

# Sapere Aude 157

## The August order of Light. Past, Present & Future



In continuation of the series of public lectures, we have the honor to host **Bro. Philip Standfast** who became interested in the esoteric through fiction. He then began to attend the Stockport Lodge of the Theosophical Society in the early 1970s. He was for a number of years the secretary of the Lodge. In that lodge he met a member who invited me to his home and allowed me access to his extensive library which contained works on the Western Occult tradition, including W.G. Gray, Dion Fortune and Israel Regardie. He took advantage of that generosity and borrowed many books; the first he recommended was “The Goat Foot God” by Dion Fortune.

Philip became a Freemason in 1986 and joined SRIA the following year. He is now IX Degree and a past suffragan. He joined the August Order of Light on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1987 and is now a joint Arch- President of the Order.



On **Sapere Aude** we have the honor to host Bro. Michael Bottomley, as well, who became interested in the Western esoteric tradition whilst studying at Bradford College. One day while reading Ellic Howes “Magicians of the Golden Dawn” in the Alexandra Annex of the College he discovered that The Horus temple of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn was founded in the same building. After visiting the Sorcerer’s Apprentice book shop in Leeds he met a member of the Order of the Cubic Stone and immediately applied to join it. Michael passed through the probationer and Necoris grades of the OCS and was taken as a pupil by Shirley McIver, Patricia Turner and Theodore Howard. This led to his involvement in a group of OCS members working John Dees “Heptarchia Mystica”, probably the first group to do so since the time of John Dee himself. During this period, he researched the Horus Temple of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.

After his father’s death in 1983 as a tribute he applied to join his father’s Lodge and was initiated, passed and raised in 1985. Ten days after his raising he joined Woodman College SRIA and gave papers on Qabala, The Corpus Hermeticum and The Chemical Wedding after each of the first 3 degrees. Whilst visiting York College SRIA in October 1985 he met Professor Peter Maxwell-Stuart who introduced him to the August Order of Light. In October 1986 whilst visiting Facula Lodge at Blackwall Halifax he met Philip Standfast and discovered that they shared an interest in the esoteric. Michael proposed Philip for membership of the August Order of Light, in 1987. In 1991 the August Order of Light were asked to vacate their rooms at Castlegate York due to the redevelopment of the building and Philip negotiated rooms at Blackwall Halifax. The August Order of Light has taken rooms there ever since. Michael became President of Garuda of Temple number 1 in 2000 and following the death of Fred Scott in 2008 Arch-President. Philip became Arch President in 2010 on the death of Eric Gurnhill. Philip and Michael have opened up the order and founded temples in Australia, India and America with membership growing from 70 to over 300.

Visit the order website [www.the-order-of-light.org.uk](http://www.the-order-of-light.org.uk) for more information.

## Abstract of a paper on the August Order of Light

*The first section* of the talk will be given by Philip Standfast Arch President of the August order of light. It will explore the background to the founding of the August Order of Light. It will explore the confluence of occultism, Freemasonry and the Theosophical Society in Bradford, West Yorkshire, England in the late XIX and early XX Centuries. It will evaluate the role of Thomas Henry Pattinson in the establishment of the Order and what connection, if any, it had with earlier Orders bearing the same or similar name.

*The second section* of the talk will be given By Michael Bottomley Arch President of the August Order of light. It will briefly map the history of the order between 1902 and 2020 and identify the salient events and members during that period. Details of the future development of the order, and the route to membership, will conclude the talk. There will then be the opportunity for questions from the audience.

**Sapere Aude 157** will be held on **March 14<sup>th</sup> at 16:00 GMT+0** **sync your time zone** and *please, feel free to share this invitation with other Brothers and friends as Sapere Aude provides opportunity for everyone to learn about Freemasonry.*

**Join:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87398147471?pwd=MUNnSHBORIVXL0V2RU5XWWNMK2J3UT09>

Meeting ID: **873 9814 7471** Passcode: **Sakartvelo**

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The working language: English. The discussion is academic. The decency is a must. **NO POLITICS or RELIGION RULE APPLIES. NO DISCUSSION of INTER-JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES.** Any violator will be removed and banned immediately.

You are welcome to connect on Facebook with:

1. Bro. Philip Standfast - <https://www.facebook.com/philip.standfast>
2. Bro. Michael Bottomley - <https://www.facebook.com/michael.s.bottomley>
3. Bro. David Chichinadze - <https://www.facebook.com/david.chichinadze/>
4. Digital Library, 14'500 titles on Freemasonry - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CountCagliostro>

