

## Etoile Chapter Rose Croix No. 9



“Etoile” – The Origins of the Name On 18th of March 1815, in Zakynthos, Grand Master Dionysios de Komas established and inaugurated a Lodge called “Fenice Risorta” or “Phoenix Resurrected”. This was under the workings of Corfu and under the auspices of the Grand National Lodge of Greece. “Fenice Risorta” was effectively the forerunner of “Star of the East, No.880”, operating today.

The original minute books, attendance registers, certificates of members and many other supporting documents are kept safe in the Lodges archives. Along with these are masonic diplomas of brethren issued by various overseas Lodges and Lodges in the Ionian islands. In Corfu, in 1843, the Grand National Lodge of Greece became dormant. “Fenice Risorta” remained active but it is not clear under which Masonic Authority it functioned. On 28th of April 1848 the Lodge met for the last time.

A few years later, on the 8th of April 1859, Lodge members applied to the Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France, Prince Lucien Murat, to re-open the Lodge under his aegis. The Grand Orient of France approved the application and asked for the Lodge to be named “Etoile”. As étoile means star the Lodge could be said to “Shine as a star in the region”. The Charter was dated 3rd September 1859 and the official Consecration took place on 6th February 1860.

In 1858 an attempt had been made on the life of Napoleon 3rd, Emperor of France. Accusations of responsibility for this were placed on the Masons and the resignation of Prince Lucien Murat, The Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France was demanded. In 1861 Lodge Etoile became concerned with this matter and sent memoranda to both the Grand Orient of France and the Emperor, Napoleon 3rd, concerning the trespassing on Masonic rights and privileges. Consequentially the Lodge ceased working. Three years later, members of the Lodge decided to petition the United Grand Lodge of England to ask to be placed under its jurisdiction. The petition was accepted and a warrant was signed on September 23rd 1861. A letter of resignation from the Grand Orient of France was dated 14th of February 1862.

The consecration of a new Lodge, under the United Grand Lodge of England, took place on 4th of March 1862. The name of this new Lodge was unmistakably derived from its previous name by translating étoile from French into English and adding “of the East” to give the title “Star of the East”. When formed the Lodge, Star of the East, had the number 1182. This became number 880 the following year due to changes in the numeration of lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England.

This goes some way towards explaining the derivation of the name “Etoile” for the new Chapter.