

Antiquity Chapter No. 95

Warranted 1866

Antiquity Chapter emerged from the Antiquity Encampment of Knights Templar for in the 18th and early 19th centuries it was common for encampments to work the Rosae Crucis degree. This degree became the Rose Croix degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, administered by the Supreme Council.

In 1866 the encampment agreed to accept a warrant from the Supreme Council and thus Antiquity Chapter was formed. However, the Chapter took the position that it could continue to operate without regard to the Supreme Council regulations and, following an acrimonious exchange of correspondence, the Chapter was suspended in 1870 for acts of contumacy (stubborn refusal to obey or comply with authority).

The Chapter ignored the suspension and continued to meet, and in the late 1870s a member, Sir Frederick Goldney, who was a prominent freemason, approached the Supreme Council with a view to a reconciliation and, following some negotiations, the warrant was returned.

Antiquity Chapter is the only chapter under the Supreme Council to have been suspended but, since the return of its warrant in 1882, it has been a loyal adherent to the Rules and Regulations of the Supreme Council. During the period of suspension numbers had been allocated to chapters and the Chapter was given the next number on the roll (95) when the warrant was returned. Several times it has tried to obtain a lower number (a number in the early 20s would be appropriate), commensurate with date of its warrant, but the Supreme Council has always refused the Chapter's overtures.

Nevertheless the Chapter meets in good heart supported by the many Bath Craft Lodges.

The Chapter meets at the Masonic Hall, Old Orchard Street, Bath on the third Thursday in April, the third Tuesday in September and the Tuesday before Advent in November. Current subscribing members are 33.