

NOTABLE SOUTH AFRICAN FREEMASONS

General Louis Botha, the first Prime Minister of South Africa, was a Freemason, as were Presidents Reitz, Pretorius, Brand and Burgers of the old republics, and the Cape Governor Lord Milner.

Military men included General Piet Joubert, General Piet Retief and Captain Danie Theron, and on the British side Lords Roberts and Kitchener and Generals Haig and French

CJ Langenhoven, who wrote the words of *Die Stem*, one of our two national anthems, was a Mason. Other notable members were the architects Louis Thibault and Anton Anreich and artist Gustav Preller. Cecil John Rhodes, Lord de Villiers, Sir Andries Stockenström and Sir John Truter, first Chief Justice of the Cape.

Commissioner Jacob de Mist of the Batavian Republic, Sir Christoffel Brand, first Speaker of the Cape Assembly, Sir Henry de Villiers, chairman of the national convention and Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr were members, as were Earnest and Harry Oppenheimer, builders of the world's greatest diamond empire, which originated in Kimberley.

The first South African lodge was the Dutch Lodge of de Goede Hoop founded in 1773.

The first English lodge in South Africa was Lodge British founded in 1811 and the first in the Eastern Cape was the Albany Lodge, founded in 1828.

The Lodge of Goodwill (1857) was the first in Port Elizabeth.

NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FREEMASONS

Fifteen American presidents were Masons, among them George Washington, both Roosevelts, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson and Gerald Ford. Other well known figures were Winston Churchill, Edmund Burke, General Douglas McArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the southwest Pacific in the Second World War, and General George C Marshall.

Wolfgang Mozart was one, so was Beethoven, Sibelius, Liszt, Haydn, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Count Basie, Nat King Cole and Sigmund Romberg.

Film stars include Clark Gable, WC Fields, Oliver Hardy, Wallace Beery and Eddie Cantor.

Henry Ford and Walter P Chrysler were members, as were Charles Lindbergh and Roald Amundsen, the first explorer to reach the South Pole.

Among philosophers and writers were Goethe, Voltaire, Mark Twain, Sir Walter Scott, Rudyard Kipling, Robert Burns, Alexander Pushkin, Jonathan Swift and Oscar Wilde.

Medical men include Alexander Fleming and Charles and William Mayo. Gustave Eiffel, responsible for the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Harry Houdini and Norman Vincent Peale were members and so were sportsmen Ty Cobb, Jack Dempsey and Arnold Palmer.

