

The Early Years (1865 - 1899)

Little information is available about the early years of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo. What there is has been gathered from various sources, believed to be accurate. It has, as far as is possible, been collated in date order. There are, however, a number of Brethren known to have been members about whom no information is available regarding Initiation or Joining dates. Although it is probably safe to assume that the early Worshipful Masters were all Founders, this cannot be proved.

The date of the Warrant of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo is 7th June 1865, although the exact date of Consecration is unknown. The Consecration was by R. Wor. Bro. Sir Henry Bulwer, District Grand Master of Turkey, at the Kasr el Nosha (sometimes transliterated as Qasr el Noozha) Palace on Shoubra Road, Cairo. Despite the date on the Warrant, Grand Lodge records the first meeting as being held by Dispensation on Monday 8th February 1865, some four months earlier. However, the letter reproduced on page 2 implies that the Dispensation should not have been granted.

The Lodge was formed to fill a gap in Egyptian Freemasonry - at that time, the only English speaking Lodges met in Alexandria. A group of Freemasons met in Cairo in 1864 and decided to apply for a Warrant for a Lodge in that city. A copy of the original Petition is in the archives of the United Grand Lodge of England at Freemasons' Hall, London. Unfortunately, it is not clear enough to reproduce here, so it has been transcribed below:

Petition for a Lodge to be held at Cairo on the 2 & 4 Saturday of every month to be called the "Bulwer Lodge of Cairo".
24 July 1865
L.B. 17.3.65.

Ex 10 Petitioners
7 Registered
1 the J.W. from Italy
1 J. Schwart from Scotland
1 J. Kürstney N/R in 447

No recommendations annexed.
House of meeting not named.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England -

We the Undersigned, being regular registered Masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are desirous to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the art, and for the conveniency of our various dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new Lodge to be named the Bulwer Lodge of Cairo.

In consequence of this desire, we pray for a warrant of constitution, empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge at Cairo, on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month, and there to discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the order and the laws of the Grand Lodge; and we have nominated and do recommend Brother Charles Verdi to be the first Master, Brother Thomas Fellowes Reade to be the first Senior Warden, and Brother Edward Herbert to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge.

The prayer of this Petition being granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the Grand Master and the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Signed:

Carlo Antonio Verdi, W.M. St. John's Lodge, No. 919, 33rd Degree, S.G.S.D
Thos. F. Reade, M.M. Lodge of Friendship, No. 345, Gibraltar
Jack Lagar Lieberman, M.M. St. John's Lodge, No. 919
Raffaele Imbellonee, M.M. Zetland of Malta
John Millbourne, M.M. St. John's Lodge, No. 919
J Küstner, M.M. Coreyra, No. 654, Corfu
Jacob Schwart, M.M. Lodge of ?????, No. 388, Australia
E St J Fairman, M.M. R.A. 241 of England
E Herbert, M.M. Lodge "Italia" under the auspices of G.O. Italy established in Constantinople
M A Verdi, M.M. St. John's Lodge of Alexandria, No. 919

Carlo Verdi became the Founding Worshipful Master, Thomas Reade the Founding Senior Warden and E. Herbert the Founding Junior Deacon. There is no record of the other Founding Officers.

A note from around 1880 also lists R. C. Waller as a founder, although he does not appear on the list of Petitioners. It is safe to assume that the petitioners formed the officers of the Lodge at its Consecration, but only the Worshipful Master and his Wardens can be confirmed.

There are variations in the spelling of names throughout the various documents. For example, Verdi and Verde, Imbellonee and Imbellouis. Apart from in the transcript of the Petition, itself a copy with possible errors, the most common spellings have been used in this publication.

Although the Petition is dated 24th July 1865, with a second date annotated as "L.B. 17.3.65.", Grand Lodge records show that the "action of holding the meeting on 8th February 1865 was sanctioned on 7th June 1865 by the issue of a Warrant of Constitution denominating the Lodge the Bulwer Lodge of Cairo and numbering it 1068 on the Roll of the United Grand Lodge of England. Further correspondence is on file at Freemasons' Hall, including the following note to Sir Henry Bulwer:

C. A. Verde, the first Master of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo, was already Master of St. John's Lodge of Alexandria, No. 919 (our Sponsoring Lodge, founded in 1862 and the first English Lodge in Egypt, but which was erased in 1877), a special Dispensation had to be obtained for him. A letter is in the archives of Grand Lodge regarding the Dispensation although the signature of the writer is illegible.

Sir W. H. L. E. Bulwer, Prov. G. M. Turkey forwarding a petition for a Lodge to be held in Cairo - and in respecting to granting dispensation in acknowledging receipt of a letter of 17 Mar 1865.

16 May 1865

L.B. 9-6-65

Cairo, 20 April 1865

Sir and Brother

I received on the Evening of the 18th Instant your letter of the 17th March informing me by command of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that the laws of the Grand Lodge do not confer on me the power either to grant a dispensation to enable a Brother who is filling the chair of one Lodge to be at the same time Master of another Lodge, or to grant a dispensation to the Petitioners for a new Lodge to do any work as a Lodge until the petition has been submitted to the consideration of the Grand Master and the prayer thereof granted.

I beg you to express to the Grand Master my deep regret that I should have involuntarily fallen into error through attaching too much weight to that clause in the Book of Constitutions which declares that the Provincial Grand Master is invested with a rank and power in his particular district similar to those possessed by the Grand Master.

I have, of course, immediately on the receipt of your letter taken steps to suspend all operations or meetings of the new Lodge, until the Petition, which I beg strongly to recommend to the Grand Master, shall have been submitted to his consideration and the prayer of the petition granted.

Furthermore, in obedience to the instructions of the Grand Master, I forward the Petition in original, duly recommended by the Master and Wardens of St. John's Lodge of Alexandria.

With reference to the observation with which your letter concludes, that it is necessary that the Brothers nominated as Officers of the proposed Lodge should be those who are previously registered on the books of the Grand Lodge of England, I have only to state that I was unaware of this rule, not having seen it in the Book of Constitutions; but I have to add that Brother Herbert, to whom allusion is made, is a regular Master Mason under the auspices of the Grand Orient of Italy, and who was only elected a joining member of St. John's Lodge of Alexandria on the 1st February 1865, and is, therefore, I believe, entitled now to be registered on the books of the Grand Lodge of England.

I venture to hope that these explanations will prove satisfactory to the Grand Master, and that he will think right to issue a Warrant, in accordance with the prayer of the Petitioners, for I see that an English Lodge duly established in Cairo, and proceeding regularly, is likely to have a great development and success in this capital, where at the present moment there is no other Lodge in existence, although the necessary steps have been taken by an Italian Lodge in Alexandria to found one here under the auspices of the Grand Orient of Italy, should it eventually prove impossible to establish the proposed Lodge under the Grand Lodge of England.

I am, Sir and Brother

Your most obedient servant and Brother

(Signature illegible)

P.S. 27 April

I fear that the necessity of sending the Petition to Alexandria in order to get the recommendation of the St. John's Lodge may make this letter too late for the next mail. I regret this the more as now that the Lodge is in suspense, time is of the utmost importance.

Two of the Founders belonged to a foreign Constitution and had to pay a fee of 7/6d each (37.5 pence) each for the privilege of becoming Founders of an English Lodge. They would be very proud to see the outcome of their labours over the years.

At the meeting of District Grand Lodge held in Smyrna on 15th December 1865, W. Bro. Verde was promoted from Past District Senior Grand Deacon to District Junior Grand Warden and W. Bro. Schwarz was appointed District Assistant Grand Pursuivant. Bro. Fellowes-Read was appointed District Grand Steward.

Three Brethren are known to have been Initiated in 1865, including His Highness Prince Halim Pasha. Sir Henry Bulwer is also known to have become a joining member that year.

On 19th March 1869, His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, and his retinue visited Bulwer Lodge of Cairo while he was Grand Master. It is was the first, and reputedly the only, Lodge that he ever visited after his initiation.

The Bulwer tradition of drinking the toast to Absent Brethren seated is believed to have its origins in this visit.

His Royal Highness was Initiated in Sweden on 21st December 1868 and became Grand Master on 1st September 1869.

The Lodge kept as one of its most treasured relics the framed page of the Attendance Book. This was sadly lost, presumably in the fire of 1895. It was, however, noted by W. Bro. Mishellany, to have been signed by the following dignitaries:

<i>Albert Edward:</i>	<i>Grand Orient of Sweden</i>
<i>Carrington:</i>	<i>Sir Isaac Newton Lodge</i>
<i>Samuel Baker:</i>	<i>St. John, Dunkirk</i>
<i>F. M. Alison:</i>	<i>Limerick Lodge</i>
<i>Ohn Demerjian:</i>	<i>Grand Orient of Paris, Sweden</i>
<i>W. Lake Onslow:</i>	<i>Friendship Lodge, Gibraltar Lodge, Nova Scotia</i>

The third Baron Carrington, who succeeded his father in 1868, was made an Earl in 1895 and became Marquess of Lincolnshire

in 1912. He was ADC to the Prince of Wales and accompanied him on several overseas tours. He was Passed by Bulwer Lodge of Cairo at the meeting on 19th March 1869 and was Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire from 1890 to 1895. The Marquess's only son was killed in the Great War and the title died with him.

It seems that the Lodge Rooms were in a very poor condition prior to the visit by the Prince of Wales. The sum of £11.13.6d (£11.67½p) was spent to make the place "respectable and pleasant enough to receive such an august visitor".

The bill, now lost, shows that £3.4.0d was paid to the carpenter, 30 francs for a carpet, 4.20 francs for wallpaper, 40 francs for white long cloth, 42.25 francs for damask to cover the seats, 2 francs for braid, 18 francs for hire of carriages, 3 francs for a bottle of brandy, 4 francs for sundry expenses and 12f50 for upholsterers.

There is no record of a supper to mark the occasion but, with only one bottle of brandy, the Brethren certainly could not be accused of intemperance!



French Farce: H.M. King Edward VII, Grand Master, shown in full Masonic regalia on a French postcard depicting a fictional British stamp.



H.M. King Edward VII, formerly H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales

It is minuted on 14th April 1969 that a W. Bro. Jenkins of North Kent Lodge No. 2499 asked permission to attend Bulwer Lodge as his grandfather, William Mein was Initiated into it on 5th November 1870. It seems that William Mein founded a family of very distinguished Brethren.

He was Initiated 5th November 1870 aged 47 years, Passed 2nd December 1871. The date of his raising is unknown. Bro. Mein, from Newcastle upon Tyne, was born on 4th April 1823. He married Jane Sarah Edwards on 26th September 1863 and they later went to Rhoda in Upper Egypt where he was the engineer in charge of the Egyptian Government Sugar Refinery. Apparently his wife "dispensed medicines to the locals" and the family was a "focal point for visitors from England as at that time there were limited numbers of English people in Egypt".

When he died in Cairo on 10th August 1879 his wife, together with their eleven year old daughter, Elizabeth Jane, returned to Bexleyheath in Kent. It was there, on 31st August 1889, that Elizabeth Jane married Thomas William Jenkins, who was Initiated into North Kent Lodge, No. 2499, on 4th November 1899 where, like his father, he eventually became Treasurer.

Thomas William's father, also Thomas Jenkins was Initiated into Lodge of Emulation, No. 299, on 5th May 1882. He was a Founder and first Treasurer of North Kent Lodge, No. 2499. Thomas William's son is the "Brother Jenkins" who visited us in 1969. He was V.W. Bro. Thomas Douglas Jenkins, Initiated into North Kent Lodge on 1st October 1921 and who was appointed Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1957, promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon in 1967, Past Senior Grand Deacon in 1975 and Past Grand Superintendent of Works in 1977. He was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of West Kent in 1975, an office he held until 1981. V. W. Bro. T. D. Jenkins passed to the Grand Lodge above on 16th December 1996 aged 96 years.

The office of Treasurer was held by a member of the Jenkins family without break for 80 years, temporarily ending with the promotion of T. D. Jenkins to Deputy Provincial Grand Master. His son, Bro. David Stannard Jenkins, was Initiated into North Kent Lodge on 2nd December 1967 and it is with grateful thanks to him that so much information is available on this distinguished family. Bro. Jenkins has in his possession an original receipt, No. 60, for the £5.00 Initiation Fee for Bro. Mein dated 5th November 1870, and for his Passing Fee of £1.00 dated 2nd December 1871.

In 1871, the Prince of Wales recovered from a serious illness and, at a meeting on 7th March, the Lodge decided to send an illuminated address to Queen Victoria tendering congratulations on the Prince's recovery. The address was prepared by W. Bro. Borg and sent in "an embroidered case with lock and key of solid gold". Materials cost £43.18.6d. (£43.92½p) and the cost of workmanship was met by W. Bro. Borg. Another address was sent to the Prince himself and materials for this cost £6. It is assumed that the sums referred to are Sterling, as the Egyptian Pound was divided into Piastres, not shillings and pence. This was, of course a large sum of money in those days.

The author has tried to obtain photographs but, sadly, the Royal Archives at Windsor say that very few Loyal Addresses from the Victorian era have survived, and those from Bulwer Lodge of Cairo are not amongst them.

In 1873, the Lodge moved to the second floor of the British Consulate in Sharia Kamel. The opening of the new Temple was celebrated by a supper after the meeting and this became a tradition for many years. A record of the cost of one of these suppers appears in *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* Volume 81, but, sadly, the original receipt is now lost:

Bread	Pt7 (1 Piastre = 2½d = 1.04p)
Cold meat and cheese	Pt12
1 Gin & Bitter	Pt3
1 Bottle of Beer	Pt4
1 Brandy	Pt3
42 Whiskies and Sodas	Pt126
Total	Pt154 (£1.12s.3½d = £1.61p!)

A letter is on file from E. T. Rogers to J. Wilson showing a half year's Temple rent as £20.00. That is presumably Egyptian Pounds as Sterling was not decimalised in those days. From other information in the letter, £5 sterling equalled 487.20 Egyptian Pounds. Therefore, £1 Sterling equalled 97.44 Egyptian Pounds so Temple rent for six months in 1873 worked out at 20.5 pence! The receipt is reproduced on page 5.

In 1873, serious political trouble arose in Egypt and the Worshipful Master, along with several other members, left the country. The Lodge was temporarily closed down and remained so until 1883.

A copy of the Lodge Bye-Laws dated September 1873 has also survived and makes interesting reading. It should also be noted that it is headed Bye Laws of The Bulwer Lodge of Cairo whereas all other surviving correspondence and Summonses up to October 1991 refer simply to the Bulwer Lodge. It is also interesting to note that, at this time (Bye-Laws 2 & 3) the Lodge met 18 times each year!

The article by F. D. Stevenson-Drane in *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* refers to the first ever printed Bye-Laws being issued in 1885. The survival of this rare artefact, which is believed to have been returned to the Lodge by a solicitor following the death of a relative of W. Bro. James Wilson, shows how unexpected were the political problems which caused the temporary closure of the Lodge. The Bye-Laws are reproduced in Appendix One.

It should be noted that there is some confusion about who was Master in which year. Our Lodge Summonses and *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* disagree with each other to some extent. They also disagree with a note dating from around 1890 which is reproduced here and which the author has taken as accurate.

Between 1874 and 1883, the Lodge was not working due to political trouble. Egypt was passing through the darkest period in its history. Public debt was crippling the country and Britain was unwilling to intervene, despite an invitation from the Khedive to do so. Massacres were commonplace. Eventually, the British Army was sent in and, in 1883, having restored order, it was withdrawn and Egyptian Army under British Officers took over.

A receipt, No 49, is on file showing dues to the end of 1874 for Initiation, Passing and Raising Fee of £3.0.0d for an unknown Candidate from Bro. J. Wilson (presumably W. Bro. J. Wilson Bey, the Immediate Past Master) dated 19th March 1874. The signature of the Treasurer appears to be A Raphel. This is reproduced below.

Towards the end of 1882, W. Bro. Rogers returned to Cairo and, after consultation with W. Bro. Borg, called a meeting of the available Brethren and resolved to resume Masonic labour. Regular meetings and Initiations were held but, as no returns had been made since 1872, it was considered necessary to report the circumstances to Grand Lodge.

The report reached Grand Lodge the day after its Communication of 6th December 1882 when Bulwer Lodge, "together with three other Egyptian Lodges were erased from the Roll of England, it being understood that it has long since died out". A letter is in the archives of Grand Lodge from H. G. Buss, Assistant Grand Secretary, to Bro. G. Ladofrulo, Lodge 1226, Cairo, of which there is no record as an English Lodge.

1068. Bulwer Lo. of Cairo

W. Ms. of the Bulwer -

<i>C. A. Verde</i>	<i>1865 & 66 -</i>
<i>Mos. F. Reade</i>	<i>1867 & 68 -</i>
<i>A. Cohen</i>	<i>1869 -</i>
<i>H. Phillips</i>	<i>1870 -</i>
<i>R. Borg</i>	<i>1871 -</i>
<i>E. T. Rogers</i>	<i>1872 -</i>
<i>J. Wilson</i>	<i>1873 -</i>

*Signatories of Petition - C. A. Verde,
Mos. F. Reade, Edw. Herbert, E. St John
Fairman, John Melburn, M. A. Verde,
R. C. Waller -*

*Bros. who revived the Lo.
R. Borg, E. T. Rogers, J. Wilson,
H. C. Anderson & R. C. Waller -*

*Note believed to have been written around
the time of the revival of the Lodge in 1884
as the last entry as Worshipful Master is
J. Wilson. The author is unknown.*

19 Dec-1879

.....With regard to the property of the late Bulwer Lodge left in your care, and which in consequence of receiving no advice from this office and the pressure on the other side, you have delivered up to the two Brethren late members of that Lodge, I think you have acted rightly, for although the Warrant of the Bulwer Lodge has not been returned here I do not think there is much probability of the Lodge being resuscitated after so long a cessation of its labours. Had the Lodge resolved to close and returned its Warrant here, all the furniture belonging to it would have remained the property of the Brethren who were members at the time it ceased work; therefore, as the property was entrusted to your Lodge to take care of, presumably until it might be ascertained whether the Bulwer Lodge would eventually revive or not, and there being now no probability of such revival taking place, the Brethren above referred to would be entitled to the property. I would merely suggest that you make an entry on your Lodge Minutes of the circumstances, the demand, and delivery of the goods.

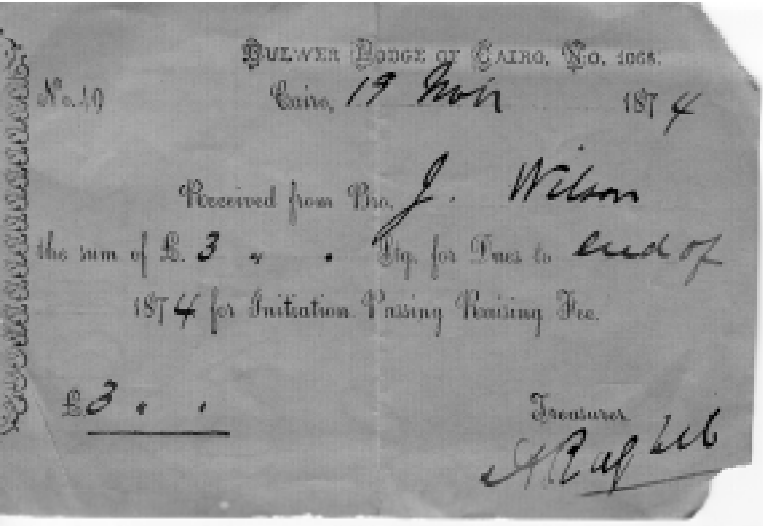
H. G. Buss. Asst.G.Secy.

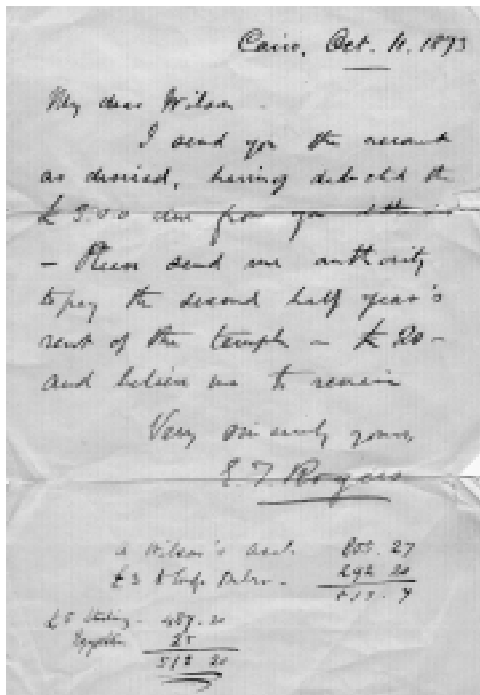
Br. G. Ladofrulo. Lo. 1226
Cairo. Egypt

However, a letter dated 20th March 1883 stated that "the Resolution erasing Lodge 1068, Cairo, has been rescinded at the Meeting of Grand Lodge held on 7th March".

In 1882, ten new members were added to the Lodge's numbers and, in 1883, a further eight.

Receipt for £3.0.0 from W. Bro. J. Wilson dated 19th March 1874.





Letter from W. Bro. E. T. Rogers (I.P.M.) to J. Wilson (W.M.) enclosing his account, less £3.0.0 due from the Lodge and requesting authority to pay the second half-year's rent of the temple of £20.

In 1884, the Lodge was revived by R. Borg, E. T. Rogers, J. Wilson, H. C. Anderson and R. C. Waller. Once again, we can probably assume that they occupied the Principal Offices for 1884.

The signatories of the Petition to the United Grand Lodge of England for the Lodge's revival are listed as C. A. Verde, T. F. Reade, E. Herbert, E. St. John Fairman, J. Milbourne, M. A. Verde and R. C. Waller.

According to Grand Lodge records, working recommenced on 30th May 1885, which would explain the lack of activity in 1884.

In 1885, two very distinguished Brethren joined the Lodge. Major General Sir Henry MacLeod Leslie Rundle was Initiated into Transvaal Lodge, No. 1747, Pretoria, South Africa, in 1880 aged 24 years. He was Senior Warden of Grecia Lodge, No. 1105, in 1896 and Worshipful Master of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo in 1897. Bro. Rundle was appointed Past Grand Warden in 1900. He joined Southern Cross Lodge, No. 1778 in Harrismith, Orange Free State, on his return to South Africa.

Sir Leslie fought in the Zulu and Boer Wars and was Chief of Staff to Lord Kitchener in all of the Egyptian and Sudanese campaigns from 1884 up to the capture of Khartoum in 1895. He was Knighted in 1898 and from 1905 until 1907 he held the Northern Command. He became Governor of Malta in 1909 where he remained until 1915 when he returned to a U.K. posting, holding a home command during the Great War.

Horatio Herbert Kitchener Pasha (Earl Kitchener of Khartoum) also joined in 1885 and was Exalted into Bulwer Chapter in 1890. He was Initiated into La Concordia Lodge, No. 1226, Cairo, in 1883, aged 33 years. There is no reference to this Lodge in F. D. Stevenson Drane's history of Freemasonry in Egypt although a history of Lord Kitchener reports it has having originally worked in Italian and as having been erased in 1890 following "trouble of a political nature". The list of Lodges and Chapters to which this Brother belonged runs to fourteen and takes in London, Afghanistan, the Sudan and India, as well as Egypt. He was one of the brethren who revived Grecia Lodge, No. 1105, in 1890 and he was its Worshipful Master in 1892.

In 1889, the Lodge once again, the Lodge moved to new premises in an old palace near the Opera Square. Following the revival of Grecia Lodge, No. 1105, W. Bro. James Wilson Bey (and possibly others) resigned from Bulwer Lodge of Cairo. A letter acknowledging his resignation is on file and reproduced on page 6. A Clearance Certificate for W. Bro. Wilson also appears on page 6.

This distinguished Freemason was appointed Past District Senior Grand Warden (E & S) in 1895, Past Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1897 and served as the first District Grand Master for Egypt and the Sudan from 1899 until 1901 when his career took him away from Egypt. He also held numerous other high offices in various countries and Masonic orders. He died at sea on 5th June 1916.

In 1886, the Lodge moved again to the Temple of the National Grand Lodge of Egypt in the Sutherland Building between Sharia Ibrahim Pasha and Khasindar but this was not satisfactory and a further move was made to premises in Sharia Wagh el Birka.

A Steward was appointed to collect a fixed sum from the members to arrange for suppers and refreshment. The unknown Steward did his job so well that he soon showed a balance of £30 which was spent on the purchase of pedestals and chairs for the new premises.

In 1887, a Dispensation was obtained from Grand Lodge for Passing and Raising in cases of emergency seven days after the Initiation. Bulwer Lodge of Cairo was, at the time, a very strong Lodge for, at a banquet given at Santi's in the Ezbekieh Gardens, 70 members were present.

In 1889, H. R. H. The Prince of Wales again visited Egypt, but not in a Masonic capacity. To honour the event, the Brethren purchased a "Mousharabea casket mounted and inlaid with silver, to contain an Address".

The Prince of Wales graciously received a deputation consisting of W. Bro. O. G. Wood from the Lodge, W. Bro. R. Borg representing the Chapter and W. Bro. A. J. H. Large from the Mark Lodge. The presentation took place at the Gezirah Palace (now the banqueting suite of the Cairo Marriot Hotel).

The Lodge moved, yet again, to premises in Sharia Soliman Pasha and a Lodge of Instruction was formed. A Masonic Club was also opened which remained extremely popular for as long as the Lodge met here.

In 1889, as the members were becoming so numerous, difficulties arose regarding rotation to the Master's Chair. Some of the Brethren decided to start a new Lodge in Cairo to work in English. However, it was understood that no new Lodges could be formed under the United Grand Lodge of England in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Egypt.

Two English Lodges, Concordia, No. 1226 and Hellas, No. 1105 had been in abeyance for a number of years due to political troubles. It was known that the former had been struck off, so some of the Brethren of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo, led by W. Bro. Mortimer, set out to negotiate with the remaining Brethren and the Master of Lodge Hellas. So it was that the Lodge was reborn as Grecia Lodge, of which there is a brief history under "Egypt and Other Lodges".

The Installation Banquet held on 11th June 1892 cost 16 Piastres (3s. 4d or about 17p) per person including wine and, by 1893, membership once again had become very strong, so a group of Brethren formed a new Lodge for English Masons under the National Grand Lodge of Egypt. This was named Idris Lodge No. 43, after the Grand Master of Egypt, Idris Bey Ragheb. Its first Master was W. Bro. G. H. Sharman of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo. Other Lodges formed under the National Grand Lodge of Egypt, such as Corinthian, Rising Sun, and Ragheb also had members of Bulwer Lodge of Cairo as their founding Masters and Senior Officers.

In 1895, a disastrous fire broke out at the Lodge premises, destroying nearly everything, including the Warrant, archives and new furniture recently purchased from Spencer's.

The only things saved were a Jubilee Jewel belonging to the Worshipful Master, a Rough Ashlar, a Bible, and a case containing squares and compasses. A sceptre and breastplate belonging to Bulwer Chapter was also rescued. All these items are now lost, presumably left in Egypt.

Everything was insured, so the regalia was replaced. A Warrant of Confirmation was applied for and granted on 27th November 1895, signed by H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Grand Master.

Unfortunately, wrong names had been inserted and it had to be returned, arriving finally in May 1896. Also, the full designation "The Bulwer Lodge of Cairo" was left off and the Lodge continued as "Bulwer Lodge" until 1991, when United Grand Lodge of England agreed to revert to the original name. The Warrant and a close-up of the faded signature appear on page 10. A transcript of the Warrant appears on page 11.


The Lodge moved back to the old premises on Sharia Wagh el Birka, where it remained until 1902.

In 1896, the House Committee replaced the piano destroyed in the fire the previous year. This is the first mention of the Committee which served a very useful and important function in the years to come.

In 1897, R.W. Bro. Lord Kitchener was appointed Grand Warden, and Bulwer Lodge of Cairo sent him a letter of congratulation and asked permission to provide him with Grand Lodge Regalia. This he accepted and acknowledged with a gracious letter of thanks, now lost.

In 1899, The District Grand Lodge of Egypt and the Sudan was formed under R.W. Bro Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. A detailed history of the District appears under "Egypt and Other Lodges".

32
90



Cairo 8th June 1890

Worshipful Bro.:

I am directed by the W.M. to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 4th inst. tendering resignation of your membership of Lodge & Bulwer and to inform you that at the last regular meeting the resignation was accepted by the Brethren and

Letter acknowledging the resignation of James Wilson Bey dated Cairo, 8th June 1890. Note the Lodge crest used at the time. This appears to have been used until 1917. The current crest was introduced in 1935.

I now have with me to
Enclose your clearance
Certificate to 30th June
1890, an acknowledgment
of which would greatly
oblige

Yours fraternally
Wm. H. Chapman
Secy 1068

To
Wor Bro.
James Wilson Bey
Cairo

Clearance Certificate for James Wilson Bey dated 8th June 1890. Note that on this pre-printed certificate, the "of Cairo" was already omitted, although this was prior to the destruction of the original Warrant.

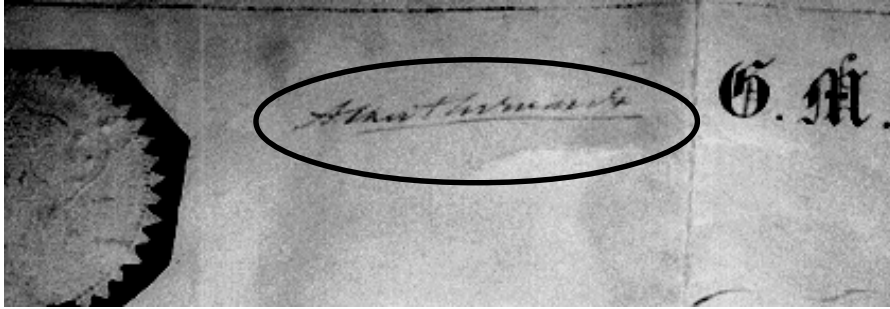
**To all Free and Accepted Masons
Round the Globe.**

The Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of the
"BULWER" LODGE, No. 1068,
on the Registry of the most Ancient and Right Worshipful
The Grand Lodge of England,
SEND GREETING, and most heartily recommend to their
Fraternal Esteem and regard,

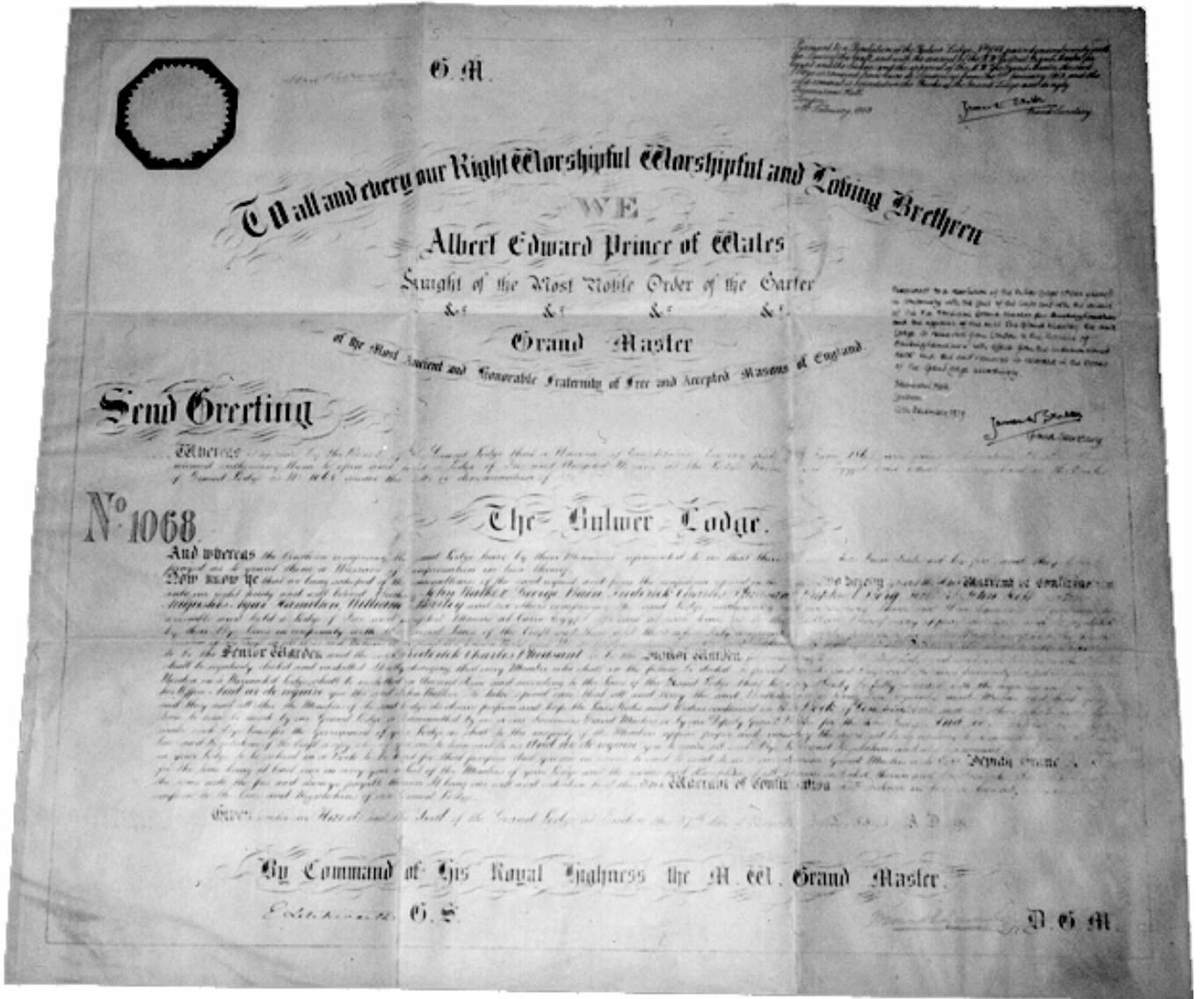
Wor: Brother James Wilson
as a tried and approved good Master Mason, and we do hereby
certify that he has paid all just dues, up to 30th June 1890
and his right to claim this Testimonial of his Merits has been
acknowledged by us in Open Lodge.

Given at CAIRO, this 8th day of June 1890

Wm. H. Chapman Worshipful Master.
Alfred M. G. Bishop Secretary.
Alfred M. Mortimer Treasurer.



The rapidly fading signature of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Grand Master on our Warrant of Confirmation.



The Warrant of Confirmation.

Transcript of the Warrant of Confirmation

To all and every our Right Worshipful, Worshipful and Loving Brethren

We

Albert Edward Prince of Wales

Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

&c

&c

&c

&c

Grand Master

of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

Whereas it appears by the records of the Grand Lodge that a Warrant of Constitution bearing the date 7th June 1865, was granted to certain Brethren therein named authorising them to open and hold a Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons at the Lodge Rooms, Cairo, Egypt, and which was registered in the Books No 1068 The Bulwer Lodge And whereas the Brethren comprising the said Lodge have by their memorial represented to us that their warrant has been destroyed by fire, and they have prayed us to grant them a Warrant of Confirmation in lieu thereof.

Now know ye that we being satisfied of the reasonableness of the said request and from the confidence reposed in the Brethren do hereby grant this our Warrant of Confirmation unto our right trusty and well beloved Brethren JOHN WALKER, GEORGE BAIN, FREDERICK CHARLES PHEASANT, RAPHAEL BORG, HERBERT JOHN SCOTT, JOHN AUGUSTUS AGAR HAMILTON, WILLIAM E. BAILEY and six others comprising the said Lodge, authorising and empowering them and their successors to continue to assemble and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at Cairo Egypt aforesaid at such times as to the Brethren thereof appear necessary and be regulated by their Bye Laws in conformity with the General Laws of the Craft and then and there when duly congregated to make, pass and raise Free Masons according to the Ancient Custom of the Craft in all ages and Nations throughout the known World and We do further acknowledge the said JOHN WALKER to be the Master, the said GEORGE BAIN to be the Senior Warden and the said FREDERICK CHARLES PHEASANT to be the Junior Warden for continuing to hold the said Lodge and until such time as another Master shall be regularly elected and installed strictly charging that every Member who shall in the future be elected to preside over the said Lodge and who must previously have duly served as Warden in a Warranted Lodge shall be installed in Ancient Form and according to the laws of the Grand Lodge that he may thereby be fully invested with the dignities and honours of his Office. And we do require you the said John Walker to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons and that you and they and all other the Members of the said Lodge do observe perform and keep the Laws Rules and Orders contained in the Book of Constitutions and all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge or transmitted by us or our Successors Grand Masters or by our Deputy Grand Master for the time being and We do enjoin verily to make such Bye Laws for the Government of your Lodge as shall to the majority of the Members appear proper and necessary the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with the General Laws and Regulations of the Craft a copy whereof you are to transmit to us And We do require you to cause all such Bye Laws and Regulations and also an account of the proceedings in your Lodge to be entered in a Book to be kept for that purpose And you are in nowise to omit to send to us or our Successors Grand Masters or to our Deputy Grand Master for the time being at least once in every year a List of the Members of your Lodge and the names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same with the fees and monies payable thereon It being our will and intention that this Our Warrant of Confirmation shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of Our Grand Lodge.

Given under our Hands and the Seal of the Grand Lodge at London this
27th day of November A.L. 5895 A.D. 1895

By Command of His Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master
E Litchworth G.S.

(The Warrant of Confirmation contains further inscriptions covering the movements of the Lodge. These are given under the appropriate dates in the text.)