

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

Greetings Brethren,

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THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

At the outset of this month's message let me say that no Master Mason should be denied the privilege of being Master of his Lodge. However, we know full well that there are some members in our fraternity who have no desire nor do they have the ability to perform the duties of that high office but, are a dedicated and an outstanding member who offers a great deal to the lodge.

The Worshipful Master is elected annually by the members of the Lodge; however, before allowing his name to stand for this high office he should be well versed in the Bylaws of his Lodge, the Constitution of Grand Lodge, capable of opening and closing his Lodge, and be prepared to put on all degree work (with some assistance by PM's). As the head of the Craft he should work in close harmony with all his officers, especially the secretary, making sure he is maintaining a complete and proper record of all meetings, making sure that all dues and fees are kept current and that new members and all members names are properly recorded, this to include their age, occupation and present and forwarding address. As regards to Lodge meetings, the Master should stress that all meetings will commence at the time stated on the notice. All the minutes and discussions should be concise and to the point, check all correspondence with the secretary previous to the meeting (if possible); he should execute the business of the Lodge in a business-like manner. Many lengthy discussions can be overcome by referring the subject to a special committee who will bring in a report at the next meeting. The Master is automatically an ex-officio member of all committees.

In connection with ritualistic and floor work, the Master should insist on a high grade of proficiency and possibly hold one or two practice sessions. In regard to floor work and other instructional practices he would inquire if the new members would care to attend and make them feel a part of the lodge. At the same time this is a good time for giving the new members proper instruction. The Master should promote and incorporate Masonic education into Lodge meetings as program time permits. There are many good papers, books and other material available from the Grand Lodge library for this purpose. The Master should strive to maintain brotherly love and good fellowship among the brethren in his Lodge and make sure that sociability at the festive board be planned for each meeting.

The Worshipful Master can do much to promote this same fraternal fellowship on a wider basis by promoting inter-lodge visitation, either on an individual or a group basis. Encourage the brethren to attend their district and area meetings and certainly the fellowship at the Grand Lodge Communication is of a high calibre.

In conclusion, Brethren, to be the Master of your Lodge (the highest honour that can be conferred upon a brother), you must be prepared to give this top priority for the term of your office. There is much to be done in preparing and making your meetings both interesting and instructional. Remember your Obligation and the charge given to you at your installation, which states in part "the Brethren have committed the government of this Lodge to your care, and you can be insensible neither to the duties which devolve upon you as their head, nor to your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the same. The honour, reputation and usefulness of this Lodge will materially depend upon the skill and ability with which you manage its' affairs. It will be your province to communicate light and instruction to the brethren of your Lodge.

Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Freemasonry and practice out of the Lodge those excellent precepts which are ever inculcated within it."

**by M.W. Bro. Bruce Saunders, Grand Master;
Published in THE TRACING BOARD, GRS; October, 1979**

LODGE OFFICERS

A Masonic Lodge is not a building or a room; it is a group of people making up a unit referred to as 'A Lodge'.

The workings, transactions and ceremonial of the Lodge revolve around its officers, although any member may be asked to take part in the proceedings, by learning and then performing part of the ceremony, which may be a couple of sentences or even pieces taking 10 minutes or more to deliver.

There are as many as seventeen officers, all with their own responsibilities, plus an Immediate Past Master who would also be present, but in actual fact is not an Officer of the Lodge. Of these officers, the Master, Treasurer and Tyler are elected at a meeting specified for that purpose in the Lodge By-laws. The appointment of all other officers is at the sole discretion of the Master.

All Lodges are governed by the same Rules, issued by the United Grand Lodge of England. These Rules are known as the Book of Constitutions and detail very clearly those officers who **must** be appointed in a Lodge and those officers who **may** be appointed (B of C 104a).

The officers that must be appointed are known as the *regular* officers and are the Master, his two Wardens, a Treasurer, a Secretary, two Deacons, an Inner Guard and a Tyler. The Master shall appoint as *additional* officers an Almoner and a Charity Steward and may also appoint as *additional* officers a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Organist, an Assistant Secretary and a Steward or Stewards. No Brother can hold more than one regular office in the Lodge at one and the same time, but the Master may appoint a Brother who is holding a regular office, to also hold an 'additional' Office.

A Brother who is not a subscribing member of the Lodge may not hold any office, except that of Tyler.

All these officers can be recognised by the fact that they wear a broad light blue collar. To each of these collars is attached a jewel which represents that office.

So, who are these Officers and what do they do?

The Worshipful Master

The qualification required to be eligible for election to Master is that the Brother should have served for a full year as a Senior Warden or Junior Warden in a regular Lodge. The Master is effectively the Chief Executive of the Company. Nothing much can happen at a Lodge Meeting until the Master starts the proceedings and the members would be in for a marathon session if the Master didn't close them! In between the opening and closing of the Lodge, depending on the business to be transacted, the Master will call upon various officers to carry out particular duties, although many will be carried out by the Master himself.

In many Lodges there is what may be described as 'a ladder system' with each officer progressing one step up the ladder at the annual Installation meeting. Even in Lodges employing the 'ladder system' it is not always strictly observed and would not normally apply to such offices as Lodge Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Almoner and Charity Steward as these are offices that benefit from a period of continuity and are not therefore regarded as progressive. Although the appointment of all officers, other than those elected, is as previously stated in the gift of the Worshipful Master, a wise Master will adhere to established sensible practice in order to maintain harmony within his Lodge.

It is not compulsory for members to advance through the offices, but under normal circumstances, a member should not accept the office of Warden unless he is prepared to advance to the Master's Chair.

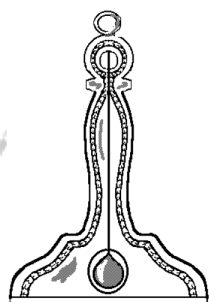


The Jewel appended to the Master's Collar is the Square; a Master's Collar may on occasion be adorned with a commemorative Jewel indicating that the members of his Lodge have played their part in establishing a fund, which was placed at the disposal of the Royal College of Surgeons. No other Jewel or Badge is permitted to be attached to any Collar.

The Wardens

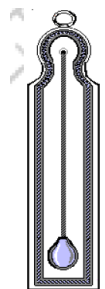
The Senior Warden sits opposite and facing the Master in the West, whilst the Junior Warden sits at about 45 degrees to the Master's left in the South. They have important roles to play, assisting the Worshipful Master in the running of the Lodge. Serving as a Warden also provides them with the opportunity to prove to the membership that their ability and commitment makes them suitable candidates for advancement.

As previously stated, the qualification for advancement to the Master's Chair is that a Brother shall have served for a full year as a Warden in a regular Lodge (that is to say, from one regular installation meeting until the next regular installation at the corresponding period in the following year (B of C 105a)). Naturally, a Brother who has previously served in the office of Master is also qualified to serve in that office again, but not continuously in the same Lodge for more than two years in succession, unless by dispensation, neither shall a Brother be Master of two or more Lodges at the same time without dispensation (B of C 115)..



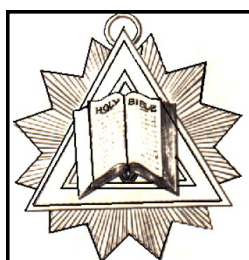
If the investiture of a Warden shall not have taken place at the meeting at which the Master was installed, and thereby the Brother appointed has not served a full year, he cannot be included among those eligible for election as Master of the Lodge except by dispensation (B of C 109).

The Jewel appended to the Senior Warden's Collar is the Level and that to the Junior Warden's Collar is the Plumb Rule.



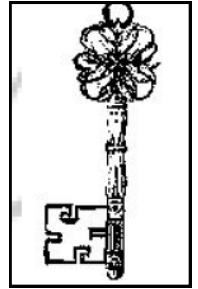
The Chaplain

The Office of Chaplain is not surprisingly, a devotional one. He offers the prayers of the Lodge, but need not be a man of the cloth. He is usually positioned close to and to the left hand side of the Master and is quite often a very experienced Mason. He should be happy to be approached by the less experienced members *for advice and instruction*. The Jewel appended to the Chaplain's Collar is the VSL on a triangle, surmounting a glory. (*Sunburst*)



The Treasurer

The qualification for Treasurer is that he is a member of the Lodge. The Treasurer, as already stated, is elected rather than appointed, and is responsible for the receipt and banking of funds, making payments and the production of a set of accounts. He also submits an annual statement of accounts for auditing and circulation to the members of the Lodge, and provides the financial control over the Lodge income and expenditure. Some Lodges have a particular desk and chair reserved for him, but this depends on availability and space. The Jewel appended to the Treasurer's Collar is a Key.



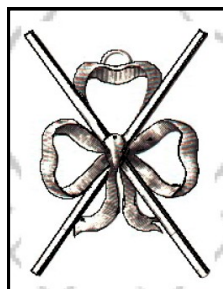
The Secretary



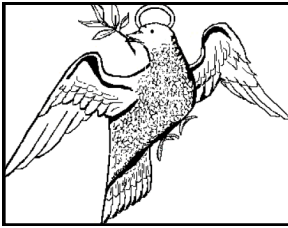
The Secretary is responsible for the business of the meeting. He keeps the Lodge minutes and is responsible for the general paperwork, including the issue of summonses and the Annual Returns to Grand Lodge. He is also responsible for liaison with Provincial Grand Lodge, dealings with other Lodges and for communications from and to members. He is expected to have a sound knowledge of the regulations of the Craft, as he may be consulted by the Master on points of procedure. There is a Secretary's table provided, but its position will vary from Lodge to Lodge. The Jewel appended to the Secretary's Collar is Two Pens in Saltire, tied by a ribbon. (Saltire in heraldry means a diagonal cross e.g. Scottish Flag).

The Director of Ceremonies

The Director of Ceremonies is responsible for the ceremonial of the Lodge and the smooth running of the meeting. He should ensure that all articles necessary for a meeting are laid out correctly, and will arrange processions in and out of the Lodge Room. He also attends to matters of protocol, such as the correct way to receive important visitors and give salutations to Grand Officers. He will of necessity be positioned in a prominent place in the Lodge, so that he can closely observe that all procedures and rituals are being carried out correctly, and can quickly intervene to assist should the need arise. He is also responsible for the manner in which the after meeting is conducted in the Dining Room, ensuring that protocols are adhered to, but allowing the brethren to enjoy themselves within the bounds of propriety. The Jewel appended to the Director of Ceremonies' Collar is Two Rods in Saltire, tied by a ribbon.



The Deacons



The Senior Deacon who sits at the right side of the Master and the Junior Deacon who sits at the right of the Senior Warden, are the two officers who conduct the Candidate through the various ceremonies. Upon them rests a great deal of responsibility for the success of a ceremony. They need to have knowledge of, and the confidence to carry out the perambulations, for if the Candidate were to find himself in the wrong part of the Lodge Room at the wrong time, it would detract from the ceremony. As far as the ceremony is concerned, a Lodge with two efficient Deacons will rarely go wrong. The

Jewel appended to the Deacons' Collars is a Dove and Olive Branch.

The Charity Steward

The Charity Steward is basically a fund-raiser. It is at times a thankless task and may require a lot of determination to succeed. His prime responsibility is to raise monies for Masonic Charities, however he can often be found making appeals on behalf of local and non Masonic Charities. He collects donations, explains the advantages of Gift Aid forms, Standing Orders etc. He disseminates information about the various Charities and their work, as this ensures all members appreciate the use to which their donations are put and also encourages them to be as generous as their personal circumstances permit. He does not have a particular place reserved for him in the Lodge Room. The Jewel appended to the Charity Steward's Collar is a Trowel.



The Almoner

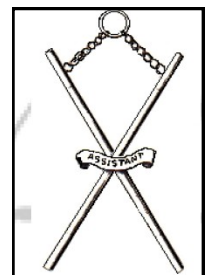


The Almoner keeps in touch with members and their families in times of illness or distress. Lodge funds can be allocated to the Almoner for specific purposes, such as the distribution of Christmas cards and gifts to widows. Each Almoner has his own method of working, but typically an Almoner arranges visits to those in hospital, organises practical help for members when they or their families are in difficulties, or simply visits members who find themselves unable to attend meetings. The Almoner provides an individual Brother with a very important link to various sources of assistance. With the help of the Almoner, Brethren can receive assistance in times of poverty or distress and this facility is of course provided in

total confidence. Like the Charity Steward, the Almoner does not have a reserved place in the Lodge room. The Jewel appended to the Almoner's Collar is a Scrip-purse, upon which is a Heart.

The Assistant Director of Ceremonies

The Assistant Director of Ceremonies is exactly that and, depending upon the Director of Ceremonies, will either be involved in the floor work or merely occupy a relatively inactive office. The ADC will usually sit adjacent to the DC. The Jewel appended to the Assistant Director of Ceremonies' Collar is Two Rods in Saltire surmounted by a bar bearing the word 'Assistant'.



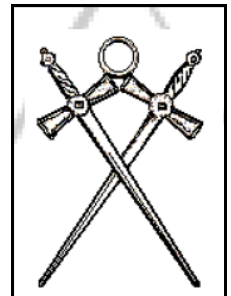
The Assistant Secretary



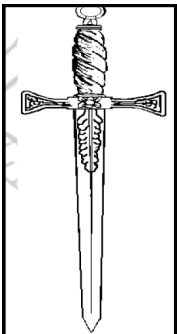
The role of the Assistant Secretary, like the Assistant Director of Ceremonies, varies considerably from Lodge to Lodge. Occasionally he may be given interesting tasks, but more often than not, especially if the Secretary has many years service, his Assistant is underutilised. With an ever increasing volume of email traffic, allowing quicker and more cost effective communication, it should be recognised that some Lodge Secretaries of long standing may not be able to communicate in this way. This in itself does not represent a problem, as it is possible to retain the great experience such Secretaries bring to the office, by recommending the Assistant Secretary acts as a mailbox for the Secretary. The Jewel appended to the Assistant Secretary's Collar is Two Pens in Saltire, surmounted by a bar bearing the word Assistant.

The Inner Guard

The Inner Guard, often a fairly inexperienced member, is given the responsibility of ensuring only those entitled to be present are present. This can be quite a daunting task, but with the assistance of the Director of Ceremonies and the Tyler, who guards the outside entrance to the Lodge, it can be most interesting. It is one of the first steps in the progression to the Master's Chair and the requirement for the new member to work on the floor of the Lodge will provide him with a greater appreciation of the ceremonies carried out in the Lodge Room. The Inner Guard will be found just inside the door of the Lodge Room. The Jewel appended to the Inner Guard's Collar is Two Swords in Saltire.



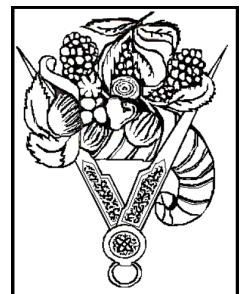
The Tyler



The qualification for election to Tyler is that of being a Master Mason. As previously stated, the Tyler assists the Inner Guard in ensuring only persons entitled to be present are present and additionally, looks after Brethren prior to them entering the Lodge. In some Lodges, the office of Tyler is on the ladder of progression. There is however, a school of thought that believes the Tyler should be an office occupied after being Immediate Past Master, as an experienced mason is better able to guide and assist the Inner Guard and ensure visitors are suitably qualified. The Tyler is positioned just outside the door of the Lodge room and can often communicate with the Inner Guard through a wicket fitted into the door. The Jewel appended to the Tyler's Collar is a Sword.

The Stewards

The Stewards, who are normally the newer members, are the officers who arguably have one of the most important duties of the Lodge, which is to look after the visitors and the inner needs of their own Brethren. Carrying out these duties provides the Steward with the opportunity to meet and talk with many members of the Lodge and, in turn, allows the Brethren to get to know the newer members. The work of the Stewards takes place outside the Lodge Room, where a different set of traditions are enacted, although these are by custom and practice, rather *than by dictate*. The Jewel appended to the Steward's Collar is a Cornucopia (also known as the Horn of Plenty).



Senior Deacon's Lament

Oh! I wish I'd looked after me ritual
I wish I had studied the book
I might have got through a few meetings
Without having to take a sly look
At the words printed all neat and tidy
With capital letters and dots
And inverted commas and rows of small hammers
To remind you about them there knocks.

If I'd attended a lodge of instruction
And followed the D.C's plan
My signs might be more like a Mason and
Less like a tic tac man
For a past master once said with sarcasm
As he doffed his apron of blue
You lay five to one, when the lodge is begun
And evens the field when its through.

Time was, when I was a Deacon
I was proud of me wand and me Dove
Initiation was due, and I was in a right stew
So I wrote all me words on me glove.
Now some candidates are cool and collected
But mine he was nervous and hot
I don't mean to boast, but his hand was like toast
Left me palm an illegible blot.

As I thumped the Warden's shoulder
The ink stained his coat a bright blue
He said "Whom have you there" I stood in despair
He could see I hadn't a clue
I gazed at me glove for an answer
At those five fickle fingers of fate
Then the blots rolled away, left the words plain as day

ST MICHAEL... ALL COTTON... SIZE EIGHT

With thanks to W. Bro. Tom Stirling

Famous Freemasons – Part 7

Joseph Ignace Guillotin - French humanitarian doctor physician and revolutionary who advocated for a more humane method of death which came to bear his name - the decapitating machine as a more humane method of execution. Founder member of the Grand Orient of France.

Field Marshal Earl Haig (1861 - 1928) **Haig**, KT, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCIE, ADC, (19 June 1861 – 29 January 1928) was a British senior officer during World War I. He commanded the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from 1915 to the end of the War. He was commander during the Battle of the Somme the battle with the highest casualties in British military history, the Third Battle of Ypres and the Hundred Days Offensive which led to the armistice in 1918.

Although a popular commander during the immediate post-war years, with his funeral becoming a day of national mourning, Haig has since the 1960s become an object of criticism for his leadership during the First World War. Some dub him "Butcher Haig" for the two million British casualties under his command, and regard him as representing the very concept of class based incompetent commanders, stating that he was unable to grasp modern tactics and technologies.

However, many veterans praised Haig's leadership, and since the 1980s some historians have argued that British forces under his command did in fact adopt new tactics and technologies, that the high casualties suffered were a function of the tactical and strategic realities of the time and that Haig's critics ("blinkerered by their hatred ... of Haig") give insufficient emphasis to the important role played by the British forces in the Allied victory of 1918. Elgin Lodge No. 91, Leven, Scotland.

Prince Hall. First known black American Freemason. Initiated in an Irish military Lodge in 1775, he later founded African Lodge No. 459 EC, which still survives.

Lionel Hampton - Best known for playing the vibraphones, he is a jazz giant.

John Hancock - American merchant and patriot, one of nine Masons - and the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, he was President of the Continental Congress and served nine terms as Governor of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Lodge No. 277, Quebec, Canada. He later affiliated with St. Andrews Lodge, Boston, MA.

Warren G. Harding - The 29th President of the United States. His political appointments engaged in serious corruption leading to the "Teapot Dome" scandal. He died in office. Marion Lodge No. 70, Marion, Ohio. Knight Templar, 33rd degree. Scottish Rite, first President to become a Shriner.

Oliver Hardy - American comedian and actor, famous for the slapstick abuse he inflicted upon his partner, Stan Laurel. Solomon Lodge No. 20, Jacksonville, Florida.

Franz Josef Haydn - Austrian composer. Lodge Zur Wahren Eintracht, Vienna.

Jesse Helms - Well-known conservative US Senator from North Carolina, he has been a leader in the field of US foreign relations for decades.

Josiah Henson. American black slave who escaped from slavery in Kentucky into Canada. Inspiration for the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Mount Moriah Lodge No. 4 GRC, Dresden, Ontario.

Humour

Some few years back, just after the introduction of Random Breath Testing, the Police officers of a small country township had to show the community that the RBT was working. They decided to stake out the local Masonic Hall, then as the night wore on, eventually a mason slowly came down the stairs and got into his car. The moment he started the engine the two officers approached him and asked him to "blow into the bag". He did of course but to the amazement of the officers proved negative. Fearing a faulty bag tried again, with the same results. Sure of a possible conviction they then escorted him to the Police station to do a blood test, with it also proving negative. Being upset with this they then asked him what had gone on and what he had done that evening, to which he answered, "The Grand Master was there, the Grand Secretary was there, the Grand Stewards were there and we all had a great time, as to my job I was the Grand Decoy".

The Worshipful Master of our Lodge found a bottle with a Genie in it. In accordance with custom, the Genie offered to grant him a wish. "OK," said the WM, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I hate to fly. So my wish is for you to build a bridge so I can drive to Hawaii." "I can't do that!!!" exclaimed the Genie. "Don't you know that's impossible? No Genie could do that. It's too far, the water is too deep, it's just totally beyond anybody's power. You will have to make another wish." "OK," said the Master. "I wish that at our next Stated Meeting all the old PMs would just get along and not cause any trouble, not have to tell us how they did it their year, not complain about the ritual, not put down the current officers ... just sit on the sidelines and behave!" "Hmmmmm," said the Genie. "Do you want that bridge with 2 lanes or 4??"

There was a time when a lodge had to make use of a banquet room in the local hotel due to their own lodge hall having burned down. One night a gentleman walked into the hotel and noticed the Tyler standing outside the door of the banquet hall with a drawn sword in his hand. He asked the desk clerk "What is that man doing with that sword?" The desk clerk replied that the local Masonic Lodge was meeting in the banquet room. The gentleman then said "Oh the Masons. That's the organisation that is really hard to get into" whereupon the desk clerk replied " It must be. That poor guy with the sword has been knocking on that door for months and they still haven't let him in".