



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 54, No. 10

Editor, R.W. Bro. Norman J. Senn

December 1989

Christmas Message — 1989

God, the Creator and Great A.O.T.U. gave to the world, through an unselfish act of kindness, the gift of His Son. That gift of God nearly two thousand years ago was a significant event and one which conveyed the concern of the Great A.O.T.U. for the closer unity and love that should exist among all mankind - an event which would or should draw all people together in a bond of peace. But has it? We have grown so accustomed to what is really the 'central event' of Christmas that we hardly give it a thought. In our modern society millions of us tend to look upon Christmas only as a time of family reunions, and turkey, and presents, and a tree lit up and loaded; and for some of us it means snow and cold, while for others in different parts of the world it means heat and sadly for those in countries suffering from drought, it means hunger.

To some of us there may be passing allusions on Christmas cards to "peace on earth and good will among men", but it amounts to little. And the angels and all those things which form part of the decorations mean little more than Father Christmas and the reindeer. But all these are the trappings - good fun, but

trappings none the less. I am talking about the central event of Christmas - and it is this which so easily gets forgotten; it is this to which we so easily get accustomed and about which we get blasé.

God's gift to the world was His Son because He loved the world so much and from this we, His children, ought to learn that the greatest gift we can give, i.e. love, bears no scarlet ribbon but it will surely ring a Christmas bell in the heart of the recipient. It can bring security to a child; it can give reassurance to an older person; it can give hope to those who live in the outposts of our society. It is worth a thousand tinselled packages. The greatest gift of all is love expressed in an unselfish act of human kindness. It is only through love that is born of God that human relationships can be lifted to a level of brotherhood and peace. All things work together for good to those who love.

And so, my brethren, you are all wished a joyous and loving Christmas, and a healthful and happy New Year.

V.W.Bro. The Rev. Canon W.R.(Bert) McQuaid
Grand Chaplain

From the Notices

Christmas is a Delight

Christmas is a delight of hearing
sleigh bells on a snowy night.
It's the delight of discovering again
the roundness of a wreath,
the tapering of a tree.

Christmas is the delight of unwrapping
treasured ornaments and seeing in them
the joys of other Christmases.
It's the delight of reading,
"A Visit from St. Nicholas"
to a child for the first time.

Christmas is the delight of loving
and being loved in return,
not for gifts tied with bows
but for gifts of the spirit
offered with an open heart
every day of the year.

Masonic Trivia

50 years ago, Clark Gable made movie history with the production of "Gone With The Wind" (can it really be that long ago?). Gable was raised a Master Mason on October 31, 1935 in Beverly Hill Lodge No. 528. Bro. Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., a member of that Lodge, was also present that evening.

Brooks Lodge No. 73
November 15, 1988

Saskatchewan Lodge's New Year's Levee

This annual event will be held as usual at the Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. on January 1, 1990.

All Masons and their wife, family and friends in the area are invited to attend and join the lodge members and the Grand Master in celebrating another New Year.

The Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Rituals Delayed

The Grand Lodge Finance Committee is currently reviewing the choice of printers for the new Canadian Rite Ritual.. Information as to its availability will be printed in a future bulletin.

Correction

At the request of R.W. Bro. Donald Millar, President of the Board of General Purposes, the following correction should be noted: The June 1989 Grand Lodge Bulletin stated that the Proceedings would revert to verbatim reporting of the business of Grand Lodge. This was in error and it should have stated, "the Proceedings will continue to record business as at present."

Proposed Revised Constitution

A Special Committee (SP) has been working on a complete revision of the Constitution. This is now completed and each Lodge should receive two copies.

The revisions have been:

- splitting the existing Constitution into two parts — 1. Constitution and 2. Regulations.
- changing general format.
- changing the numbering system.
- revising, deleting and adding content.

It is essential that all Masons in the Jurisdiction become involved in the acceptance process. Lodges should discuss the proposal which is set up in such a way that existing and proposed material can easily be compared. The Masons in the Lodge can then direct the officers on how to vote for the Lodge. Past Masters should carefully consider all aspects of the proposal so they can vote appropriately.

The motion for acceptance will be proposed at the June 1990 Grand Lodge Communication and all Masons present should be prepared to play their part in any Constitutional changes.

Think About It

Suppose every Mason did what you do.

Suppose every Mason thought as you do.

Suppose every Mason attended meetings with the regularity you do.

Suppose every Mason served on as many committees as you do.

Suppose every Mason sponsored candidates as often as you do.

Suppose every Mason supported his Lodge as you do.

Suppose every Mason was as friendly, thoughtful, and considerate as you are.

Suppose every Mason was as dependable, conscientious, and enthusiastic as you are.

Suppose every Mason had as few, or as many excuses as you do.

Suppose every Mason followed your example - what kind of organization would we have?

Think about it.

Quebec Masonic Journal

Vol. 2: Summer 1989

Don't Knock Even Once

A strange admonition to a Masonic Brother you may say. But we are talking about knocking, not knocking-allegorically speaking.

It is so easy to knock the efforts of a Brother or a Degree team or a Lodge. It is also conduct unbecoming a Freemason.

You may be right that a poor effort has been made or an unsatisfactory performance has been achieved in some endeavour. But remember always the Masonic way of addressing the situation. Judge with candour, admonish with firmness and reprehend with mercy. Sound familiar?

If you have criticism always couch it in positive and encouraging terms. If you can help, offer to do so, but do not be condescending or demeaning. And remember, it is not always what is said, but often the tone of voice that can hurt so badly.

Remember the Charge

"...and by doing unto them as in similar cases you would have them do unto you."

The Freemasons

Vol. 107: Fall 1988

Question of the Month

Why are the four Cardinal Virtues represented by four tassels hanging in the corners of the Lodge?

Bro. Tom Mitchell

St. Marks No. 118

Answer to October's Question

The question asked "How many times a J.G.W. should receive Grand Honours if he was already a P.D.D.G.M.?" The reason for the question is that a J.G.W. receives five Grand Honours whereas a P.D.D.G.M. receives seven.

The answer is five. This is because, when a Grand Lodge officer visits any Lodge in his current term of office, the Lodge gives Honours to the OFFICE and not to the individual.

"...At the Gate of the Year"

Few passages in English literature evoke such a sense of hope, courage and assurance as those spoken by King George VI for the closing lines of his Empire broadcast on that dark Christmas Day of 1939, when little else than faith and fortitude formed the principal bulwark against near-overwhelming forces in the early months of the Second World War. "I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year," were words imprinted on the minds of all who listened to the King's sombre, yet confidence-inspiring address.

The passage quoted by King George VI formed the opening lines of a poem titled *God Knows* and composed more than 30 years earlier by a Bristol woman, Miss Minnie Louise Haskins — then living in Crowborough, Sussex. The full text of this poem is:

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the
Gate of the year: "Give me a light that I
May tread safely into the unknown"
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your
Hand into the hand of God. That shall be to
You better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth and finding the hand of
God, trod gladly into the night. And He led
Me towards the hills and the breaking of
Day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
What need our little life,
Our human life, to know
If God hath comprehension?
In all the daily strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature: In Him
All time hath full provision.

Then rest; until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.

Miss Haskins, born at Warmley, on the outskirts of Bristol in May 1875, published this poem in 1908 in a privately printed booklet entitled *The Desert* which was a small anthology of this and other poems she had composed. Leaving Warmley House, which today bears a plaque commemorating her life and work, Miss Haskins became a lecturer in social sciences at the London School of Economics but, often, she returned to her birthplace.

Now a residential home for the elderly, it was once a handsome family home with tree-lined driveway, bearing cast-iron lamp-posts on either side. The inspiration for her famous words come as she stood at the window of an upstairs room one dark evening at the turn of the century, gazing up the drive-way towards the main road. The bright lights of the lamps illumined the path: But what, she may have wondered, would bring light to one's personal walk through life?

Exhaustive inquiries, pressed by Royal aides over several years, discovered that a Bristol clergyman, Dr. Richard Glover, had heard Miss Haskins familiar lines spoken at a meeting in 1914 and forthwith requested that they be sent to him by postcard. Dr. Glover's daughters, some twenty years later, discovered the card among his papers and had the lines printed on a private Christmas card in 1938. A year later King George VI was sent a copy and subsequently incorporated them into his Christmas message. Frequently reprinted and widely-known, Miss Haskins' poem and especially its opening lines are today, no less inspiring and hopeful than when they were written to express the wonderment of their author. Nor can one hear the words today without associating them with King George VI as he aimed at reassuring a deeply troubled world in the dark, dread days of 1939. Miss Haskins, who wrote several novels as well, retired in 1944 and died in 1957 at Tunbridge Wells. Her legacy, her most famous lines, live on as an immortal message of hope, confidence and encouragement to all who seek to catch a glimpse of what the future may hold for each.

Edward Connaught
This England

Vol. 18 No. 4, Winter 1985

Glimpses of Masonic History

During the great Indian Mutiny of 1857 — if not the greatest, surely one of the bloodiest in recorded history — thousands of Indian soldiers rose up against their British rulers.

Among the many deep-rooted causes was the belief that the Sepoys would be forced to bite their rifle cartridges prior to loading — cartridges that were allegedly greased with pig and cow fat. This was anathema both to Hindus and Moslems. There was also the fear that this was to be followed up by a forced conversion to Christianity and posting to overseas service. The Indian soldiers rose to kill or drive out their foreign rulers with their foreign ideas.

The residents of station after station were ruthlessly slaughtered. At a place called Bareilly, the Commander, Brigadier Hugh Sibbald, had his spine shattered from a bullet fired by his own orderly. His troops prepared to leave for Delhi by looting seven hundred carts of treasure. Nothing seemed sacred. They then gutted every single building — except the *Freemason's Lodge*! This was spared.

Why was this structure left untouched? The explanation was that "strange mysteries were transacted there; a man might forfeit his luck by so much as laying a finger on it."

That was the image in the eyes of the rebelling Sepoys. How would our Lodges fare today in a similar upheaval?

Proceedings of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980.

Mountain Top Lodge

On September 9, 1989, 67 Brethren left the Cascade Lodge at Banff at 12:30 p.m. heading for Sunshine Village by bus. From the Village they took the chair lift to the summit, arriving at 7,200 feet above sea level about 2:15. They then walked about a quarter mile to the Standish Platform.

Lodge was opened under Dispensation and the Fellowcraft Degree was conferred on Bro. Charlie McCullagh in full form.

Lodge was closed at 4:00 p.m. and the Brethren returned to Banff where an excellent B.B.Q. was enjoyed by them, their wives and friends. Eighty-two people were in attendance and a substantial weight of steer was eaten! During the evening, a miniature gold-plated column was presented to M.W. Bro. Stan Mottershead, G.M., in memory of this most enjoyable event.

The W.M., Bro. V.P. Schneidmiller, has asked for any comments on this event to be sent to him at Box 1974, Banff, Ab T0L 0C0.



Lodge at Standish Summit Platform, September 9, 1989.

Charity — A Key Theme in Japan

The Tokyo Masonic Association (T.M.A.) is a corporate body formed for charitable purposes and registered with the Japanese Government. It is governed by a Board of Trustees for which Tokyo Masonic Lodge No. 2 and The Scottish Rite Bodies each designate three members. The act of endowment clearly states the purpose of the T.M.A.: "The object of this association shall be to promote, encourage and practise the true teachings of Charity and Benevolence, to assist the feeble, guide the blind, raise the downtrodden, shelter the orphan, support the Government, respect the principles and revere the ordinances of religion, inculcate morality, protect chastity, promote learning, love man, fear God and implore His mercy and hope for happiness." To accomplish these objectives, the T.M.A. maintains premises, conducts charitable activities, and contributes relief funds to those suffering from natural disasters in addition to those who exist in less fortunate circumstances.

The guiding principle behind the charitable activities of the T.M.A. is to help those who cannot help themselves. Using this criteria it has provided assistance to a number of projects that include, an annual charity carnival for orphans, a Braille library, an annual athletic meeting for the handicapped, assistance for Indo-Chinese refugees, vocational training and lodging for homeless youth, assistance for hospital projects and two programs dealing with eye banks and donations. These programs support the obtaining of donors as well as the collection of eyes and their preservation prior to use. In addition, there are programs designed to help those with alcohol and drug problems with emphasis on prevention and recovery.

From Zaidan Hojin
Tokyo Masonic Association
1-3, Shibakoen 4-chome
Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105
Japan

Mistakes Corrected

Chief Mountain Lodge No. 58 published the following in its notice. All too often these items are only found out by correction after error. How wise to inform Brethren clearly of the Lodge guidelines:

The Loyal Toast, commonly known as "The Toast to the Queen and the Craft" should be drunk after the toast has been proposed, with all brothers standing. It is not correct to touch (clink) glasses for "The Queen and the Craft."

At the banquet table after the meeting, it is imperative that should you be required to speak, or if you wish to speak, then you should at all times address the Brethren with "Brother Toastmaster", followed by "Brethren all," before you give a Toast or make a statement.

Always stand when addressing the Toastmaster or Brethren. It is contrary to etiquette to address a "Bro. Tom". After the prefix "Brother" the surname should always be used.

If your candidate is accepted it is YOUR DUTY to assist in coaching him for the various degrees.

If unable to attend a meeting send an apology.

True eloquence consists in saying all that is necessary to say and no more. Talk to the point and stop when you have reached it.

Every toast cannot be the most important of the evening. On installation nights the Master's Toast may be considered the most important: on ordinary nights that of the initiate and, when there is no initiate, the Toast to the Guests. At Ladies Festivals (Ladies Nights) the Toast of "The Ladies" is the Toast of the evening.

Proverb of the Month

Riches are like muck, which stink in a heap, but spread abroad make the earth fruitful.

Lodge Discussion Topic

Should our Lodge funds sit in a bank account or should we lend or give them to less fortunate Lodges to support Masonry?

By Way of Contrast

Some men wouldn't get to lodge if you furnished them with a motor car. Others would walk miles to get there.

Some would like you to pay their dues. Others would go down in their pockets to pay yours, if necessary.

Some men gain their experience in fraternalism at the bedside of the sick. Others only gain it on the sick bed.

Some men remember the orphan child. Others forget them and leave them by the wayside.

Some men can install the officers or be installed into any office, and fill it with credit. Others cannot work they way into their lodge.

Some men sit on the sidelines and let everybody know that the Brother giving a charge has just made an error. The same fellow puts on a robe and makes ten mistakes where the other Brother makes only one.

Some smile, some don't; some build, some tear down.

Which do you prefer?

Which are you?

Texas Grand Lodge Bulletin

Quotation of the Month

It's better to fail in doing something than to succeed in doing nothing.

Anonymous

Promoters of the Art

King James I

"In every age, Monarchs themselves have been promoters of the art; have not thought it derogatory from their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the gavel, have patronized our mysteries and joined our assemblies."

King James I, also James VI of Scotland, was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and was proclaimed King of England when his mother was forced to abdicate in 1603. Although she was a Catholic, James remained throughout his life, a staunch Protestant. Under his patronage, a group of scholars prepared the authorized version of the Holy Bible which is also known as "The King James Version" in his honour.

He was initiated into Freemasonry in the Lodge of Scoon and Perth No. 3 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in 1601, and subsequently became a Fellow of the Craft, but could progress no further as the Master Mason Degree had not yet been established. His reign ended in 1625."

Ken Stocks

Creating a Masonic Thematic Stamp Collection
The Tasmanian Mason
Vol.1, No. 8 March 1989

The Garden Path

Is this a route down which you were led when pressed to take office? It would appear that many have seen this joyous path turn out to be a rubble strewn war-zone with far more responsibility than was ever expected.

Why not write to the editor with your tale of woe. This could perhaps aid communication in the future.

25th Anniversary Masonic Spring Workshop April 20 - 22, 1990

Accommodation at the Banff School of Fine Arts will be on a first come first served basis. Should the number attending exceed space, alternative accommodation will be arranged with a daily shuttle bus service to the School. It is planned that all meals will be at the School whatever accommodation is used. Make sure you have the dates listed NOW so you can complete the registration card early.

The Grand Master, M.W. Bro Mottershead discontinued the Regional Meetings for the year 1989-1990 for the sole purpose of allowing Alberta Masons to commit themselves to attending the April workshop.

The G.M. stated at the Board of General Purposes that "the workshop is most worthy of every Mason's attendance and we should be proud of a Masonic gathering that is the envy of many jurisdictions".

Did You Know?

Semi-Annual returns must be sent to Grand Lodge on the 30th of June and 31st of December of each year. There used to be 15 days "grace" for these to be received but this was recently extended to 30 days.

Now that 30 days are allowed, more Lodges are late than ever before. There is a fairly heavy penalty of \$5.00 per each day beyond the "grace" period and yet Lodges still delay. Ten Lodges sent in their returns one to three days after the "grace" period but were "saved" by the post mark being on the deadline date. Ten additional Lodges had \$5.00 per day penalties assessed for periods of six to twenty-nine days past the end of the "grace" period.

The semi-annual returns are a vital piece of information for the Jurisdiction and must be in on time. Most Lodges who are slow at sending in a return blame the Secretary's health. This is a poor excuse as it is the Worshipful Master who has the responsibility to have this return sent in. Should there be a problem for the Secretary, alternative action must be taken by the W.M. immediately and long before the overdue period.

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