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HOW A POLISH VICTORY OVER THE RUSSIANS WAS



COMMEMORATED BY A JUDAEA CAPTA COIN DESIGN



FEATURING:

THE USE OF THE TETRAGRAMMATON ON JEWISH MEDALS by Stuart Weinerman

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REGALIA OF THE MASONS OF ISRAEL'S LODGE MOZART

By Dr. Vladimir Bernshtam

The Lodge “Mozart” was established and solemnly consecrated as the first Russian-speaking lodge in Israel in 2006. Its installation took place on April 9, 2006. The ceremony of its grand opening was conducted under the auspices of the then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, the Most Worshipful Brother Sami Rafaeli.

The lodge's name is because the year of its foundation coincided with the 250th anniversary of the great composer and Freemason Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Mozart's close connection with Freemasonry is well known. In 1784, Mozart's friend and patron, Otto von Gemmingen, recommended him for membership in the Beneficence Lodge in Vienna. Mozart was initiated into Austrian Freemasonry on December 14th, 1784, to Lodge ‘Zu Wohltatigkeit’ in Vienna. He joined the fraternity at 28 years old, was raised a Master Mason, and was a loyal and engaged Brother until he died in 1791. Experts state that he is recorded in a list of members as having completed his third degree and is known to have been a regular attendee of his lodge. It is not known exactly how Mozart was first introduced to Freemasonry; however, he came from a family with several men involved with the Masonic lodges. Both his father-in-law and brother-in-law were Freemasons. Freemasonry had a powerful effect on Mozart's life, which can be seen through his various pieces of music. He wrote at least eight compositions for the Masons, including his Freemason's Funeral Music. Experts

also detect influences of Masonry in his famous opera “The Magic Flute.” To those who have studied his life and work, it is evident that Mozart made conscious use of Masonic themes and symbolism within his music.

Upon joining the Israeli lodge “Mozart,” the Brethren received a special one-sided medal (see Fig. 1) with a diameter of 5 cm. The medal features an inscription around the perimeter in Russian and Hebrew stating “Lodge Mozart Tel Aviv.” At the center of the insignia is the lodge number – 85. When these medals were exhausted, similar medals with corresponding inscriptions and designs were ordered from China (medal shown in Fig. 2). On this later medal, not all design elements (specifically the portrait of Mozart) were rendered in enamel.



Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

On November 16, 6011 in the Masonic calendar, the members of the Israeli lodge “Mozart” conducted joint workings and a “Twinning Ceremony” in the Cave of Zedekiah, also called Solomon’s Quarriesin with Brethren from the Bucharest lodge of the same name. Two points should be made here to clarify the previous sentence. Freemasons utilize a calendar that begins with Anno Lucis (AL), which translates from Latin as “in the Year of Light.” This calendar counts time from the presumed year of the creation of the world, considered to be 4000 BCE. Thus, to convert a year to the Anno Lucis system, one adds 4000 to the current Gregorian year. Freemasons regard King Solomon as the first and greatest Mason, believing they descend from the workers who built Solomon’s Temple. Therefore, they consider the Cave of Zedekiah (see Fig. 3), which served as a quarry for the builders of the First Temple, an appropriate venue for their ceremonies. In 1868, the first Masonic meeting in Ottoman Palestine was held here by candlelight. Masonic ceremonies continue to be conducted in the cave to this day.



Fig. 3 Sidekia Cave (photo from the site [3]).

A special medal commemorating the joint work of the two “Mozart” lodges is depicted in Fig 4. The medal’s top bar features an inscription in English: “King Solomon Quarry Jerusalem 16.11. 6011.” The obverse of the medal displays a portrait of Mozart, beneath which is the date 16.11.2011. Surrounding the portrait is the inscription: “Lodge Mozart 75 Bucharest Twinning Ceremony Lodge Mozart Tel Aviv.” On the reverse of the medal, there is a photograph of the Cave of Zedekiah, with the inscription around its perimeter reading: “King Solomon's Quarries Jerusalem.”



Fig. 4.

On May 24 and 25, 2016, the Lodge celebrated its first decade. The first day featured an exhibition of visual arts showcasing works by the Brethren of the lodge and their family members, along with a concert of compositions by W.A. Mozart performed by a string quintet, which included one of the lodge's Brethren. The evening concluded with a festive dinner at a restaurant in Tel Aviv. The following day, a ceremonial working took place in the Temple, attended by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, its officers, and guests hailing from Germany, Russia, Estonia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Singapore.

In commemoration of the decade of the Lodge in China, a medal was commissioned, depicted in Figure 5. The medal's top bar bears the inscription in English: "10th Anniversary." Encircling the obverse of the medal, which has a diameter of 5 cm, is the inscription in Hebrew, Russian, and English: "Lodge Mozart Tel Aviv."



Fig. 5.

In conclusion, the author wishes to express gratitude to Brother Isaac Lumer of Lodge Mozart for the valuable information and photographs of the medals. ▢

Sources of information

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