

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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Greetings Brethren,

This month I have included a very good address / lecture 'To a Freemason's Lady' - which is considered appropriate following our successful ladies evening and for those brethren who were unable to attend. You are encouraged to permit your wife or partner to read this to better understand our Fraternity.

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FORTITUDE

The final charge in the Initiation Ceremony recommends every new Brother to allow Fortitude to support him.

FORTITUDE may be described thus -

That noble and steady attitude of the soul which is equally distant from rashness and cowardice, it enables us to undergo pain, labour, danger or difficulty when thought to be necessary or deemed prudently expedient.

This virtue ought to be deeply marked on the breast of every Mason as a fence and security against any attempts which might be made either by threats or violence to extort from him any of those Masonic secrets he has so solemnly engaged himself to conceal and never improperly reveal the illegal revealing of which might prove a torment to his mind.

In the same way the Compasses could be emblematically a torment to his body when extended to his breast at the time of his Initiation.

In particular, certain symbolic trusts are reposed in brethren of the Masonic order, and the development of fortitude of mind is recommended to assist each member to avoid difficult situations and maintain an inviolable fidelity to all obligations which he has entered into.

The colour red is regarded universally as an emblem not only of faith and divine love but also of fortitude.



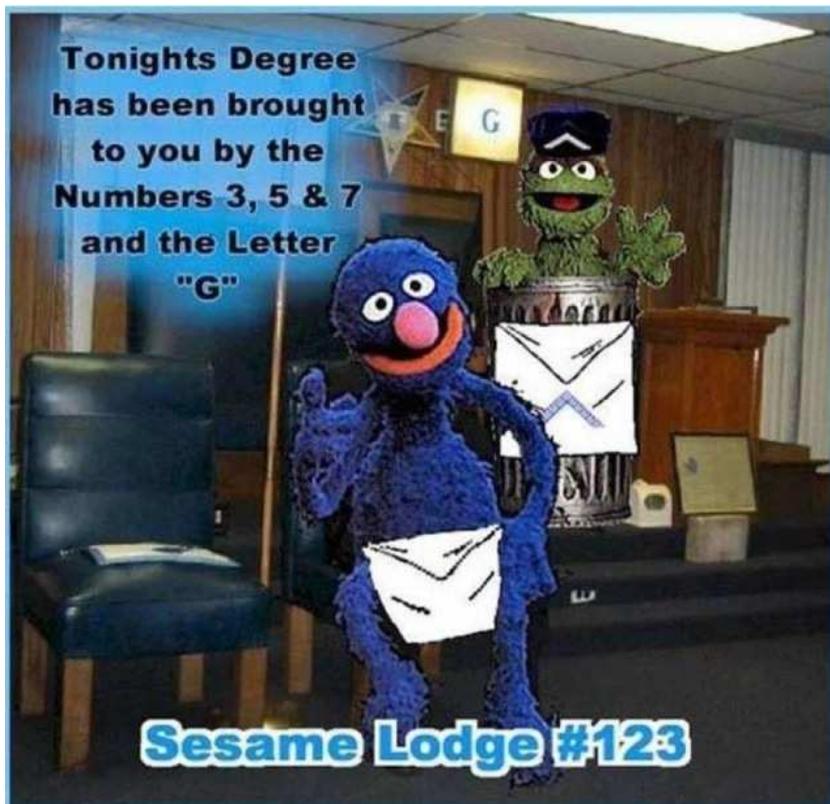
Xmas Greetings from the W.M. Officers & Brethren of the Lodge of Discovery



Membership e-mail address list

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





THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

We have all the Light we need, we just need to put it in practice.

A Leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

Lodge Birthdays

Alan Churchill	30
Peter Wilson	29
Geoff Richards	7

News from the South

On Tuesday 13th November we held a very successful Ladies evening at Lodge followed by a splendid dinner at the Warhorse Saloon—thanks to W. Bro. Don & Donna.

This month will be another 3rd Degree—this time for Bro. Dan Garrigan and, due to the W.M. travelling to the USA for the holidays, the ceremony will be conducted by W. Bro. B. Cain.

W. Bro. Keith Thomas has sent us an interesting account of how Lodges work in New South Wales—see Page 8.

THE APRON

The statement that the Apron is more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle is true because this emblem was worn by the Pharaohs and initiates in Ancient Egypt.



The format of the apron in those days was not identical with that which we wear in our Craft Lodges today, being triangular in shape with the apex uppermost, and having at each of the two lower corners a radiant face, representing the Sun—the solar symbol of the Deity.

The centre portion of the apron was adorned with a ladder-like column of diverse colours, supported on each side by two serpents. The serpent, from ancient times, has been regarded as the emblem of wisdom, and the triangle is the symbol of the spiritual conscience of man.

We can, therefore, be sure that from those far-off days the apron has been considered to be a badge of deep moral and spiritual significance, and as such, distinguishes the wearer as a man who loves his fellow as his Maker would wish him to do. Having regard for the values traditionally attached to the apron, we can say that there is no emblem in the world which confers a greater honour on a man than the Badge of a Mason.



The plain unadorned apron of the Entered Apprentice symbolizes the initiate's condition—that he has but little experience of Masonic principles, that he is as a new-

born infant. He is taught to shed worldly desire for spiritual values, and, hence, the plain white lambskin apron symbolises the innocence and purity of the inner man.



The adornment of the two rosettes, which signify the rank of a Fellowcraft, demonstrate that the aspirant has made some degree of progress along the path of enlightenment through a study of the liberal arts and sciences. Some Masonic authorities consider that they represent the symbol of the Blazing Star which is the source of light and life—the button representing the sun and the fluting of the ribbon depicting the rays of the solar orb.

The badge of the Master Mason having the additional rosette completes a triangular format. The blue riband—a celestial colour—symbolises devotion and meditation, while the addition of the silver tassels point out that, as a Master Mason, he has now acquired spiritual riches. This can be said so because silver, being a precious metal, has always been associated with the Soul, as gold is related to the Spirit. The metal serpent clasp completes the vestment, indicating that the newly-raised brother is clothed with Divine wisdom. There are many references in the Volume of the Sacred Law to the wearing of an apron, but probably the most beautiful and most meaningful is that contained in the Book of Numbers in the Old Testament wherein it is recorded that the Lord spake thus unto Moses—"Speak ye unto the children of Israel and bid them that they make fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put on the fringe of their borders a riband of blue; and it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it and remember the Commandments of the Lord and do them."



As the riband of blue was a reminder to the Israelites to live in accordance with God's law, so should our Masonic ribbon of blue be a reminder to us to be always mindful of our obligations to be faithful to God, to our country and to our laws. The celestial colour should also remind us that the out-pouring of brotherly love and consideration to our fellow man cause an enrichment of our lives and bring us to complete harmony with the Supreme Being.

Address to a Freemason's Lady

The following is directed towards all the ladies married to, or partners of, Freemasons. It is designed in order to give you a general explanation as to why we men are out each month and, at the same time, anticipating your future understanding as to why we go.

It has been said that God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer to her first question, so we shall try and answer the questions before they are asked.

THE MASON'S LADY

The man in your family is a member of the Masonic Fraternity. He is a Mason and you are now a Mason's lady. We are known as blue Lodges and we extend our greetings to you. While you personally have not joined our organisation, there are certain things that might be helpful for you to know in the future (if you haven't already worked them out or been informed otherwise) and at the same time, there are matters of general interest about your Mason and his Fraternity that we think you'd like to know.

WHEN AND WHERE DID MASONRY BEGIN?

The Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest and most widely known fraternal organisation in the world.

It has its roots in antiquity and is directly descended from the association of 'operative masons', the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages, who travelled through Europe employing the skills of their craft.

The organisation, as we know it today, began in 1717 in England, where the cathedral building was on the decline and the 'operative masons', or 'free masons' as they were known, started to accept members who were not members of the mason's craft, calling them 'speculative masons' or 'accepted masons'.

Freemasonry invariably exists in democracies for in democracy your vote counts. When democracy is threatened Freemasonry may have to go underground, concomitant with a rise in anti-Semitism. It did not exist under Russian communist rule and will not be found under strict Islamic regime.

Freemasonry was subsequently exported abroad to Europe and the USA. Throughout the world there are approximately 8 million Freemasons, of which nearly 3 million of them reside in the United States.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FREEMASONRY?

The basic purpose is to make 'better men out of good men', better fathers, better husbands, better brothers and better sons.

We try to place emphasis on the individual man by strengthening his character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook and broadening his mental horizons.

We try to build a better world. It is an approach to life and living, by building better men to work in our communities. It teaches moral lessons and self-knowledge through participation in a progression of allegorical two-part plays, which should be learnt by heart and performed within each lodge.

For many years Freemasons have followed three great principles:

Brotherly Love—Every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow creatures.

Relief—Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

Truth—Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives. We believe that these principles represent a way of achieving higher standards in life.

MEMBERSHIP

Only adult males, 18 years of age or older, who fulfil recognized qualifications, of which a belief in a Supreme Being is essential, together with appropriate standards of character and reputation, may be accepted for membership.

IS FREEMASONRY A SECRET ORGANISATION OR RELIGION?

The answer is simply NO. A secret organisation is one which conceals its membership, has secret meeting places and of which the public has little knowledge regarding its organisation or its principles.

This does not fit the Masonic Fraternity at all. Yes, our meetings are private occasions open only to members. The meeting place and halls used by Freemasons are readily identifiable. There is no secret about any of its aims or principles. Indeed we are encouraged to speak openly about our membership, while remembering that we undertake not to use it for our own or anyone else's advancement.

Like many other societies, it regards some of its internal affairs as private matters for its members; yet the rules and aims of Freemasonry are available to the public.

Our secrets are very few in number and deal with methods of personal recognition, some details of our degrees and the privacy of each member's ballot. Indeed many of these 'secrets' are readily available today on the internet. We all have secrets, like the pin number with which you need to access your bank account—nothing to be ashamed of.

Freemasonry is not a religion, although it is religious in character. It has no theology and does not teach any route to salvation.

Every applicant for the degrees in Freemasonry must express a belief and trust in a Supreme Being, as aforementioned. Masonry does not take place of religion, but stresses personal commitment, and involvement in the individual's faith community.

Every lodge meeting is opened and closed with a prayer. Its ceremonies reflect the essential truths and moral teachings common to many of the world's great religions. However, no discussion of religion is permitted in lodge meetings.

The Masonic fraternity encourages every member to attend and support the religion of his own choice.

WHAT ARE THE DEGREES?

Lessons in Masonry are taught in 3 separate stages or degrees in our Masonic Lodges. The degrees, in order are Entered Apprentice (First Degree), Fellow Craft (Second Degree) and Master Mason (Third Degree). Each degree blends Masonic moral philosophy in a unique lesson that is

intended to have a serious impact and influence on the man who receives it. As a fraternity, having joined, he is now known as a brother.

WHAT ARE MASONIC APRONS AND GLOVES?

An apron was worn by Operative Masons to protect themselves from rough stones and tools. Presently, it is a badge of fraternal distinction. During his first degree, each Mason is given a plain white leather apron; it represents the white lambskin, a symbol of innocence. The leather apron, in some places, at his passing, is worn in death as an eternal symbol of hope.

In some Lodges your Mason received 2 pairs of white gloves, one of which was for the lady he held most dear in his heart. Some only have one pair but he should tell his wife and family where he keeps his gloves and apron, for, in times of severe distress, it is quite in order for a lady to present herself to the Almoner, or any senior brother of the Lodge, bearing the gloves or apron, requesting assistance, which we are honour bound to acknowledge. (See also Page 3)

WHAT DO MASONIC SYMBOLS MEAN?

The most widely recognized symbol of the Fraternity is the Square and Compasses with the letter 'G' in the centre. Members wear it to remind themselves of their obligation to the lessons learned in their Lodges, and to identify their membership to other Masons and some represent the need for order and direction in life. The letter 'G' represents Geometry and just happens to be the initial of God, in the English language, the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

WHEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

Lodges meet in regular monthly sessions and on such other days as are necessary to conduct its business and ritualistic work. Although every Mason's attendance is earnestly solicited, it is not intended that a Lodge should interfere with one's regular vocation or duty to family, God, or country. Your Mason has invested time and money in joining our Fraternity. He can best receive all that he should by frequently participating in its deliberations and events. We hope that you will approve and encourage him to attend regularly, and we also hope, that you, too, will join us whenever possible for the guest activities at the Lodge.

SHOULD I CONTACT ANYONE WHEN MY MASON IS ILL OR HOSPITALISED?

In the event a brother becomes ill, his Lodge would certainly appreciate knowing. You may call the Master, Wardens or the Almoner of the Lodge. Your Mason has joined an organisation which wants to assist him and you when in need, but we occasionally need your help to be able to do that.

WHAT CAN YOUR INVOLVEMENT BE?

Countless opportunities abound through active participation and membership in any of the numerous Masonic-related ladies' organizations, especially abroad. You are encouraged to share in the many social activities, parties, dinners, civic events and charitable efforts of the Lodge. Non-Masonic friends and families may also take part in many Masonic programmes. We hope now that you will be even more proud that your man has chosen to become a member of the world's oldest and best fraternity and we, your men, welcome you as one of 'The Masons' Ladies.'

With acknowledgement to

Pietre-Stones Review of Freemasonry

DNA of the Craft

Brethren hope you find this interesting, from a friend of the Library whose is a PGM in Minnesota,

I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason 45 years ago. I have spent more than two-thirds of my life trying to understand the essence of Freemasonry. At first I was overwhelmed by the mystery of it all. Then I felt that the ritual was what separated us from every other fraternal organisation and that was why it has lasted so long. I then went through a phase when I thought that our charities were what held us together. I then came to the conclusion that the Craft's success comes from the fact that it has room for every man with integrity. My opinion changed and changed.

I sought further input from other orders. I became more confused than ever. I studied our history as well as our philosophies. I explored our place in society's network and wondered what we, as a fraternity, want to achieve and how we could achieve it.

Along my journey I have been privileged to meet many Brethren who were in the same pursuit. They too were seeking the essence of the Craft. They too had changed their opinions throughout the years. I have now come to perhaps my final conclusions and I feel that I have served my love for the fraternity long enough to be able to state my opinion. Here are my conclusions.....

The real reason for us to prosper is brotherhood. The glue that binds us together consists of two things. The first is the fact that we investigate each applicant as to integrity with no other judgments. The second is our obligations in the 3rd degree and with those obligations of the five points that obligate us to each other. These allow us to instantly trust each other and bring us together. I believe that this trust makes us better men if only through the concept of "group think".

I'm convinced that our ritual, our charities, our histories, and our philosophies help us bind ourselves together, but they fall short of being the true answer. What really matters is that we meet with other Brethren who we can truly trust because of every Brother's promises.

True Masonry is at the individual blue lodge level. Here is where Masonic trust is not only enjoyed, but also practiced. This I believe.

M. W. Bro Neil Neddermeyer is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, Past President of the Minnesota News Council, and Past Chair of the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America.

HOW ANOTHER LODGE WORKS

Some news from W. Bro. Keith Thomas

Worshipful Brother Keith Thomas has been doing the rounds of Lodges in his home state of New South Wales and has penned his observations about Lodge Sutherland—a Lodge he may well join.

Keith's observations have been printed in this issue to highlight the fact that as Masons we all strive to the same end—but there are different ways of getting there. The following comments detail how Lodge Sutherland differs from the Lodge of Discovery:

6 November 2012

"Well, I visited my first Lodge in Australia last night and I was very well received and made to feel immediately at home. My credentials were taken without question, or proof, from the letter of good standing and my regalia, which all of them were curious about, especially as the Past Masters here do not wear a collar unless they are an office bearer.

Also, down here, only the Grand Lodge officers wear gloves in the Lodge so, although I was not asked to remove mine, I did not wear them as I did not want to stand out any more than I already did. I passed greetings from our WM and Brethren and was then asked to clarify our number 8737; the Lodges here don't appear to have numbers, so I had to get up and explain that, as an English Constitution Lodge we were numbers by the total number of EC Lodges on the planet.

The Lodge I visited was Lodge Sutherland. Five Lodges in total use the Lodge rooms here, which are quite grand, about 3 times the size of ours and furnished in a very comfortable fashion, no wonder many Masons fall asleep, the chairs are almost like armchairs.

Some of the ritual differences include; only the first 2 verses of the Opening Ode are song—oh, they have an organist as well—they do not have any Risings to close the Lodge and they do not sing the Closing Ode, just a hymn at the conclusion before the WM and his entourage parade out of the Lodge. They do not place their hand over the heart when the IPM / DC opens the VSL, but do it, with thumb up, when the IPM recites a little story, all of which I did not catch, but there was a reference to a grandmother in the somewhere, which I did not quite understand. The Tracing Boards are in the middle of the Lodge between the Tiled pavement and the SW chair mounted in an enclosed pedestal with a Lewis on the top. Two pillars have recently been installed at either side of the entrance to the Lodge but there is not yet a canopy over the top.

Tonight, Lodge Como is conducting a double Initiation, it was supposed to be a triple, but one of the candidates is unwell. The VSL is on its own pedestal on the working floor between the WM chair and the Tiled Pavement with a kneeling stool around the base which could easily accommodate half a dozen kneeling candidates.

They have a Brother who, like Jock, makes much of the furniture items – the Working Tools cabinet has to be seen to be believed; a wooden pedestal with the Square and Compasses in relief on the top with small boxes forming the border below numbered 1, 2 and 3, which contain the relevant working tools.

Continued/

Anyway, I have been invited back tonight, as the guest of the Lodge Sutherland WM to attend the Lodge Como meeting, and will be attending. It was suggested by some of the Past Masters, last night, that I attend all 5 Lodges before deciding which one I would like to apply for membership.

There is supper, and drinks, served after Lodge. The supper is prepared in the Lodge kitchen by a little old lady who was probably there when the building was erected. Simple fare last night; sliced corn beef with salad followed by fruit salad and ice cream. As numbers were low last night, in the South, the dining was very simple and someone suggested they would forego the toasts, until I suggested that we should at least toast the Queen, which we did. The Tyler's toast was given at around 9.15, and we all went home—there is beer and soft drinks with the meal, but no open bar—well, that was last night, tonight may be a different matter entirely, so I am very much looking to another new experience.

7 November 2012

Actually, the WM of the Lodge last night is very friendly and only just Installed last month. The other Lodges will have to do very well to make me want to go elsewhere, but that remains to be seen.

Oh, I forgot to mention, the WM was not clapped into the Festive Board, and they sit when saying Grace.

Yes, the differences make everything very interesting.

Editor's Note: Thanks Keith for an informative account



Famous Freemasons – Part 15

Sir Alec Rose - was a nursery owner and fruit merchant in England who had a passion for amateur single-handed sailing, for which he was ultimately knighted. Alec Rose was born in Canterbury. During World War II he served in the Royal Navy as a diesel mechanic on a convoy escort, HMS Leith. In 1964, Rose participated in the second single-handed transatlantic race, placing fourth across the line in his 36 foot cutter Lively Lady, originally built of paduak by Mr. Cambridge, the previous owner, in Calcutta.

Rose then modified the boat, including the addition of a mizzenmast, to sail single-handed around the world. He attempted to start this journey at approximately the same time as Francis Chichester sailing Gypsy Moth IV in 1966, but a series of misfortunes delayed Rose's departure until the following year. The journey was closely followed by the British and international press, and culminated in his successful return in Portsmouth on 4 July 1968, 354 days later, to cheering crowds of hundreds of thousands. The following day he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, and nine days later he turned 60 years old. His voyages are detailed in his book "My Lively Lady". In addition he wrote a children's version called "Around the world with Lively Lady" (1968) and further book titled "My favourite tales of the sea" (1969). Sir Alec died aged 82 in 1991.

Colonel Harland Sanders - Fried chicken magnate, his Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets are found world-wide. He perfected his Original Recipe of 11 secret herbs and spices in 1939. When he died in 1980, his body laid in state in the Rotunda of the Kentucky State Capital.

Telly Savalas - Actor who became famous as the bald police detective who was strong on the outside but gentle inside - and always had a lollypop in his mouth.

Walter M. Schirra - Made a "Mason at Sight" by the Grand Master of Masons of Florida, he carried several Masonic items with him on his Apollo 7 flight and was the command pilot on the history-making Gemini 6 flight which made a rendezvous with the already orbiting Gemini 7 spacecraft, the first rendezvous of two manned, manoeuvrable spacecraft.

Capt Robert Falcon Scott, RN (1868 - 1912) was a Royal Navy officer and explorer who led two expeditions to the Antarctic regions: the Discovery Expedition, 1901–04, and the ill-fated Terra Nova Expedition, 1910–13. During this second venture, Scott led a party of five which reached the South Pole on 17 January 1912, only to find that they had been preceded by Roald Amundsen's Norwegian expedition. On their return journey, Scott and his four comrades all perished from a combination of exhaustion, starvation and extreme cold.

Sir Walter Scott (1771 - 1832) was a Scottish historical novelist, playwright, and poet, popular throughout much of the world during his time. Scott was the first English-language author to have a truly international career in his lifetime, with many contemporary readers in Europe, Australia, and North America. His novels and poetry are still read, and many of his works remain classics of both English-language literature and of Scottish literature. Famous titles include Ivanhoe, Rob Roy, The Lady of The Lake, Waverley, The Heart of Midlothian and The Bride of Lammermoor. Saint David Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh.

Joseph E. Seagram - Canadian distiller and founder of the famous brand of products that bear his name. Grand River Lodge No. 151, Kitchener, ON

Humour

A blind man walks into a bar and whilst being served, asks whether anyone would mind him telling a "blonde" joke.

The woman behind the bar replied, "Well, you can tell a blonde joke in here but bear in mind I am blonde, my partner over there is blonde, the woman sitting next to you is the County mud wrestling champion and is blonde, the woman sitting the other side of you is a karate instructor and she's blonde and the woman who's just walked in has just been let out for murder and she's blonde too. So do you think you really want to tell a blonde joke?"

"No," said the blind man, "not if I am going to have to repeat the punchline five times."

Harold was an old man. He was sick and in hospital. There was one young nurse who just drove him crazy. Every time she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronising tone of voice, "And how are we doing this morning?" or "Are we ready for a bath?" or even more infuriatingly, "are we hungry?"

Old Harold had had enough of this particular nurse. One day, Old Harold had breakfast, pulled the juice off the tray and put it on his bedside stand. He had been given a urine bottle to fill for testing. The juice was apple juice. So.....you know where the juice went!

The nurse came in a little later, picked up the urine bottle, looked at it and remarked, "My, but it seems we are a little cloudy today."

At this, Old Harold snatched the bottle out of her hand, popped off the top and drank it down, saying, "Well, I'll run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time."

The nurse fainted.....! Old Harold just smiled contentedly!

A chap sits down in a cafe and asks for a hot chilli. The waitress explains that the man sitting next to him had got the last bowl. The chap looks over and sees that the man has finished his meal but the chilli bowl was still full.

The chap asks, "Are you going to eat that?"

The man replied, "No, help yourself."

He takes the chilli and starts to eat it. Half way down, his fork hits something and the chap sees a dead mouse in the chili. He pukes the chilli back into the bowl.

The other man says, " That's about as far as I got too."

Why do Masons wear aprons?

To cover their working tools.