

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

In this Issue

So You Want to Start Giving Charges	2
Ritual	4
September Quiz Answers	5
Did You Know?	6
Appeal of Masonry	7
Old Tiler Talk	8
October Quiz	10
Freemasonry is....	11
Humour	12

Greetings Brethren,

I am indebted to the Craft Masonry Education Website for all Freemasons in New Zealand for some interesting articles this month.

Editor:

W. Bro. Alan Churchill PGStB

P.O. Box 235

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Tel: 678 55 64486

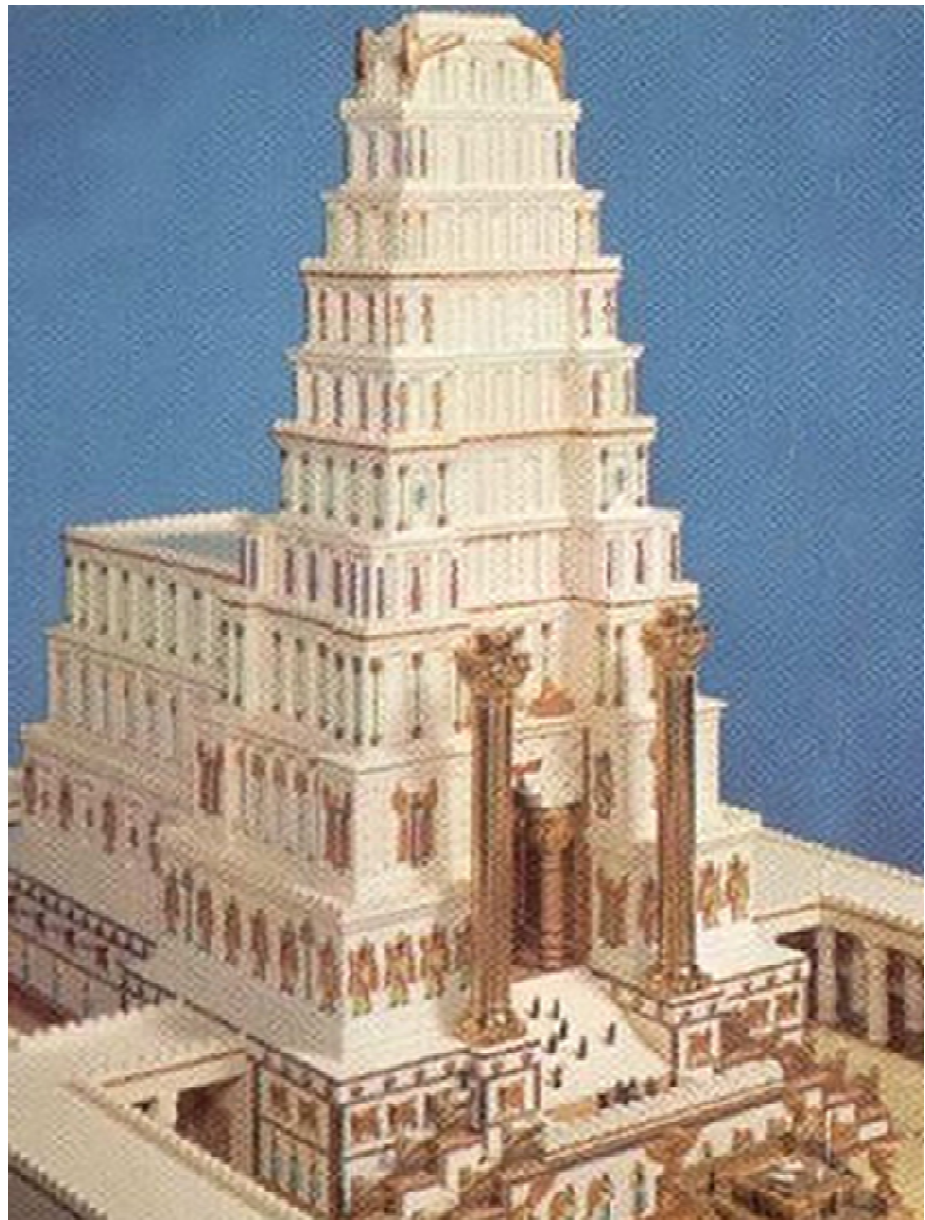
achurchill@vanuatu.com.vu

www.LOD8737.org

KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Membership e-mail address list

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



So You Want to Start Giving Charges?

***Editor's note:** Brethren, I thought it timely with a number of members soon to be ready to give charges to offer you some thoughts on how best to prepare for this essential work in our Lodge. The Lodge of Discovery has, traditionally, encouraged brethren to share the workload. Some brethren may not have been in a position to learn pages of prose and to deliver them in open lodge. The following articles offer good advice in giving charges. Enjoy!*

by W. Bro Richard Illingworth Director of Ceremonies Westminster Lodge No. 308 - June 2016

- Want to contribute?
- Want to make a "Daily Advancement"?
- Unsure how to learn?
- Not sure whether you can?

If you have been recently initiated, passed or raised, or have the time, making the decision to learn a charge is the first step (!)

I recommend you consider doing this:

You could peruse your Ritual book and find a charge that you like and learn that, or talk to your DC or Master and let them know you want to be given some work, hopefully for an upcoming degree working.

Begin by reading the charge allocated to you, a couple of times, morning and night for a few days, and think about the message in the charge.

- What parts are important?
- Find the stepping stones
- Write them down as a précis
- Look for a pattern of words (as you delve further into the Ritual you should discover that "Masonic words" are written in a certain order. Note that in this ritual and you will find you have learnt their pattern already)

Now try this:

- With your précis as a reference, speak *out loud* to an imaginary person what the charge is saying; see how far you get without referring to the Ritual.
- If you stumble, that's ok, but check the book and try again.
- Break it up into paragraphs and gradually you can move from saying a story to saying the ritual Words, remembering the starting words for each of your paragraphs
- If it all falls into place then that great, but if it doesn't then read small segments and fit it together gradually.
- The key is understanding what the message is telling you.

So the big day comes and the time arrives to deliver the Ritual. You may be nervous. Remember we have all been in this position, and we all know there is a difference between talking to a mirror and a lodge room of people.

If you deliver "Word perfect" then congratulations, if you don't then, don't worry, that's what the prompt is for, just get back on the horse.

Moving forward, being a regular attendee and visiting other Lodges is a good way to learn ritual... by immersion, and familiarity.

Giving Charges - Part 2

by V.W.Bro George Allan G Lec Chair of Masonic Education Pillar

This article is the second in a series about learning ritual from the Blue Book. It builds on the excellent start given by W. Bro Richard Illingworth in his article above.

Richard gave good advice when he said to read many times the passage you want to learn. Learning is part hard work and part state-of-mind. On the state-of-mind side, if you think you will succeed you are probably right and you will probably succeed. On the other hand, if you think you will not succeed you are also probably right there as well and you will probably fail. So, when learning your ritual get yourself into a good state-of-mind before the hard work. Tell yourself that you will do this, you will learn and deliver well, you will succeed.

Make no mistake, learning ritual properly takes a long time and is hard work. Notice the word "**properly**". Anyone can make a quick attempt at learning ritual at the last minute but often the result in Lodge is a stumbling performance that requires continual prompting. You must allow yourself time to learn ritual, lots of time, a lot more than you would ever imagine to start with. I allow weeks or even months to learn my Masonic ritual. Those who are currently Junior and Senior Wardens would do well to start learning the Master's work in all three degrees now.

Proper planning produces professional performance. An alternative is - poor planning produces poor performance to learn a charge is a good step towards improving your understanding of Masonry.

Following W. Bro Illingworth's advice we recommend that you take the following steps:

Step 1. Find a charge your Ritual book that you would like to learn.

Step 2. Read the words from beginning to end several times each morning and night for several days and think about the message in those words. Understanding the message is important because you will eventually speak those words with their message to a Candidate and it has to be meaningful to that Candidate. If you don't understand the message nor will he.

Step 3. Think about which parts are important and look for patterns in the words - for instance, in the Obligations you see phrases go in threes - Antient, Free and Accepted; lawfully constituted, regularly assembled and properly dedicated; he, conceal and never reveal. Make a note of the patterns and learn them.

Step 4. Look at the rhythm of the words and learn the rhythm, for instance, "any part or parts, point or points, of the secrets and mysteries, of or belonging to". Say these to yourself over and over and over again until you cannot forget them.

Step 5. Memorise a few words at a time and speak those words out loud to yourself in a mirror.

Step 6. Repeat this several times until you are confident and then add the next few words and repeat the exercise again and again in front of your mirror. Each time see how far you get without referring to the Ritual. If you stumble - just check the book and try again. Break it up into paragraphs, I photocopy a paragraph and keep it in my pocket to say over to myself when out for a walk or working in the garden.

Step 7. A good tip is to really memorise the starting words for each of your paragraphs. Gradually you can move from saying the ritual Words to telling the story. The key is understanding what the message is. Remember that you will be speaking to a Candidate and he is hearing the story for the first time.

Remember this - it is never too late to start learning - BUT it is always too early to give up.

Editor's Note: When you first do a charge you will inevitably deliver it at warp factor ten. Try to slow it down and concentrate on imparting the meaning of the words themselves. A point worth making is that the more times you do a charge the better will be the delivery. Also, bear in mind that it is not just the candidate who is receiving the charge but the delivery should be loud enough for all in the temple to hear and thereby you will receive the plaudits of your fellow brethren. Good luck!!

RITUAL

The ritual of Craft Freemasonry comprises the form of opening and closing of lodges, of initiating, passing and raising candidates in the three basic degrees, and of conducting the other special ceremonies of the order such as Installations, Consecrations and Dedications.

There is no uniformity of ritual throughout world jurisdictions. While the fundamentals are the same, ritualistic differences exist in relation to phraseology used and in the matter of varying degrees of emphasis placed on particular facets of the Masonic message. This is not surprising having regard for the fact that the ritual developed in early days in various areas on a completely oral tradition without any form of centralized or organized control.

The matter of non-uniformity of ritual is well explained by Mackey when he said, "The treachery of memory, the weakness of judgment, and the fertility of imagination, will lead men to forget, to diminish, to augment, the parts of any system which is not prescribed within certain limits by a written rule."

Although the development of Masonic ritual is shrouded in some degree of mystery, it seems that it has a close association with the old charges of operative masonry and the catechisms of early speculative brethren.

While today's rituals are written in the language of the early 19th century, it is not believed generally that there would be anything to be gained by any attempt at modernization.

In some constitutions, printed rituals are still banned. In some, the ritual is in plain language with gaps. Others are presented in a code form showing the first two letters of every word, with some in a one-letter code; others show the two or three main consonants of each word.



SEPTEMBER ANSWERS



1. After the WM has asked members to assist him in opening the Lodge, how many knocks will be heard when opening in the first degree?
Nineteen if the IG opens the door to see that the Lodge is properly tyled but does not knock, twenty-one if he knocks and gets a response from the Tyler.
2. The words in the ritual tell us that fit and proper persons to be made Masons have to be 'just'. If you were talking to a non-mason how would you describe being *just*? **Acting in accordance with what is morally right. This is a great word to start a discussion with other Masons.**
3. The blindfold is used as a symbol of being in a state of darkness and to teach you what? **That the heart must conceive before the eye can be permitted to discover**
4. When investing a newly-made Mason with the distinguishing badge of an EA he is told it is more ancient than what two things? **Golden Fleece & Roman Eagle**
5. More honourable than what two things?
The Garter and any other Order in existence
6. Being the badge of what two things?
Innocence and the Bond of Friendship
7. The newly-made EA is entrusted to wear this badge with pleasure to himself and which two other things?
Usefulness to the Craft & Honour to the Lodge in which you have been initiated
8. After being invested with the badge of an EA the candidate is told of two kinds of preparation, internal and external. Internally he was prepared in his heart by what two things? **By a favourable opinion preconceived of the Institution & a sincere wish to be a member**
9. During the 1st degree prayer we ask TGAOTU to endue the Candidate with a competency of Divine wisdom to do what? **Unfold the beauties of true godliness.**
10. The ritual tells us that Masonry is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue – what does each of these principles mean in modern life? **Piety means dutiful, devout; not boastful virtue means justice, fortitude, temperance, prudence**

With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Knowledge Website New Zealand

DID YOU KNOW?

Question: Why is it un-Masonic to disclose how one has balloted?

Answer: In all Grand jurisdictions the ballot on candidates is secret and inviolable. It is considered un-Masonic, and in most Grand Jurisdictions is against Masonic law, for any brother to divulge how he has balloted or will ballot on any candidate.

Masters are instructed strictly to adhere to this requirement. Peace and harmony are the foundations of all Masonic meetings.

For Brother A to learn that Brother B has balloted or will ballot against his friend would disrupt that peace and harmony.

The rejection of a candidate is a blow to him who has applied. If everyone knew who had cast the black ball, the rejected man might speedily learn, and cause of friction in the profane world would then have come out of a Masonic Lodge.

A ballot is sometimes immediately retaken, because the appearance of a single black ball may be an error; the ball may have been cast by mistake. If the single black ball appears the second time! Presumably it was intentionally cast.

Ballots differ in different Jurisdictions. In some, a "collective ballot" may be taken on several candidates at once; if a black ball appears, each name is then balloted on separately. In others, a "multiple ballot box" is used, with a separate compartment for each name, which is printed above it.

In still others, each name is balloted on separately from the beginning.

In most Grand Jurisdictions, one ballot elects to all three degrees. In some, a separate ballot is taken for each degree, and in one, at least, still another ballot on "moral qualifications."

But in all Grand Jurisdictions, ballots are secret, inviolable, and regarded as a cornerstone on which the fraternity is erected.



APPEAL OF MASONRY

After we have taken our first regular step we find in the Masonic Ritual many elements that are pleasing, and fill us with a strange wonder and satisfaction, leading us never to forget the bow which we drew at the venture.

The stately old-world phrases, the dignity and harmony of movement, of colour and of euphony, gratify the senses and the minds of men wearied by the stress and distractions of worldly affairs. The broad, homely philosophy of life, the simple declaration of brotherhood, the ethic of fidelity and friendship, truth without dogma, religion without sect, reverence without sacrifice of dignity, love without sentimentality; all these are important elements contributing each its quota to the appeal of Masonry in the heart of the Mason.

The joy of relaxing to the congenial atmosphere of the fraternity, the opportunity to put away the armour which must be worn on the battlefields of the world outside the Lodge, the free exchange of brotherliness, without fear of misunderstanding or of rebuff, these are valuable elements in the appeal of Masonry.

It is a fact which cannot be gainsaid that there is scarcely a man or woman, and certainly not a child, who does not harbour a secret love of ritual. Instances of this are to be found in the way in which the general public clings to such institutions as the Life Guards, with their quaint costumes and trappings, Lord Mayor's processions, the wigs of the law courts and so forth.

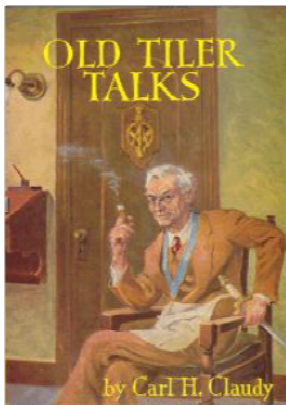
This then, is undoubtedly one of the principal appeals which Masonry makes to most of its initiates. In the outer world of today there is so much turmoil, hurry, bustle and unseemliness, so much pushing, self-assertion and personal advertisement, so little consideration for the feelings of others, so little true dignity, restraint, or courtesy springing spontaneously from the overflowings of kindly hearts, that it is exceedingly pleasant to enter the totally different atmosphere of a Lodge, where dignity and order are found in place of the undignified turmoil to which we are so accustomed in the outer world.

It is a wonderful tonic for nerves strained by the tension of ordinary life to come into the precincts of a Masonic Lodge, where all is quiet, orderly and peaceful.

Where every officer and every brother has his allotted place and his prescribed duty: where none encroaches on another, where, once the cast of the drama is selected and appointed, all cooperate in willingness and harmony to perform the ceremonies in such a way as to create an atmosphere which shall, some day, characterise even the outer world, when men shall cease their quarrels, shall learn the lesson of faithful brotherhood, and shall co-operate with the Supreme Will in evolution to order all things beautifully, strongly and wisely.

These are the words of Bro. Major Arthur E Powell in his book *The Magic of Freemasonry* published in 1924 by The Baskerville Press.

V. W. Bro. Robert Taylor.



Old Tiler Talks— LEARNING THE WORK

"It seems to me," began the New Brother, offering a cigar to the Old Tiler, "that we make unnecessary demands on a candidate."

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "Such as what, for instance?"

"A candidate who has received the Entered Apprentice degree must perfect himself in it before he gets his Fellowcraft. After he is a Fellowcraft he must learn that ritual before he can become a Master Mason. I can see the reason why all brethren must understand them and be able to tell about degrees, but I don't see why we must learn word for word and letter for letter. Last meeting we turned back a young fellow because he had not learned his Entered Apprentice degree. If he didn't learn it because he didn't want to he wasn't worth having, but it seems he just couldn't. Refusing him was an injustice. He's only one-third a Mason, and not likely to get any farther."

"You sure think of a lot of things Masonic to find fault with!" countered the Old Tiler. "But we would get along faster if you didn't mix your questions."

"How do you mean, mix them?"

"In one breath you want to know why Masonry requires learning degrees by heart, and don't I think it was an injustice to a certain young fellow because we wouldn't admit him to full membership when he couldn't or didn't, only you don't think it an injustice but a righteousness if he could and didn't. You agree that one of the safeguards of Masonry which keep it pure is what we call the ancient landmarks?"

"I agree."

"And you know one of the landmarks is that Masonry is secret?"

"Of course."

"If we printed the work would it be secret?"

"Certainly not. But you don't have to print it."

"No? But if we can't print it and won't learn it, how are we to give it to our sons?"

"Oh!" The New Brother saw a great light. "We all learn the work and so know when mistakes are made and correct them in the workers, and our sons hear the same work we did and learn it and transmit it. But wouldn't it be enough if only a few men learned the work- those well qualified and with good memories? How would that do?"

"It is good Masonry and good Americanism that the majority rules. Masonry is not a despotism but a democracy. If a favored few were the custodians of the work would not the favored few soon become the rulers of Masonry, just as the favored few have always ruled the lazy, the ignorant, and the stupid?"

"If that happened we'd just put them out of office."

"And put in men who didn't know the work? Then what becomes of your landmark?"

"You are too many for me," laughed the New Brother. "I guess there is a reason why we have to learn the work. But I still think we might make an occasional exception when a man just can't memorize."

"If you read the Bible, you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. One bad egg will spoil an omelette. The man who won't learn is not fit to be a Mason, since he is not willing to tread the path all his brethren have trod. The man who can't learn the work hasn't control enough of his brain to enable him to appreciate Masonic blessings. This is no question of education. A brother of this lodge has had so little education that he barely reads and write. His grammar is fearful and his knowledge of science so full of things that are not so that it is funny when it isn't pathetic. But he is a good Mason for all that, and bright as a dollar at learning the work. It's only the stupid, the lazy, the indifferent and dull-witted, the selfish and foolish man who can't learn or won't learn Masonry. They add nothing to it; it is better they are kept out. To make an exception merely would be to leaven our lump with sour leaven."

"But, Old Tiler, many who learned it once have forgotten it now."

"Of course they have! You can't do a quadratic equation or tell me the principle cities in Greenland, or bound Poland, or do a Latin declination. You learned it and forgot it. But you had the mental training. If I told you a quadratic was worked with an adding machine, that Poland was in china, or that hocus-pocus meant Caesar's lives, you'd know I was wrong. Same way with ritual; leaning it is Masonic training, and though we often forget it we never lose it entirely, and through the whole of us it is preserved to posterity."

"Oh, all right! I learned mine, anyway. Have another cigar, won't you?"

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "You have learned rather well, I'll admit, that I like your cigars!"





OCTOBER QUIZ



1. Name two of the immovable jewels of the Lodge.
2. Freemasonry is supposed to imprint on our hearts three sacred dictates, what are they?
3. The four corners of the flooring represent the four cardinal virtues ? name them.
4. Explain any two of them to yourself in the mirror? This will surprise you and make you smile.
5. Name two pieces of the Ritual furniture of the Lodge.
6. You should all know yourselves to be Masons by the regularity of your initiation, what does this mean in modern life?
7. You demonstrate the proof of being a Mason by signs, tokens and the perfect points of your entrance. The signs are all squares, levels and perpendiculars so how should this be used in modern life to demonstrate you being a Mason?
8. Name the perfect points of your entrance.
9. When closing the Lodge in the first degree how many knocks are heard?
10. What is the last word spoken and who speaks it when closing the Lodge at the end of a Masonic meeting? [Read this question very carefully before answering].

With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Knowledge Website New Zealand

Lodge Birthdays

Rex Kersley	21
Ian Martin	18 (HM)
Bryan Death	10
Andrew Hibgame	8
Mike Piggott	5
Greg Walton	3

News from the South

W. Bros. Andrew Hibgame and James Kluck have been exalted as companions in Royal Arch Masonry at a convocation in Auckland. This is an important step in the formation of a Royal Arch Masonry Chapter in Port Vila.



freemasonry is

Kindness in the home
Honesty in business
Courtesy in society
Fairness in work
Pity and concern for the
unfortunate
Resistance towards the wicked
Help for the weak
Trust for the strong
Forgiveness for the penitent
Love for one another -and -above -all
Reverence and love for God
Freemasonry is many things -
But most of all -
Freemasonry is a way of life.



Humour

Masonic Elephant

- Q. What do you get if you cross a Freemason with an elephant?
A. An overweight Brother who never forgets his ritual charges.

Masonic Knock-Knock

- Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Candy.
Candy who?
Candy date for Freemasonry.

Masonic Light Bulb No.1

- Q. How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?
A. No one knows. It's a secret.

Masonic Light Bulb No.2

- Q. How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?
A. CHANGE?

Masonic Policeman

- Q. What did the police officer say to the Brother caught speeding home from Lodge?
A. I shall now direct your attention to a charge.

Masonic Terrorists

- Q. Why is Freemasonry a suspected terrorist organisation?
A. Because the Square and Compasses are weapons of maths instruction.

Masonic Thermometer

- Q. Why did the Cowan break open the thermometer?
A. To discover the secrets of the degrees.

Non-Masonic Light Bulb

- Q. How many Cowans does it take to change a light bulb?
A. None. They are in eternal darkness.

Password

- Q. Why do you need a password to enter a Masonic Lodge?
A. Because they don't sell tickets.

Past Masters and Politicians

- Q. What's the difference between Past Masters and politicians?
A. Politicians want to change things.

Rhinoceros

- Q. What's the difference between a Freemason and a rhinoceros?
A. Well, if you can't tell them apart you wouldn't make a very good Tyler.