

History and Legend
of
The Ancient Egyptian
Order of Sciots

Sciots

THE LEGEND OF SCIOTS!

Scio, so called by the Romans, and Chyos by the Greeks, is an island in the Aegean Sea, on the West Coast of Asia Minor. It is about thirty miles in length from North to South and varies in breadth from eight to fifteen miles. It is divided into a larger Northern and a smaller Southern part, called respectively, Apanomeria and Katomeria.

This island is rugged and well deserves the description "craggy," applied to it in the Homeric Hymn. Scio has always been noted for its excellent wines, figs and other fruits.

The legend placed the following events about 1124 B.C., or sixty years after the fall of Troy. At the time the Sciots were Greeks, in whom the Grecian characteristics were most pronounced. They had nobility . . .

TO BE A SCIOT WAS OF ITSELF NOBLE!

They evinced a deep patriotism and love of Country as well as love for their homes. They were in spirit the most democratic of the neighboring tribes - in which predominated not only their love for liberty and justice, but especially of equality. There was an association among the tribes of those neighboring islands, for the common worship of the same God. These associations were federal in character; that is, while the members were independent in other matters, they were subject to a common central authority in all that concerned religious worship. Such a federal association was called Amphictyony, that is, "A LEAGUE OF NEIGHBORS."

While in most instances this League of Neighbors was used by the various tribes merely for religious purposes, the Sciots owing to the rugged topography of their island home, however, took the principles of the League into their everyday business and domestic affairs. In many instances it took three or four strong men to hold the rude instruments for tilling the soil against the hillsides of the rocky farms and vineyards. It therefore became the custom to work in unity in all things. The Sciots would remove their tunics and help one another. They applied the principles of the League to the exchange of commodities; thus, they were enabled to secure for themselves what their needs demanded, and at the same time purchase from a neighbor that of which he had an overabundance. In their journeys to and fro, they would travel as a League of Neighbors, and when an obstruction was encountered, it was their custom to build a Pyramid with their bodies, thus allowing one of their number, by removing a sandal, the better to hold with the bare feet, to climb to the top. He, in turn, would grasp a Brother Leaguer by the hand with a firm grip and pull him up, and thus, in succession, the Sciots were enabled to easily surmount obstacles as a "League of Neighbors" - which would have been impossible for them to overcome as individuals.

Under the Organization as a League of Neighbors, the Sciots prospered. Their vineyards and orchards, cultivated through mutual helpfulness and assistance, yielded the richest wines and the finest fruits. So widespread had their fame become that even the Pharaoh in Egypt heard thereof. Accordingly, he sent his Mohar or Tablet Bearer to the Toparch, or the Chief of the City, with a royal order that some of the famous wines and fruits of Scio be secured for the royal banquets and ceremonials at Memphis. The Pharaoh was all-powerful and must be obeyed. The Toparch summoned his Mazai and bade him take unto himself guides and retainers and go forth to find this wonderful island, and if found, to secure a full meet of the wondrous wines and fruits, demanded by the royal edict. And we learn the Mazai found the island of Scio and formed a close

friendship with the Sciots; and when the wind next blew from the North, in galleys richly laden with wines and fruits, the Mazai, accompanied by the Sciots, departed on his journey to the Toparch's Palace.

But, alas, an ill wind sprung up and lashed the sea into dangerous mountains of water. They were compelled to land on an island to seek shelter from the storm, and, to their great misfortune, they found themselves surrounded by henchmen who had been brought as slaves from the Libyan Desert and made to serve a bandit known as the Chief of the Me.

With him was the Greek robber, Procrustes, who, it is said, would cut off the legs of his victims, or stretch their bodies to make them fit a certain bed.

And we learn that at that time there was confined in the Creten Labyrinth, the Monster Minotaur, who had the head of a bull and the body of a man and was said to be the offspring of Pasiphae and the bull sent to Minos by Poseidon, and where he devoured the youths and maidens sent him every nine years as a tribute.

About this time Minos, who, it is said, afterward died and became a judge of torture in Hades, was the King and lawgiver of the Island, and before him the Sciots were conducted by the Chief of the Me, with his Libyans, for sentence. Minos decreed that nine of the Sciots should be offered up as a tribute to Minotaur. The Toparch, in the meantime, becoming alarmed at the non-arrival of the Mazai with the Sciots, ordered the Captain of the Guard to take unto himself a guard of Memphites and search for the Mazai and Sciots, and, if found, to give them safe conduct to the Palace.

And it chanced that the Captain of the Guard and his Memphites arrived on the island in due time whereupon the Chief of the Me, together with this henchmen and Libyans, fled to the mountains and the Sciots were rescued. They were conducted in safety to the Toparch's Palace. At the River of Joy they were met by maidens of the royal household, accompanied by spearmen, and mermaids. And we learn that they received a most hearty welcome at the River of Joy.

Within the gates of the city, they were welcomed with great acclaim, and on the Palace of the Toparch there was written "Welcome " in the words of and hieroglyphics variously depicted in these chronicles.

The Sciots and Egyptians became great friends, and it came to pass that at each third moon the Sciots would journey to the Palace of the Toparch, in the interchange of commodities, and it is related that they were received at the River of Joy as before and given a royal welcome, and on their way, in their journey among the Pyramids , there was much feasting and merrymaking.

Further the legend sayeth not.....

MORAL!

Our neighbor 's assistance and cooperation in your business affairs ; the strong grip of a friend to help you over the rough places in life; a kind word spoken in your behalf or in your defense; a watchful care over your brethren in their journey through life; a full measure of innocent amusement, is worth many times more to you while living, than the most beautiful requiem, the most unctuous sermon, or the most elaborate pyramid over your remains when you are dead.

HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF SCIOTS!

In 1905 a number of Masons met in Mission Masonic Temple, in the City of San Francisco, for the purpose of forming a social club, where Masons could get together on an equal footing, free from the restraint of the lodge room, yet organized for the purpose of furthering Masonic teachings and applying, in a practical way, in everyday business affairs, the teachings of the fraternity. The result of this meeting was the organization of the "Boosters." Charles H.S. Pratt, known for many years for his activity in boosting his brethren and wherever he could render assistance or boost them along, was chosen head of the order and given the title of Kadih Al Malik, or King of the Ceremonials. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, which vested the Government of the Organization in a Council of Twelve. The purpose of the Organization was set forth as follows.

It is to be one family of boosters and brothers and has the same right of protection, as has the household. Its membership shall be composed of our best citizens, moral, upright, virtuous, law-abiding fathers, husbands, sons and brothers, and all of them Masons in good standing.

The idea was an instant success. It was recognized that such an Organization filled a long-felt want because it brought the brethren into closer contact in their daily lives; fostered the true spirit of fraternity; caused men to forget their worries, troubles and cares of life; made them look upon the bright side of things and gave them new hope and much joy. The slogan was:

BOOST ONE ANOTHER!

The first Ceremonial and Banquet was held at Pioneer Hall, San Francisco, December 12, 1905, and the Organization as a live factor in Masonic Circles came into being. The earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906, having destroyed the meeting place and reduced a part of San Francisco to ruins, the Sciots devoted their time and money to such relief as came under their observation.

In the course of time, it was discovered that on account of the popularity attained by this Organization there were a number of other organizations that had taken the name of "Boosters." A general meeting was called for January 23, 1910, at which time the name was changed to "Sciots" as typifying everything that it stood for in the way of ritual assistance, social and fraternal intercourse. They adopted the following preamble:

"To bind closer the ties of Masonic Brotherhood, to promote the well-being and elevate the condition of its members, to widen the field and increase the harvest of brotherly love; to cultivate the Social and Fraternal Instincts and increase the Happiness of those who are or may become Members of it; to provide for its Government, and to lay the foundation of a permanent Fraternal and Social Organization."

At the same time the official name was declared to be:

"ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ORDER OF SCIOTS"

ELIGIBLES

The Constitution of the Supreme Pyramid provides that any Master Mason in good standing is eligible for membership. Every petitioner promises that he will endeavor to visit the Blue Lodge of which he is a member, or a Lodge within the jurisdiction, at least once a month. This duty is constantly kept before all Sciot.

PYRAMIDS

There are Sciot Pyramids established in the States of California, Illinois, and New Jersey.

The Pyramids have always taken an active part in fostering the Public Schools Month established by the Grand Lodge of California and in assisting and encouraging Blue Lodge visitations - individually and as a group.

AIMS - OBJECTS - PURPOSES

FIRST - To unite all Master Masons in a closer bond of FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP and COOPERATION.

SECOND - To teach a Sciot that his most important duty as a Citizen is to stand for the enforcement of law and order, to participate actively in National, State and Municipal affairs by the exercise of the rights of franchise. That the Pyramid is an open forum for discussion of questions of general interest, under the strict prohibition that there must be no partisan or personal discussion and that the name of our Order must not be used for any political or religious purposes, or to further any anti-religious propoganda.

THIRD - To furnish an opportunity for those temporarily dependent upon us to help themselves, by the establishment of employment bureaus, relief associations and other practical methods.

FOURTH - To teach a Sciot that in his duty to the Masonic Fraternity generally, his duty to the individual in a practical way must not be overlooked.

FIFTH - To teach Sciot to remember the great principle that all Sciot are equal and that there must be no distinction among them on account of personal, political, social, or financial standing.

SIXTH - To endeavor to teach the great lesson of mutual aid and assistance at all times. TO BOOST ONE ANOTHER and all movements having for their ultimate aim the greatest good to the greatest number.

SEVENTH - To foster clean, bright, wholesome entertainment, free from all that debases or leads to excess.

EIGHTH - To impress upon a Sciot that membership in the Masonic Fraternity means something more than proficiency in the Ritual, perfunctory attendance, or the payment of dues. Their Masonic duty must not be neglected but must be translated into service.

This Organization has been called the Blue Lodge Shrine. That is only true so far as eligibility to membership and the amusement features, being referred to as the accepted term, "The Playground of Masonry" is concerned, as every Blue Lodge Mason is eligible to become a Sciot and thereby entitled to enjoy the social intercourse of an organization in his own locality which in many instances is now denied him. The practical features of the Sciot are many and varied and closely follow the actions of our ancient brethren whom we can trace back to 1124 B.C.

LADIES UNITS IN SCIOTRY

The wives of our members organize Ladies Clubs within the Pyramids and take on names such as Stoics, Pharaohs Daughters, Silverettes, Zag-a-Zigs , Lybi-ettes, Kirkpats, Glennettes, Featherettes , Sciotress Club, Lightning Rods and other catchy titles. The Ladies form these clubs to assist the Sciots on socials and special events.

The Sciot Ladies conduct regular business meetings and meet on the same night and same building as their Sciot husbands.

The Sciots maintain the Sciots Foundation, which supports Autism research.

Any further information desired, may be obtained by communication with:

SUPREME PYRAMID Ancient Egyptian Order of

Sciots



www.sciots.org