

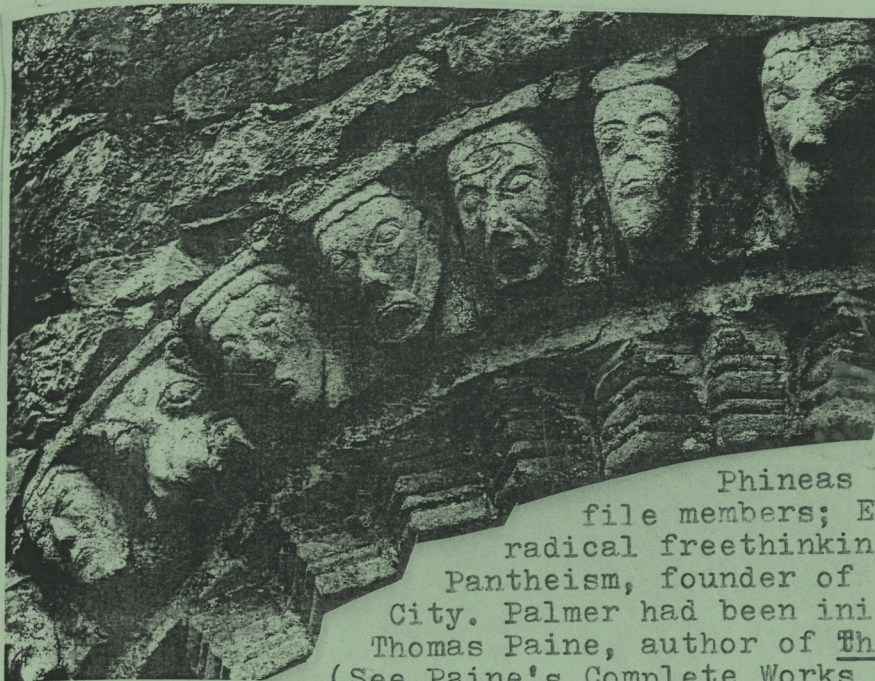
The
REVIVAL
&
RESTORATION
of the

SOCIETY
of



ANCIENT





A DRUIDIC BROCHURE

July 4, 1799

On this date some radical Freemasons in Newburgh NY decided to embrace the Druid Faith, & organized themselves as the SOCIETY OF ANCIENT DRUIDS. Some names: Elias Winfield, editor of the Rights of Man, the local freethinker newspaper; Benoni H. Howell, who printed it; James Donnelly, Dr

Phineas Hedges & David Denniston, ran file members; Elihu Palmer, the pro-French radical freethinking blind preacher of Deism & Pantheism, founder of the Temple of Nature in New York City. Palmer had been initiated into Masonic Druidry by Thomas Paine, author of The Rights of Man & Common Sense. (See Paine's Complete Works for his essay on Druidic Masonry.)

Paine in turn had been initiated by poet/artist William Blake, who was Chief Druid of Albion in late 18th - early 19th century London. This line of initiation was later passed on to the still-existent British Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids. (See Ross Nichols, Book of Druidry.) The very first "Grove" of Revived Druidry (in Oxford) had been founded by Pantheist philosopher John Toland, circa 1717. Toland wrote the first book on the Druids in English, A Specimen of the Critical History of the Celtic Religion & Learning, containing An Account of the Druids, or the Priests & Judges; of the Voids, or the Diviners & Physicians; & of the Bards or the Poets & Herald's of the ancient Gauls, Britons, Irish & Scots. With the History of Abaris the Hyperborean, Priest of the Sun. In Three Letters to the Right Honorable the Lord Viscount Molesworth (1726).

The Newburgh Druids founded their newspaper, Rights of Man, and agitated for freethinking & "far left" Jeffersonian democracy in the Hudson Valley. They were publicly opposed by such arch-conservatives as the Rev. John Johnston of Newburgh, who took advantage of the ILLUMINATI PANIC (an early form of Anti-Masonry) to suppress the Druids as dangerous revolutionaries & French agents. The Order disbanded or faded away around 1806.

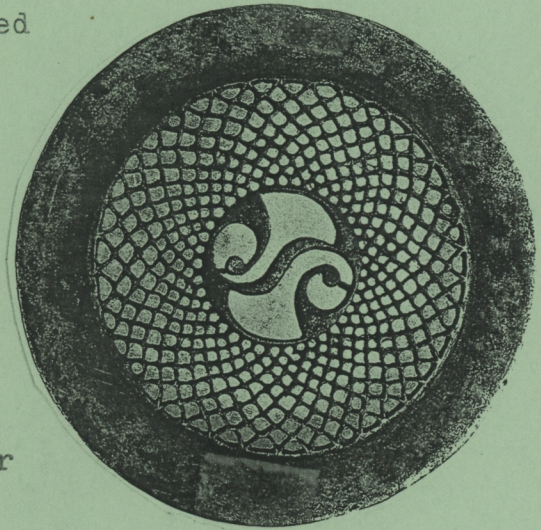
Modern Druidry & Celtic neo-paganism have long flourished in our area, for example in Nyack NY as well as New York City. After certain visionary experiences in Ireland in the 1990s I was inspired by the story of Toland, Blake, Palmer & the Newburgh Druids to become a druid myself, by application to the Universal Life Church of Modesto, Calif., in which I have long held a Bishopric & Doctorate of Divinity. In 2010 I founded a Grove in Ulster Co., the Mombaccus Grove, in order to carry our certain artworks & rituals as a "genuine druid".





Now I have been directed
thru several subse-
quent "intellec-
tual visions" to
revivify & restore
to full operation the
Society of Ancient Dru-
ids of Newburgh New York
as an administrative central

grove, able to grant diplomas to new members &/or
Charters to new Groves under our jurisdiction.



We maintain that modern druidry should concern itself with restoring
humanity's "fallen" relation to Nature -- i.e., spiritual ecology. We are
"green" as spiritual Celts & also as Hermeticists & as environmental activ-
ists -- but NOT as "green capitalists" or "green tourists". For us green is
the color of active desire & struggle, not designer commodity identikits.

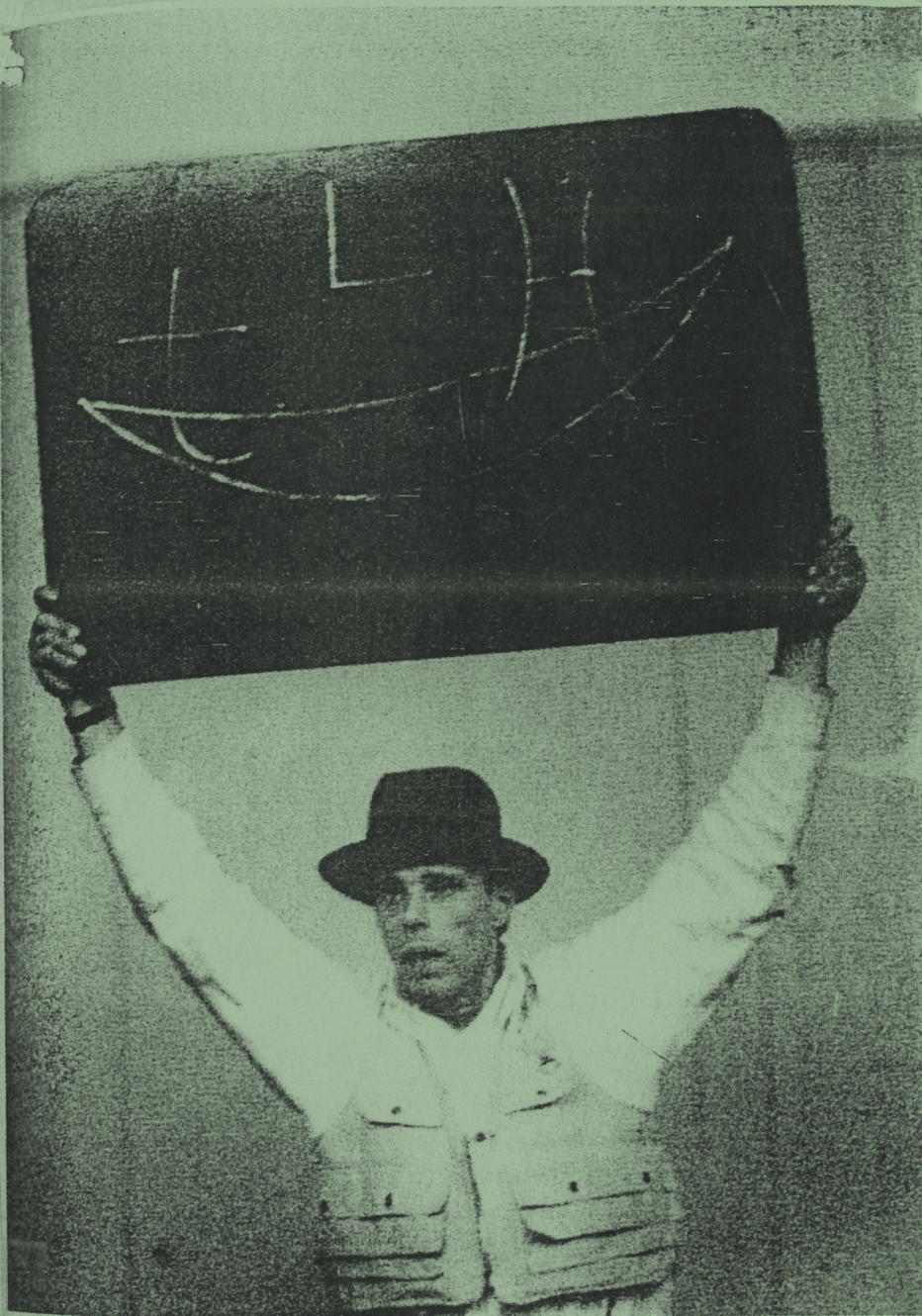
In terms of religion we are not opposed to Christianity or any other form
of monotheism. We want to re-paganize monotheism, not abandon it. With
this aim we practise the veneration of earth spirits & pagan deities, if
necessary in the form of Christian saints & angels (or Jewish, or Moslem).

That is, we are radical universalists: all religions are one in the inner
sense, but gloriously different in outward form. True pantheists rise
above all chauvinism; we honor all the forms. In this respect we believe
much can be learned of "original" druidry from Hinduism & Taoism, & of
course from Classical Paganism.



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In Celtic terms we will specialize in Revived forms of Celtic/shamanic cults such as Iolo Morganwg's 18th century Welsh Restoration, Toland's Revived Groves, the Society of Ancient Druids of Newburgh, etc., and we make no claim to represent actual ancient Celtic religion. Modern druidry has existed since at least 1717 -- & this is our pedigree. Its roots however extend back thru "Celtic Twilight" & occultist means to the path of the Tuatha De Danaan -- the ancient deities now called "faeries" -- who have most certainly never died.





We believe in Mail Order Magic & are prepared to bestow Diplomas & Charters by means of the POST, which we consider an esoteric medium of communication. Secret from electronic prying, it has roots in ancient Persian & Greek mysteries. Hand delivered documents can be artworks & full of initiatory potencies in a way unknown to modern CommTech, which is both vampiric & sterile on the subtle plane.

Monograph on Toland, Blake & the Druids by Peter Lamborn Wilson -- \$20. Diploma in the Mombaccus Grove -- \$5. Charter to found a new Grove of the S.A.D. -- \$40. If the spirit moves you write to DRUID c/o box 568,

Brooklyn, NY 11211.

