CONSTITUEE A L'O . . . DE PARIS A LA DATE DU IX JOUR DU II MOIS 5810 * (Constituted in the Orient of Paris on the 9th day of January 1811.)

REV : Legend in 3 lines in the field LE F . . . (Blank for a name) MEMBRE DE LA L . . . LA RUCHE (Brother Member of the Lodge "the Hive") Legend round edge IONANUM. FUCOS. PECUS. A. PRAESEPIBUS. ARGENT (They drive the drones, a slothful herd, from the hive)
Bronze. Size - 35 mm.

PARIS : LOGE L'UNION 1823.

OBV : On the right is a beehive surrounded by swarming bees, near which at the left are the open compasses, and on the right the square. Legend - L... DE L'UNION O... DE PARIS (Lodge of Union Orient of Paris) In exergue in two lines

UNION TRAVAIL ÉGALITÉ

5769

(Union Labour Equality 1769)

REV : A sheaf of wheat behind a vase filled with hearts. In exergue 5823. Silver. Size 38 mm. The date is that of the formation of the Lodge.

PARIS : LOGE AMIS BIENFAISANTS ET IMITATEURS d'OSIRIS.

1840.

OBV : A beehive standing on a low platform and surrounded by swarming bees : below, 1840.

REV : A field left blank on which is usually engraved the recipient's name and a date. A circle surrounds it, outside of which is the legend L... CHAP ... EC ...
DES AMIS BIEN^{ans} ET DES IMI^{ra} D'OSIRIS REUNIS.
O ... DE PARIS * (The Chapitre Loge des Amis Bienfaisants, et des Imitateurs d'Osiris Reunis - The Chapter Lodge of the Friends and Imitators of Osiris)
The Lodge was chartered on the 29th March 1829 and is still working.

BOLBEC : LOGE LA FRATERNELLE, 1847.

OBV : The square and compasses crossed : the square entwined with 2 branches of acacia and enclosing a blazing star of 5 points on which is the letter G. Legend - LOGE LA FRATERNELLE O . . . DE BOLBEC and below 5847 (Fraternal Lodge, Grand Orient of Bolbec 1847)

REV : Between two pillars which rest on square bases and are surmounted by globes, is a beehive on a low platform and surrounded by swarming bees ; on its left is a level, or triangular plumb, on its right a gavel erect ; above the radiant All seeing eye : from the top and sides of the globes proceed trefoils. Legend - AIMEZ VOUS LES UNS LES AUTRES (Love one another) at the bottom very small TESSIER. F. Silver and bronze. Size - 32 mm. The Lodge was constituted by the Grand Orient 28th Nov. 1846 at Bolbec, a manufacturing town not far from Havre.

PARIS : LOGE BONAPARTE, 1852.

· OBV : A bee. Legend above BONAPARTE below
FONDEE EN 5825 (The Lodge Bonaparte founded in 1825)

REV : The square and compasses entwined with acacia and
enclosing the letter G. Legend above INTON DE
PRESENCE. 3 five pointed stars at the bottom, the
centre one being the largest. Bronze. Octagonal.
Size 29 mm.

PARIS : LOGE LA RUCHE LIBRE, 1882.

OBV : On a low platform a Beehive, shrubs on either side, and 8 bees flying above ; over its top are 2 right-hands joined and at the top a triangle on which is the word UNION ; rays from the triangle falling behind the devices nearly cover the field. Legend -
☼ L .'. LA RUCHE LIBRE OR .'. DE PARIS.
(Lodge of the Free Hive Orient of Paris)

REV : An open wreath of 2 branches of acacia. Legend in
4 lines the first curving -

SOUVENIR


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29 OCTOBRE

1882

The Lodge received its Warrant from the Grand Orient 8
the 15th January, 1875.

PARIS : LOGE AMIS BIENFAISANTS. N.D.

OBV : On a low platform is a beehive surrounded by swarming bees. Legend  .'. DES AMIS BIENFAISANTS (Lodge of Benevolent Friends) In exergue O .'. D .'. P .'. (Orient de Paris)

99
REV : A Temple supported by 6 columns and approached by 7 steps: the mason work indicated, and the door closed: in the pediment a level: over the temple a radiant sun, the face within a triangle, faulty but plainly indicated. In the foreground 2 pillars, one on either side of the temple, that on the left having J. on the shaft and a triangle at its base, the other having B. on its shaft and a pentagon on its base. Their capitals are adorned with pomegranites.

Between the pillars at the foot of the steps are the square, compasses, ashlar, rule, trowel and gavel.

Near the lower edge very small OBLIN on the left and F. on the right. Legend: POST TENEBRAS LUX.

(After darkness Light). Bronze. Octagonal.

Size 30 mm. Rare.

PARIS : LOGE JERUSALEM DES VALLEES EGYPTIENNES

N.D.

OBV : Head of Isis to right facing a Torch Legend -
O . . . DE PARIS R . . . L . . . JERUSALEM DES VALL . . .
EGYPTIENNES (Orient of Paris : Worshipful Lodge
Jerusalem of Egyptian Valleys)


REV : Between 2 pillars a beehive surrounded by 12 bees.
On the left of the left hand pillar a pair of compasses
and sprig of acacia on the right of the right hand
pillar a triangular level and a pair of calipers.
Legend - . . . VIGILANCE TRAVAIL SECRET.
(Vigilance, Work, Secrecy) F. MAGNIADAS very small.

PARIS : LOGE LA RUCHE LIBRE N.D.

OBV : On a low platform is a beehive with 8 bees. Above a pair of right hands clasped, below a radiant triangle on which is the legend UNION. On either side of the platform at the rear a shrub. The rays of the triangle come below the platform. Legend -
☞ L . . LA RUCHE LIBRE OR . . DE PARIS. ☞
(Lodge of the Free Hive Orient of Paris)

REV : Two circular branches of Oak and laurel tied in base with a ribbon. Centre plain for engraving name of recipient. Size 36 mm. Rare.

PARIS : LOGE BONAPARTE N.D.

OBV : A Bee. Legend above  BONAPARTE below
FONDEE EN 5852. Size 25 mm.

REV : The square and compasses entwined with acacia, enclosing the letter G. Legend, above, JETON DE PRESENCE.
Below are 3 five pointed stars. Brass Size 25 mm.