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March Meeting Canceled

The Arminius Stated Communication of 16 March has been canceled due to local, national, and global concerns regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. We wish all Arminius Brethren and their family and friends well and encourage them to take every precaution to remain healthy in this very difficult time.

Aus dem Osten

Greetings, Brethren and friends of Arminius!

This message comes to you as we have joined recently with several other lodges in our jurisdiction to welcome the G.:M.:, and member of Arminius, for his Grand Visitation, M.:W.: Michael Nicholas.

I want to thank you all who came out in February (though it was a holiday) to support your Lodge. I was delighted to see many members we have not seen at Lodge recently. Vigorous discussion was held on the changes to the by-laws, and I am happy to write to let you know that almost every change was accepted by the requisite majority, a couple of items being withdrawn in friendly fashion after discussions. Truly, it is a good occasion when peace and harmony can prevail even as we grow and update our lodge.

I sincerely regret that we have had to cancel the March Stated Communication due to the current national emergency regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email me. -- Elijah C. Mills, Meister vom Stuhl

Frederick the Great as Master Military Leader

When on 18 January 18 1871 representatives of various German states gathered in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles to proclaim William I of Prussia of the House of Hohenzollern as German Emperor, they marked the end of a remarkable, centuries-long transformation of a collection of small German states of the Holy Roman Empire into one of the most powerful nation states in Europe. This success can be attributed to several people, but a list without Frederick the Great (pictured on the cover) would be woefully incomplete.

Frederick II (Friedrich II, or *Friedrich der Große*) was the King of Prussia from 1740 to 1786, a Mason (receiving his Degrees on 14 August 1738), a true product of the Enlightenment, a friend of Voltaire, but also a master military tactician. His reign transformed Prussia into a strong German state and European power. Without a strong Prussia, the unification of Germany a century later simply would not have happened.

While Frederick the Great was certainly a great military leader, he capitalized on the work started by his father, Frederick William I of Prussia, the *Soldatenkönig*, or Soldier King. Under the reign of Frederick William, the officer corps was stocked with Prussia's best and brightest, and a draft system was instituted, allowing for quick mobilization and a more professional training regimen. In an era when military tactics depended on large, organized, and disciplined formations of men, drill was especially emphasized, resulting in the Prussians being able to fire almost twice as fast as any other European military force. Under Frederick William's reign, control over the military's finances were streamlined, and the Prussian Army doubled in size. Combined with an efficient civil service and a full treasury, Frederick II inherited all he needed to put Prussia on the map as a major power.

Throughout Frederick's reign, Prussia fought numerous campaigns, including the Seven Years' War, one of the first conflicts ever fought on a global scale. While Frederick's military achievements are too numerous to cover in this article, three battles illustrate the Prussian King's prowess as a military leader: the Battles of Hohenfriedberg (1745), Roßbach (1757), and Leuthen (1757). These battles exhibited the hallmarks of Frederick's leadership: a numerically smaller but more disciplined Prussian force going up against a numerically superior opponent; the strategic use of cavalry to rout larger opposing infantry; and, precise maneuvering of Prussian troop formations in order to expose the weak spots in enemy formations, known as oblique order. These features were underlined by a dogged decisiveness as well as a willingness to commit to attacking the enemy at the right time.

As a military leader, Frederick the Great is remembered as a fearless general, a commander who wasn't afraid to interact with his soldiers, and a master tactician. His exploits were an inspiration to a young Corsican officer named Napoleon Bonaparte, who obsessively studied his exploits. After defeating the Prussians at the Battle of Jena–Auerstedt in 1806, Napoleon visited the tomb of Frederick the Great, remarking to his entourage; "Hats off, gentlemen; if he were still alive, we should not be here."

Another devoted student of Frederick the Great was Carl von Clausewitz, the author of the seminal work *On War*, which is regarded as one of the most important treatises on political-military analysis and strategy ever written. As Germany heads deeper into the 21st century as a major European power, it can thank Frederick the Great for not only laying the philosophical and cultural foundations of the modern German state, but for securing the nation's position through hard-won military victories.

--Matthew Matyjek, J.W.:

Frederick the Great and the Bahamas

Our front cover of Arminius Bulletin this month features Anton Graff's *Portrait of Frederick the Great*, as pictured on an historic cover of *The New Age Magazine* of October 1971. *The New Age* and its successor, *The Scottish Rite Journal*, have run many articles on the King of Prussia as Enlightenment figure over the years. One such highly unusual article by Ralph D. Seligman (June 1992) entitled "Frederick the Great and Freemasonry in the Bahamas" discusses "the high esteem in which Frederick was held by the English and Scottish Brethren in a distant British Colony" where the Prussian king was hailed in 1785 as a "distinguished Patron of the Ancient Craft." (p. 11)

Our front cover image of *The New Age Magazine* cover is by courtesy of the Supreme Council, Scottish Rite.

Mario and the Magician

"Mario und der Zauberer" is an unusual German short story by Thomas Mann revolving around an Austrian family's sojourn at a seaside resort in 1920's Italy. A magician comes to town, supremely able to beguile audiences with his magic hat, cape, and tricks — an allegory of the charismatic power of Benito Mussolini and by extension other fascist leaders to deceive the public and rise to great power. Bel Cantanti Opera has been presenting an impressive production of this tale at Randolph Road Theatre (Silver Spring) this March under the title *Briscula the Magician*. Watercolor image of the magician by Daria Souvorova, courtesy of Bel Cantanti.



Parking and the Scottish Rite

Many Arminius members have expressed concern about parking for meetings during on-going construction behind the Scottish Rite Center. We are currently in discussions with the church next door involving parking and will keep members informed via Bulletin and e-mail.