

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

In this Issue	
Emblems of Masonry	2
Red Aprons	3
Old Tiler Talk	5
Why are you a Mason	6
Humour	9 & 10

Greetings Brethren,

It's been a relatively quiet month in Port Vila with balmy weather, but tourism is picking up, major improvements are being made to the roads and drainage, and plans for the development of Bauerfield airport are being finalized.

It's Independence weekend—36th year.

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Membership e-mail address list

A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.

THE EMBLEMS OF FREEMASONRY

The First Degree—Part 3

The Mallet (Gavel)

In the hand of the Operative Mason, the Mallet is an important instrument of labour, and highly esteemed as an implement of art. Though recognised by various artists under different appellations, it is admitted by them all that no work of manual skill can be completed without it. From it the Freemason learns that labour is the lot of man, and that skill without exertion is of little avail, for the heart may conceive, and the hand devise in vain, if the hand be not prompt to execute the design. What the Mallet is to the workman, enlightened reason is to the passions; it curbs ambition, represses envy, moderates anger, and encourages good dispositions. Thus it represents the force of Conscience which should keep down all vain and unbecoming thoughts that may arise in our daily lives, so that our words and actions may ascend pure and unpolluted to the Throne of Grace.

The Chisel

The Chisel is a small instrument, but solid in its form and of such exquisite sharpness as fully to compensate for the diminutiveness of its size. It is calculated to make impression on the hardest substance, and the mightiest structures have been indebted to its aid. From it, the Freemason learns that perseverance is necessary to establish perfection, that the rude material can receive its fine polish but from repeated efforts alone, and that nothing short of indefatigable exertion can induce the habit of virtue, enlighten the mind, and purify the soul.

The Lodge

Having been admitted into the Order and taken his first steps towards the Light of Masonry, the Initiate may now be permitted to observe the Lodge, note its dimensions, have regard to its furniture, and make enquiry as to its emblems and ornaments. A Freemason's Lodge is in form a double cube and, some authorities say, rather cryptically, "is emblematical of the 'united powers of Darkness and Light.'" It is in length from E... to W.. In breadth from N... to S..., in depth from the surface of the earth to the centre, and as high as the heavens. It is represented as of this vast extent to show the universality of the science, that it embraces men of every creed and clime, and that a Freemason's charity should know no bounds save those of prudence. Lodges are situated due east and west for three special reasons, first, because the Sun, the Glory of the Lord, rises in the East and sets in the West; secondly, because Learning originated in the East and spread its benign influence to the West; and thirdly, because the Tabernacle erected by Moses in the wilderness was situated due East and West by the special command of God, and that in consequence all places of worship are, or should be, so situated.

The feature is taken from William Harvey's book, "The Emblems of Freemasonry" 1918.

RED APRONS

A sort of just-so-story produced on the occasion of the Installation of R.W. Bro. The Hon. EL Ballieu, A.G.M., by the R.W. Bro. G.L.O. Colenso-Jones, P.J.G.W., in the Grand Stewards Lodge, 18th January 1978.

When the Temple at Jerusalem had been completed, King Solomon ordered that a great Feast should be held, so that the brethren in all classes of workmen might have the opportunity to rejoice together at the successful culmination of their labours.

Accordingly, a stated day having been fixed for the Feast, preparations began to be made. It soon became obvious that they could not all sit down together, for the only dining-hall available was the House of the Forest of Lebanon which King Solomon had built between the Temple and the Palace, and this would only hold three hundred and thirty three.

As you are aware, a vast number of masons had been employed in the building, and so the following arrangements were made:

- the E.A.s were issued with a double ration of corn, wine and oil, and told to enjoy themselves as best they could.
- the F.C.s were summoned to the Middle Chamber and given double wages, and told to buy themselves a good dinner. the Menatschin or prefects were given a stand-up buffet lunch in marquees erected in the Palace garden.

This left just three hundred and thirty of the most senior Brethren to sit down in the Hall. They consisted mainly of Grand Officers, together with Provincial Officers representing each Province from Beersheba to Dan, and a number of J.G.R.s (Jerusalem Grand Rank).

The question then arose; who was going to serve the wine at this banquet? Normally, some of the junior brethren would have been recruited for this duty, but on this occasion they were all disporting themselves elsewhere and so some of the 330 would have to wait upon the others.

King Solomon therefore sent for Adoniram who was, as you are no doubt well aware, the general masonic odd-job-man in Jerusalem. (It doesn't matter what degree or Order you are in, Adoniram will be in there somewhere, ready to undertake any office at a moment's notice. You know the sort).

The King ordered Adoniram to select a couple of dozen of the 330 and to make them Grand Stewards; at the same time informing him that although the office of Grand Steward would always be the most junior office in Grand Lodge, yet in the days to come it would be such an honourable office that it would be sought after by the highest in the land.

Adoniram didn't believe this, but he accepted the task, and enquired how the Grand Stewards were to be distinguished; for, as he pointed out, when one's glass is empty, it is important to be able to identify the man who will fill it. And, of course at this time everyone was wearing white aprons to keep up the pretence of innocence.

King Solomon declared the Grand Stewards should be distinguished by a jewel appended to a white collar, and he summoned a skilful artist to design it, a certain Brother Garth (generally known as "Hoe" Garth because he was a bit of a rake).

Unfortunately the jewel designed by Brother Garth consisted of a combination of the jewels worn by the Principal Officers and this led to very great difficulties. The Feast had only been going for a few minutes before it became obvious that this system wouldn't work. Indeed, one Past Grand Warden, on his way to the door in order to restore himself to his personal comforts after the fish course, was accosted by a fairly junior brother at one end of the lower tables, who demanded of him a full bottle of wine, asking at the same time what he was expected to do with the empty one.

To his credit, be it said, the Past Grand Warden did not ignore the junior brother, but turned and told him exactly what he could do with his empty bottle, advice which, had it been taken, would have proved extremely uncomfortable, even if physically possible.

Certain of the more eminent of the brethren then went to King Solomon to acquaint him with the utter confusion into which they had been thrown. The King therefore stood up and observing Adoniram at a distance (and notice that, even at this early stage, Adoniram had already achieved that quality which has been found in wine-stewards ever since - the ability to be always "at a distance") - the King, observing him, beckoned him in the accustomed manner.

Adoniram was so flustered that he wondered if he ought to kneel. Then, thinking better of it, he decided that he ought to salute the King with the G. or R. Sign. Unfortunately, at that particular moment he happened to have a bottle of red wine in each hand. The consequences were inevitable: the glass shattered in fragments while the wine, like Aaron's precious ointment, ran from his head to his beard, and even to the skirts of his clothing.

There was a moment of deathly silence, and then one of the brethren cried: - "See, Adoniram has a red apron" while others, more animated, exclaimed:- "Lo, how it matcheth his face"! (Certain obstinate historians maintain that the words used here were actually; "Lo, how it matcheth his nose", but it is kinder to think that the authorised version is preferred at this point).

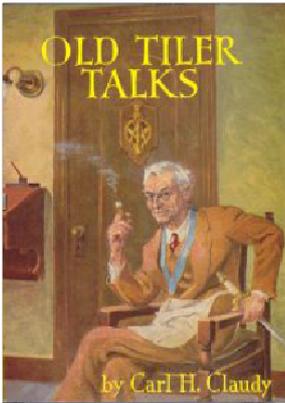
The King, ever mindful of the comforts of all his officers, soon put Adoniram at his ease: he called an immediate muster of all the Grand Stewards who were told to form a column in the North and turn half left. Each was then handed two bottles of red wine and, taking their time from the G.D.C., saluted the King with eleven.

Thus were the Grand Stewards first equipped with their red aprons? For several years the custom continued, and at the annual meeting of Grand Lodge, after the other officers had been invested, the Grand Stewards were lined up, handed bottles and instructed to salute. And then came the year when inflation pushed up the cost of wine to an unprecedented height. (I think that there had been a bad harvest of apes and peacocks in Ophir, or something). It was at that opportune moment that there came before the King three zealous and expert brethren by the names of Toye, Kenning and Spencer, who made a full confession that they had in their possession a large quantity of red ribbon which they were anxious to place at the King's disposal. (In actual fact they had been decorating chocolate boxes for an RMBI festival and had over-ordered).

From that time, therefore, red ribbon has been substituted for the genuine and original regalia. Perhaps the time has now come when we should revert to the ancient custom, especially now that the cost of ribbon greatly exceeds the price of the bottles of wine. (Though I am afraid that the tickets for the Grand Investiture would be in even greater demand than they are at present)~

Long may the Grand Stewards continue to enjoy their traditional privileges and custom, and the proud motto specially composed for them by King Solomon himself: "Aspectu meo quam mappa rubro, quia fortiter labore" which, being interpreted, is: 'If my face is as red as my apron, it is because I am working so hard'!

The Rev. Canon Richard Tydeman P G.C., O.S.M, P G.J.W., (Past Prestonian Lecturer)



Old Tiler Talks— THE DISLIKE PETITIONER

"I am much disturbed!" announced the New Brother to the Old Tiler.

"Tell me about it. I have oil for troubled waters. If your water on the brain is disturbed, maybe I can soothe it!"

"I doubt it! I heard the name of Bedford Jones-Smith read out in lodge tonight as a petitioner. I don't want Bedford here!"

"That's nothing to be disturbed about," answered the Old Tiler. "You have a vote, haven't you? If you don't want to wait until he comes up for ballot, go tell the committee what's the matter with him. "The Old Tiler leaned back in his chair as if the question was settled.

"There isn't anything the matter with him!" cried the New Brother. "If I could explain to the committee that Bedford was a rascal, or beat his wife or stole money, or had been in jail or something, it wouldn't be a problem. But so far as I know Bedford Jones-Smith is correct to the point of perfection. He is a thoroughly respectable man. I dislike him extremely. He rubs me the wrong way. I despise his unctuous manner; he shakes hands like a fish. I think he wears corsets, and he is the most perfect lady I know, but there isn't a thing against him legally, mentally, morally! The committee will find him 100 per cent Simon pure, and this lodge will receive the original nincompoop, the pluperfect essence of idiocy, and the superheterodyne of jackasses, as a member!" "Anything to stop you voting against him?" asked the Old Tiler. "It's your privilege to cast your little black cube in secrecy against any man you don't like."

"That's where the problem comes in! I know I can do it. I know that I don't have to let Bedford Jones-Smith into my Masonic home if I don't want him, any more than I have to let him into my everyday life. It's just because I *can* keep him out that I am troubled. If I do, I'll feel that I did a mean act. Yet I don't want that double-distilled ass in this lodge!"

"Suppose you dig a little deeper" suggested the Old Tiler. "Just *why* don't you want him?" "Because I don't like him!"

"And just why don't you like him?"

"Because he stands for everything, that I despise; he never plays games, he never works, and he never does anything except wear fashionable clothes, go to parties, and is an irreproachable escort for dumb Doras. He's not a man, he's a wearer of trousers!" "Sounds harmless" said the Old Tiler. "He can't pink tea here, can he? He certainly can't bring any dumb Doras to this lodge. We don't need any games played here, and we have so many men in lodge who never work at it that one more won't hurt

"But it will make me uncomfortable to have him around." "Then keep him out!"

"Oh, you exasperate me! I come for help, and you laugh at me. What shall I do?"

"Really want to know?" asked the Old Tiler, the smile fading from his face.

"I really do!"

"Then I'll tell you. Snap out of your conceited, selfish attitude. Get rid of the idea that your comfort, your feelings, your happiness are so important. Get hold of the thought that Masonry is so much bigger than you and Mr. Jones-Smith rolled up into one that together you are not a fly speck on its map, and separately you can't be seen! Try to imagine yourself a part of a great institution which works wonders with men and forget that you are so important!"

"By your own showing, nothing is the matter with this gentleman except that you don't like his ways and manner. Doubtless he doesn't like yours. To him you are probably a rough-neck, a golf-playing, poker-playing, automobile-driving, hard-working, labouring man. He might not want to join the lodge if he knew you were in it! He has different standards. That they are not yours, or mine, doesn't make him poor material for Masonry. The fact that he wants to be a Mason shows he has admirable qualities. That he is moral, and respectable, shows he has manhood. That his manners don't please you is no reason for keeping him out. To keep a man who wants them from the blessings of Masonry because of personal dislike is a crime against those teachings of toleration which Masonry offers you. Let him in. Try to help him. Try to show him there is something else in life beyond fripperies and foolishness. Maybe you can make a regular Mason out of him. But don't vote for him unless you are really prepared to take his hand and call him brother.

"Better let your conscience hurt you for being a snob than to have it hurt for being false to your obligation of brotherhood. Better realize you are a selfish and opinionated person than that you are a bad Mason, a forsworn member of the fraternity, a traitor to its principles, a . . ."

"For the love o' Mike, let up on me! I'll vote for the simp... for the man, I mean and try my best. Old Tiler, Masonry has such a lot to do to make *me* a regular man, I'm afraid I'll never learn!"

"You are getting there, son," observed the Old Tiler, smiling with satisfaction. "Not every young Mason will admit he is an idiot even when it's proved!"

Why are you a Mason?

I love being a Freemason for many reasons. Freemasonry has been the conduit through which I have received many of my life's great experiences. One of the superficial benefits of being a member of the Craft is that it tends to cloak you with a certain amount of mystery and intrigue in the eyes of some non-Masons. It feels good when someone on the street or at the bar, or wherever, notices your ring and asks, "Are you a Mason?" All Masons have at one time or another been in this situation and have tried to appear as humble as possible as they answer "Yes I am", all while desperately ignoring that internal voice that yells "I'm special, I'm special." That feeling of pride however will quickly abandon you if the non-Mason is inclined to continue his line of questioning beyond the realm of curiosity and into the sphere of general interest. That feeling of pride may even briefly turn into panic if the non-Mason asks you "Why are you a Mason?" At this point, for a terrifying moment, the Mason must rack

his brain for an answer that can somehow summarize the experiences of his life that lead him to the door of the Lodge and also an answer that can somehow express the many intellectual, emotional and even possible spiritual experiences he has received since becoming Initiated, Passed and Raised. This is no small task indeed.

Driven by curiosity

I believe many other Masons have shared my experience when I first joined the Craft. The reasons I joined and the reasons I stayed are very different. When I joined Freemasonry I was driven by curiosity, some vague preconceptions of the Order and a desire to be part of something bigger than myself. It appears as though my life had lead me in the direction of the Lodge without much conscious input from myself. Almost, as if somehow through my general interest and curiosity, I just happened to find myself outside the doors of the Lodge, nervously awaiting my initiation. From this fact, I suppose, the argument can be made that sometimes in life your path chooses you, or at least steers you in the direction that would most benefit you, if you are only smart enough to see it. Whether or not your destiny is pre-determined or entirely left up to chance, circumstance and blind luck cannot be known for sure but what is a concrete fact is that it is up to the individual to accept and to passionately pursue the opportunities that life presents.

An intense desire to learn

I found this to be the case with my Masonic journey. Once already a member for a short time my heart was filled with an intense desire to learn all I could from the Craft's beautiful system of symbols and rituals. I studied with feverish interest the philosophy and doctrines of all the great thinkers, reformers, mystics and visionaries who proudly called themselves Brother Freemasons.

Their higher spiritual pursuits

I believe the essence of Manly P. Hall's beautiful statement can be taken further still. Not only is mankind united in its desire to worship and understand the Divine, for all societies have formed systems to express their higher spiritual pursuits, but more commonly mankind is united in its daily, civil and common desires. No matter what position a man holds in society he yearns to be free and he desires Liberty for his loved ones and for himself.

Liberty in the form of freedom to do what he pleases, worship as he pleases and associate with whom he pleases, no matter what culture or traditional background a man comes from he wishes to be treated fairly and he desires Equality.

Lodge Birthdays

George Vasiliev	22
Sean Griffin	16
Rick Burns	8
Larry Dvoracko	6

News from the South

We are anticipating initiating a candidate next month which is good news and we hope that W. Bro. Brian Mott will be with us to give us his rendition of the Working Tools.

- Equality in the form of the protection of his right to exist as others exist. No matter what religion a man practices or associates with he wants to feel as though he is a member of the broader accepted community and he desires Fraternity.
- Fraternity in the form of support and brotherly love from his neighbours and fellow men. There exists a universal desire that spans the entire globe. This desire is man's want and need to be safe, protected, free and prosperous.

The Lodge is a place that aims to magnify the similarities of men, as opposed to the all too common practice in society of amplifying their differences. It is a place where those who would have remained strangers otherwise meet not only as equals but as Brothers. It is a place that teaches its students the lessons of universal brotherhood. When our time here is over we will then see for ourselves that all mankind truly are brothers of the dust.

It is a force for good in this world

The question still remains, "Why am I a Freemason?" I am a Freemason because I believe in its lessons and I believe in its philosophy. I am a Freemason because I believe it is a force for good in this world and that it has the power to make society better one man at a time. I am a Freemason because I believe that the ultimate goal of universal brotherhood is possible.

However, if I was asked by a non-Mason "Why are you a Mason?" I would most likely respond by saying,

"Because it is a great organization and I've gained much through my involvement with it".

"The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his Lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer.

He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth"

*By Bro. Edward Hartman, Ashlar Lodge No. 610 G.R.C. (London)
Winner of the 2016 Essay Competition 2016 of GL of Canada in the Province of Ontario.*



Bedroom golf

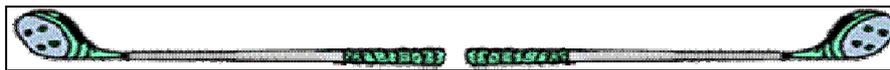
Here are the rules of the game.



1. Each player should furnish his own equipment for play - Men - one club and two balls.
2. Play on the course should be approved by the owner of the hole.
3. Unlike outdoor golf, the object is to get the club in the hole and keep the balls out.
4. For most effective play, the club should have a firm shaft. Course owners are permitted to check the shaft stiffness before play.
5. Course owners reserve the right to restrict club length to avoid damage to the hole.
6. The object of the game is to take as many strokes as necessary until the course owner is satisfied that play is complete. Failure to do so may result in being denied permission to play the course again.
7. It is considered bad form to begin playing the hole immediately upon arrival at the course. The experienced player will normally take time to admire the entire course with special attention to the well formed bunkers.
8. Players are cautioned not to mention other courses they have played, or are currently playing, to the owner of the course being played. Upset course owners have been known to damage player's equipment for this reason.
9. Players are encouraged to bring proper rain gear for their own protection.
10. Players should assure themselves that their match has been properly scheduled, particularly when a new course is being played for the first time. Previous players have been known to become irate if they discover someone else playing on what they considered to be a private course.
11. Players should not assume that a course is in shape for play at all times. Some players may be embarrassed if they find the course to be temporarily under repair. Players are advised to be extremely tactful in this situation. More advanced players will find alternative means of play when this is the case.

Humour

- 12. The course owner is responsible for manicuring and pruning any bush around the hole to allow for improved viewing of, alignment with, and approach to the hole.
- 13. Players are advised to obtain the course owner's permission before attempting to play the back nine.
- 14. Slow play is encouraged. However players should be prepared to proceed at a quicker pace, at least temporarily at the course owner's request.
- 15. It is considered outstanding performance, time permitting, to play the same hole several times in one match.
- 16. Should the course be closed for repairs and maintenance (normally once a month) The player can take the time and do some maintenance on his club by cleaning the shaft.



A man was in a long line at his local Tesco store. As he got to the register he realized he had forgotten to get condoms, so he asked the checkout girl if she could have some brought up to the register. She asked, 'What size condoms?' The customer replied that he didn't know. She asked him to drop his trousers. He did. She reached over the counter, grabbed hold of him and called over the intercom, 'One box of large condoms, Till 5.' The next man in line thought this was interesting, and like most of us, was up for a cheap thrill. When he got up to the register he told the checker that he too had forgotten to get condoms and asked if she could have some brought to the register for him. She asked him what size, and he stated that he didn't know. She asked him to drop his trousers. He did. She gave him a quick feel, picked up the intercom and said, 'One box of medium-sized condoms, Till 5.' A few customers back was this teenage boy. He thought what he had seen was way too cool. He had never had any type of sexual contact with a live female so he thought this was his chance. When he got to the till he told the checker he needed some condoms. She asked him what size and he said he didn't know. She asked him to drop his trousers and he did she reached over the counter, gave him a quick squeeze then picked up the intercom and said

You'll love this. 'Mop and bucket, Till 5'

Best way to get rid of kitchen odours: Eat out.
-Phyllis Diller

A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once.
-Phyllis Diller

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.
-Phyllis Diller

His finest hour lasted a minute and a half.
-Phyllis Diller