



Grand Lodge Bulletin

M.W. Bro. W. J. COLLETT, Editor

ANNIVERSARIES

An anniversary of the Constitution and Consecration of a Masonic Lodge is always an important event. Some Lodges celebrate this occasion every year. Others choose to mark milestone years like the twenty-fifth, fiftieth, sixtieth and seventy-fifth. The M.W. the Grand Master appreciates invitations to anniversaries and especially attempts to be present at fiftieth and seventy-fifth celebrations. Any Lodge wishing to invite the Grand Master should be sure to write to the Grand Lodge Office where the Grand Secretary keeps his schedule. It is certain that the Grand Master, if he cannot attend, will request some Grand Lodge Officer to represent him. Only the Grand Master can send someone to take his place so it is important to send the invitation in lots of time.

Anniversaries should be a truly masonic occasion and care should be taken to make them just that. Lodges that have an annual event call it by various names — Birthday Night, Annual Reunion and so forth. The night is one reserved for the Lodge and where masonic brotherhood and fraternity prevail. Many Lodges make a special effort to get the older members out and put much planning in doing this even to providing transportation for some. Perhaps there may be a dinner with a masonic talk and plenty of time left for recalling old times and renewing friendships. One memorable night recently was when a Lodge had no set program but called on a number of older members to re-call their memories of their Lodge.

Anniversaries such as the Fiftieth and Seventy-fifth are more formal celebrations with a Lodge Meeting during which a Service of Thanksgiving is held and a good message brought.

It is a mark of the inroads of secularism into some of our Lodges when an Anniversary becomes less than a Masonic gathering. Indeed with the social events and dances that are held in some places one would be hard pressed to know that it was an Anniversary of the Constitution and Consecration of a Masonic Lodge. There have been reports that some anniversaries have deteriorated so badly that the only indication of what the event marks is the handing out of some favours inscribed with the reason for the celebration. Obviously this is not truly a Masonic Anniversary but just an excuse for an additional social gathering.

The establishment of a Masonic Lodge is called a consecration when the charter members are reminded of the basic landmarks and tenets of the order. Emphasis is placed on the need to keep these essential principles inviolate. Committees preparing Anniversary Programs would do well to read again the ceremony of Institution and the ceremony of Constitution and Consecration. There should be no doubt that the Anniversary should emphasize and revive the basics that are stated in those ceremonies. What other reason is there for the celebration of an Anniversary?

The impelling need of the Masonic Order today is for it to return to masonry as it was conceived by the founding fore-fathers. There is no better way to do this than to have a sincere masonic gathering. It is a sad comment on the state of the order when someone says that attendance would be very poor if this is what were done at an anniversary celebration. Decidedly it is less than correct to invite the Grand Master to an Anniversary and, because of the arrangements, make it impossible for him to speak to his brethren on a fundamental masonic subject.

WHERE TO FIND THE TIME YOU NEED

Time is the inexplicable raw material of everything. With it, all is possible; without it, nothing. The supply of time is truly a daily miracle, an affair genuinely astonishing when one examines it.

You wake up in the morning, and lo! your purse is magically filled with twenty-four hours of the unmanufactured tissue of the universe of your life. It is yours . . . No one can take it from you . . . And no one receives either more or less than you receive . . .

You have to live on this twenty-four hours of daily time. Out of it you have to spin health, pleasure, money, content, respect, and the evolution of your immortal soul. Its right use, its most effective use, is a matter of the highest urgency and the most thrilling actuality. All depends on that. Your happiness — the elusive prize that you are all clutching for, my friends! — depends on that.

If you cannot arrange that an income of twenty-four hours a day shall exactly cover all proper items of expenditure, one does muddle one's whole life indefinitely . . .

We never shall have any more time. We have, and we have always had, all the time there is.

Arnold Bennett

RESPONSIBILITIES

Written by W. Bro. T. CROCKETT
(Jasper Lodge No. 14)

Upon the altar, in the centre of the lodge room, while the brethren are at work, lies the volume of the Sacred Law. It tells us that approximately 4,000 years ago one of our Grand Masters came down from Mt. Sinai with certain principles graven on tablets of stone. These principles, entitled "The Ten Commandments" set out guidelines for the children of Israel, and since then for all mankind, to follow. Call these principles, guidelines, obligations or what you will, but to me they are RESPONSIBILITIES which, from that time forward have been the lot of man regardless of color, creed or nationality and will continue to be so until time shall be no more.

There is nothing enduring in this world but God and his laws. The flowers fade, the grass withers, the leaves fall, men come and go passing out of sight forever, but the great architect of the universe will endure for ever as will his laws which it is every man's responsibility to keep inviolate.

The sun which shone upon our cradles will shine upon our graves. The grand cities, temples and obelisks that were intended to immortalize their buildings have nearly all been gnawed asunder by the teeth of time, but God's laws, which it is every man's responsibility to observe, are living yet and will live on for evermore.

I must admit that I have not fulfilled all the responsibilities nor achieved all the goals I once had in mind. To me there can be nothing more tragic in this life than for a man to feel he has achieved all his goals and carried out all of his responsibilities. Man was never meant to be so easily satisfied that there remains no difficulties to overcome, no more hills to climb, no horizon beyond yesterday's setting sun. Throughout his lifetime as he climbs the ladder of success he will find he has to take on more and more responsibilities.

I am reminded of certain lines in Shakespeare's "As You Like It" when he says "All the World's a stage and all the men and women merely players — They have their exits and their entrances and one man in his time plays many parts — His acts being seven ages." He outlines these ages as follows: — first the infant who naturally at that time has no responsibilities of its own but whose birth brings many responsibilities to its parents. Then the whining schoolboy followed by the lover, the soldier, the justice, the age of the lean and slippered pantaloons, and finally second childhood and mere oblivion. Each step along life's pathway, each age brings with it additional responsibilities Shakespeare could very well have added an eighth age — the time a man becomes a Free Mason.

From the moment a candidate learns his first obligation his personal responsibilities increase a hundred fold. Take a few moments and read over the obligations and charges which are brought to bear

upon him before he becomes a Master Mason. All these are worthwhile but naturally bring more responsibilities to the newly raised brother.

So now we present to him his apron and certificate which he is undoubtedly proud of, but where now? Where does he go from here? Once, when speaking of the bible, Bobby Richardson, a New York Yankee baseball player, and a great competitor on the baseball field said: — "Put a man in a baseball suit, give him a glove, a ball and a bat, but that won't make him a star, nor will all the practice in the world get some people into the major leagues." Something else is needed. It is also true, he said, "If you put a man in church and give him a hymnbook and bible it will not make him a Christian — singing all the hymns in the book will not do that or even reading the bible from cover to cover". Similarly going through the three degrees of Masonry and attending lodge regularly will not make a man a true Mason. Again I say something more is needed and Free Masonry has that something which, if the lodge carries out its responsibilities will make the newly raised Master Mason a far better man than he was when he first entered the lodge.

If the Master Mason carries out his responsibilities and shows ability he may be elected or appointed to an office in lodge. He might carry on until he is installed as Worshipful Master. But as he travels through the chairs he takes upon himself further responsibilities and even if he becomes a Past Master his responsibilities are far from over. As a Past Master he has the responsibility to act as a powerful beacon light to guide human feet along the stormy path of life.

Brethren, ever since our order came into being Free Masons have been in positions of responsibility. They have helped to shape history and as true Masons whatever they undertook to do, whether in their respective callings or in their public life they expressed the ideals that were inculcated in the lodge.

Life glows with infinite possibilities open to all of us who believe in our great order and it is our responsibility to maintain its honor and help fulfill its obligations.

Brethren it is the personal responsibility of every Mason to practice tolerance, charity, and brotherly love and to obey the moral laws which form the very foundation of our order and above all let us never fail to discharge our duty (responsibility) towards HIM with fervency and zeal.

THE MASONIC HIGHER EDUCATION BURSARY FUND

Donations to this fund will be accepted until the end of the Financial Year on April 30th. Brethren who have not yet made their annual donations are asked to do so promptly. The number of bursaries that can be allocated this year depends on the amount of money received. Contributions to date are near that of last year but the need is urgent.

MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP
APRIL 29th, 30th, MAY 1st, 1977

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

Chairman — H. C. E. Prager (101)

School No. 1 — **For Past Masters and those Past Masters who might wish to serve in some Grand Lodge Office.** All Past Master are invited to attend.

School No. 2 — **Structure and Responsibilities of Standing and Special Committees.** The lectures will consist of comprehensive discussions on the structure and purpose of all committees including General Purpose, Investigation, Benevolence etc.

School No. 3 — **Planning Lodge Activities.** This school an in depth study of protocol and proper procedure. Its relevant effectiveness at business meetings and related functions.

School No. 4 — **History and Development of the Craft.** This school is of great interest to many brethren and similar lectures on this subject have been successfully given in the past. The development of our philosophical precepts as well as the establishment of organization in its present form will be discussed in detail.

School No. 5 — **School for Secretaries.** All Secretaries are invited to attend this school dealing with the proper record keeping, filing of proper forms and returns, preparing Lodge Notices, writing minutes etc.

You will note from the February issue of your Bulletin that there will be two periods of Schools of Instruction. One Saturday morning at 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. and Saturday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

THE MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

The Banff Centre (School of Fine Arts) will host the Masonic Spring Workshop on April 29th, 30th and May 1st. Registration forms have been mailed with Lodge Notices and accommodation will be allocated on a first come basis so registrations should be made early. Indications are that another record attendance is likely. The theme of the Workshop is "Walking Tall". Accommodation is still available but there is need for prompt action in registering.

ANNUAL BURNS NIGHTS

Many Lodges took the opportunity to observe the 218th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns during the month of January. Crescent Lodge No. 87 was one of the number. At the dinner Bro. the Rev. J. L. Pottruff offered the Selkirk Grace and W. Bro. Archie Dunlop gave the Burns' address to the Haggis. The address to the "Immortal Memory" was given by Mr. W. H. H. Young. W. Bro. J. Hildebrandt, the Worshipful Master of Carstairs Lodge No. 20 replied to the toasts to "Brithers A".

THE LAMBSKIN . . .

It is not ornamental, the cost is not great,
 There are other things more useful, yet truly I state,
 To of all my possessions, there's none can compare,
 With the white leathern apron, which all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,
 When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent

On shaving and dressing and looking just right,
 Until Mother would say: "It's the Masons tonight."

And some winter nights she said: "What makes you go.

Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,
 You see the same things every month of the year."
 Then Dad would reply "Yes, I know it my dear."

"Forty years have I seen the same things, it is true.
 And though they are old, they always seem new,
 For the hand that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,
 Seem a little bit closer, each time that we meet."

Years later I stood at that very same door,
 With good men and true who had entered before,
 I knelt at the altar, and there I was taught
 That virtue and honor can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,
 If worthily worn grows more precious each year,
 That service to others brings blessings untold,
 That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.

I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,
 That enmities fade 'neath the compass and square,
 That wealth and position are all thrust aside.
 As there on the level men meet and abide.

So, honor the lambskin, may it always remain
 Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,
 And when we are called to the Great Father's love,
 May we all take our place in the Lodge up above.

By Bro. Edgar Guest.

From the Lodge Notice of Lodge Renfrew No. 134

A LONG WAIT IN DUTCH LODGE

The candidates in a Dutch Lodge must wait for 18 months after making a petition before the investigation is completed and the petition comes for ballot. "When the ceremony of the first degree is over, the candidate receives a pair of white gloves and an apron. He also receives a pair of white gloves for a lady. They are to be given only to the woman having his highest esteem."

"For a year the new Brother gets instructions nearly every week, and, after an examination he gets his second degree. Again a year of instruction follows. The Brother is again judged, and when the results are according to the aims of Masonry, he then becomes a Master Mason." There you have it, Brother. Three and a half years have passed since his petition was presented.

From Lodge Notice of Eureka Lodge No. 10

KENILWORTH LODGE NO. 29

The December meeting of Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 was the occasion of its annual Moose Supper. It was important for another reason because W. Bro. Fred Turnbull, Senior Past Master of Kenilworth presented a new altar cloth for the use of the three lodges that use the Red Deer Lodge Hall — Kenilworth No. 29, Red Deer No. 12 and Beacon No. 190.

The guest speaker at the gathering was M.W. Bro. George R. Sterling P.G.M. who paid a glowing tribute to W. Bro. Turnbull. Bro. Turnbull has played an important role in the community and masonic life of Red Deer for more than sixty six years. In 1967 the late M.W. Bro. P. Galbraith, P.G.M., presented to Bro. Turnbull a sixty year bar for his Fifty Year Jewel and his Fifty Year Past Master's Certificate. He was initiated into Kenilworth Lodge in January 1909 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1916 and 1917 and is the first member to achieve a record of sixty-six years membership in that Lodge.

M.W. Bro. Sterling in paying tribute to him said, "In W. Bro. Turnbull you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life; who is pious without hypocrisy; benevolent without trying to impress others and who aids his fellowmen without self-interest; whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open for licensed pleasure and who in change of circumstances does not despair".

**MASTER'S REMARKS IN THE JANUARY
LODGE NOTICE OF YORK LODGE NO. 119**

W. Bro. G. M. LIND W.M.

5977 A. L. Happy Masonic New Year to all the Brothers in the Districts and the world over!

In the past, there was some confusion over the origin of the term "A. L." (defined as Anno Lucis — the year of light). However, this has now been generally accepted by the "symbolic degree" Masons to mean the date since the creation of the world by TGAOTU.

The coming year, 5977 A. L. has been calculated by assuming that Jesus Christ was born 4,000 years after the creation of the world, and, upon adding the "profane" year to this figure, the result is the year 5977.

We, as Masons, by no means suppose that Masonry is as old as the creation of the world. We only use this figure to pay homage and give reverence to TGAOTU for the physical light created by Him and symbolically, to the intellectual light created within a body of Masons. By this light we are able to see things with greater clarity and better understanding, as well as to see better the way to build our personal "temple".

Again, to you all, much health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year. May you continue down the road of life in peace and harmony.

HOW TRUE!

Oh, yes, we are all Craftsmen and very proud to be;
We wear our pins and rings for everyone to see.
But let us pose the question, even though the thought
may sting—
Would you know me for a Mason, if you did not see the
ring?
Show me true tenets of our ancient hallowed Creed.
Not just on coat and finger, but by words and deeds.
There's one thing to remember, if I've learned my
lessons well.
My deeds do more convincing than my finger or lapel.

Anse Cates

"Masons are brethren by a double tie; and among them, as brothers, no invidious distinctions exist; merit being always respect, and honor rendered to whom it is due . . . a king, in the Lodge, is reminded that although a crown may adorn the head, or a sceptre the hand, the blood in the veins is derived from the common parent of mankind, and is no better than that of the meanest subject . . . As virtue is true nobility, and Wisdom is the channel by which Virtue is directed and conveyed; Wisdom and Virtue, only, mark distinction among Masons."

—William Preston, 1772
Illustrations of Masonry

DID YOU KNOW?

Many Irish Lodges owned "Lodge chests" in which the warrant, paraphernalia, jewels, minutes and records were kept, as well as money for charitable purposes. Each of the three principal officers had a key to one of the three different locks on the chests, necessitating the presence of all three officers at every meeting.

MYSTIC TIE LODGE NO. 188

The Secretary of this Lodge reports gleefully that all brethren had paid their 1976 dues by December 21st, 1976. He regards this as a record. The Secretary R.W. Bro. W. F. Newman, who is also District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 12 also gives this word of advice — "New Year's resolutions are like antiques, the longer you keep them the more valuable they become".

PRAYER

An ancient prayer found in Chester Cathedral contained these words of wisdom, which could have been written specifically for Freemasons:

"Give me a good digestion, Lord
and also something to digest;
Give me a healthy body, Lord
with sense to keep it at its best;
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
To keep the good and pure in sight,
which seeing sin, is not appalled
But finds a way to set it right;
Give me a sense of humour, Lord
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk."