



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 61, No. 08

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

October 1996

Proclamation

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Basile Costouros, has proclaimed the month of October as Masonic Higher Education Bursary month. Recognizing that no eligible candidates for higher education should be turned away from striving to improve themselves, the Grand Master urges all Brethren to make contributions to assist the youth of today, the leaders of tomorrow. Help spread the positive image of Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction, be charitable and donate what you can to this most worthy cause. Together we can make a dream a reality.

MWBro Basile Costouros

Message From The Chairman Of The MHEB Committee

This year may I again appeal for support for the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund. This fund is assuming greater importance as tuition fees rise and opportunities for significant summer employment for students decline.

During the past year, many dedicated Masons have developed a number of imaginative fund-raising projects, and our deepest thanks go out to all who contributed so generously of treasure and time.

This year we had 318 applications but, regrettably, funds for only 50 bursaries or about 16% of need. Brothers, the education of our youth is much too important to our country's well-being to be passed off with a 16% effort. Simply, we must do better!

The Symbolic Bursary Recipient, Miss Sandra Brooks,

Hugh Kent, Chairman, Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee

expressed thanks on behalf of all recipients at the Grand Lodge Communication. She said "I am especially pleased to speak on behalf of all recipients today as I feel a special bond with your fraternity, as my Great Grandfather, Grandfather and Father were all Past Masters of Masonic Lodges. Having been raised in a family with a Masonic background, I have grown to appreciate the principles of self improvement, honesty, integrity and the love of humanity. In pursuit of furthering my education, I will always remember the charity afforded me by the Masonic Order. From all of us, thank you very much."

Brothers, the challenge is before us; the need is clear. Let us all rededicate our efforts to make this very important Masonic work a success.



Pride Is Belonging

The Masonic Family float, shown here in the Calgary Stampede parade, has become a reality. Through the work of many volunteers, the float has travelled to several parades this summer. In addition to Calgary, the float has appeared at the Red Deer Parade, Edmonton Klondike Days Parade, Lacombe Centennial Anniversary Parade and Fort McMurray

Blueberry Festival Parade. The float, promoting the various members of the Masonic Family, has won several awards and was seen by millions of television viewers world-wide and hundreds of thousands of people watching on the parade routes. As a result of the float, there has already been some interest generated in membership.

Financial support has been received from over 50 of the Craft Lodges, Grand Lodge and many others. Thank you to those who have made a contribution. However, the need for fi-

ancial assistance continues, as the total goal has still to be reached. Further fund raising, with numbered pins depicting the Masonic Family float, are available through the Grand Lodge office.

The Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association is already making plans for the 1997 season. If you want the float for a parade in your community, please contact the Calgary MWD Association through the Grand Lodge.

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Published each month except July and August by the
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A. F. & A. M.
 330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2
 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671

Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA
 is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs.

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Editorial

Left Hand - Right Hand?

When the evangelist said "...let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth" (Matthew 6:3), just before expounding the superiority of the private prayer over the public one and assailing "hypocrites" (6:2), he referred to anonymous alms-giving, he was not propagating a break-down of communication. Yet, such is often the case when the left does not know what the right is doing, for which there is no excuse. This was well put by Robert Browning, when he said "Ignorance is not innocence but sin" (*The Inn Album*, v).

All this is brought to mind, when we compare three recent articles dealing with Roman Catholicism and Freemasonry. A full reprint of one which appeared in the *Western Catholic Reporter* (the *Edmonton Journal* had also commented on this), under the heading "St. Albert Schools Reject Masons' Gift", one article entitled "Pope honours Freemasons" and the one under the heading "Spain's Grand Master died", appear elsewhere in this issue. What a difference! True, we (mankind) still have a long way to go to resolve existing misunderstandings which, incidentally, are not all that church's fault because, in times long past, there had indeed been attacks on Rome by Masons, particularly French and Italian zealots whose pronouncements still cast a shadow over Freemasonry as we know it. The papal bulls and edicts against Freemasonry, aimed at a few, therefore affected the many. Things looked up during the papacy of His Holiness, Pope John XXIII, who had friendly discussions with leading Freemasons, but, alas, he died too young. Nevertheless, even though his successors have been more reluctant to make a lasting peace with us, many of the old restrictions on Catholics who are Masons have been lifted, albeit quietly and, therefore, not reaching the Church's rank and file. So, old erroneous perceptions persist. Fortunately, Masonic Brethren of the Catholic faith, known to the writer, see no conflict and continue to be good church members and good Lodge members.

In view of all of this, let us not forget that certain Protestant denominations are not exempt from having to be classified as detractors, if not worse. Therefore, we have our work cut out for us, that of COMMUNICATING, in the sense of our Grand Master's theme "Public Awareness" — and that means every one of us, not just official Grand Lodge spokesmen, but every Master and Fellow of the Craft, in friendly, private conversation with non-Masons, to dispel such notions as evidenced by

Pope Honours Freemason

In Lodge at work at "L'Amitie sans Fin" in Terneuzen, Netherlands, the WM, J.J. de Bruin, drew attention to the fact that Bro C.L. van Hecke had recently been awarded the papal award "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (For Church and Pontificate), for the outstanding ways in which he conducted various administrative tasks during his 35 year service with the parish of St. John the Baptist, St. Jansteen. Bro Van Hecke had for a long time been the secretary of the parish which he also led through difficult times. De Bruin pointed out that it is not often that a Freemason receives such a recognition. He also mentioned that Bro Van Hecke's membership in a Masonic Lodge is well known to the Catholic Church. He felt it was welcome news that such membership is no longer detrimental to receiving a papal award.

Translated from *Algemeen Maconiek Tijdschrift*
 February '96

Spain's Grand Master Died

On February 1, 1996, Bro Luis Salat Gusilis, Grand Master of the Gran Logia de España, aged 81, passed to the Grand Lodge above. His life had been dedicated to the return of Spain into the circle of regular Grand Lodges of the world.

It was during a difficult political era when Bro Gusilis was initiated into Lodge Themis No. 13 in Barcelona, November 15, 1935. Not long thereafter, General Franco conquered his home town and, following internment in the concentration camp of Argels sur Mer in France, 35 hard years of political exile in Colombia and Venezuela ensued. He served as Worshipful Master, Grand Director of Ceremonies and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Colombia and took part in many international and Latin American Masonic communications.

In 1974 Bro Gusilis returned to Barcelona, determined to establish regular Freemasonry in his native country. After a brief interval, when Spanish Freemasonry existed as a Provincial Grand Lodge under the Grande Loge Nationale Française, his life's aims and dreams came to fruition in 1982. It was then that he became the founder and Grand Master of the first regular Grand Lodge of Spain, an office he held until the day of his death.

During his term as "Gran Maestro de la Gran Logia de España" he succeeded in winning approximately 2,000 Brethren in about 100 Lodges all over Spain for our ideals. After the UGL of England and the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland had extended recognition, about 160 other regular Grand Lodges followed suit. One can measure the significance of his Masonic performance by the permission given by ecclesiastical circles to celebrate a catholic funeral mass in the Basilica Santa Maria del Mar in Barcelona, with 600 mourners attending. The words of the Abbot Jusep Dalmau, on that occasion, making mention for the first time of a reconciliation between the Catholic Church and Spanish Freemasonry, elevated his sermon into a historic dimension.

(Translated from *Humanitat*, May/June 1996)

one of the three articles, to which this editorial is drawing your attention. Let them see that we are not in competition with, or in opposition to Christianity or any other monotheistic faith, but can be counted on as staunch supporters, while recognizing every human being as "a brother of the dust."

“St. Albert Schools Reject Masons’ Gift”

by Patrick Meagher, WCR Staff Writer

A Catholic school division has decided not to take money from the Freemasons, an organization Catholics are forbidden to join.

The St. Albert Masonic Lodge offered \$500 bursaries to some graduating students of the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Division. But the Masons’ offer was turned down in a 4-3 vote by the school division’s board of trustees.

“The Masons who approached us have done a lot of good in our community,” said board chairman Dave Caron. “Christianity is about building bridges.”

He added that board members were concerned about Freemasonry’s inconsistency with the Catholic faith. However, the past master of the local lodge says their intentions were honorable.

“We just wanted to help some kids,” Peter Rodger said. “We don’t want to stir up wounds.”

He lamented the “unfortunate prejudices” that linger because of the Masons’ past history of anti-Catholicism.

Catholicism and Freemasonry have always been at odds. Here’s a quick history.

The Catholic Church condemned Freemasonry as early as 1738 for its demand for oaths and what it saw as a possible threat to both church and state.

Today, Catholics and some Protestant churches forbid their members from joining the fraternal organization. In fact, Catholics who do join face possible excommunication.

In 1985, the U.S. National conference of Catholic Bishops called Freemasonry “irreconcilable”, not only with Catholicism, but with all Christianity.

The report stated that the principles and basic rituals of Masonry “embody a naturalistic religion, active participation in which is incompatible with Christian faith and practice. Those who knowingly embrace such principles are committing serious sin.”

Said Earl Milne, a former Ontario grand elect Mason: “If I wasn’t a Christian, I would probably still be a Mason.”

According to the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, published in 1967: “Masonic law is clear that the mention of Jesus Christ within the Lodge or the use of his name in prayer is forbidden as offensive to non-Christian brethren.”

Rodney Milne, a former 32nd level Mason, who left the Masons 10 years ago, agreed: “The name of Jesus Christ is not permitted in the Lodge.”

Masons share secret handshakes and code phrases. Numerous books and pamphlets published by former Masons and others argue that, because of the secretive nature of the organization, many rank and file Masons are unaware of its non-Christian principles.

Freemasonry dates from the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. Although membership is declining, the Masons had almost six million members in 1966, with four million in the United States.

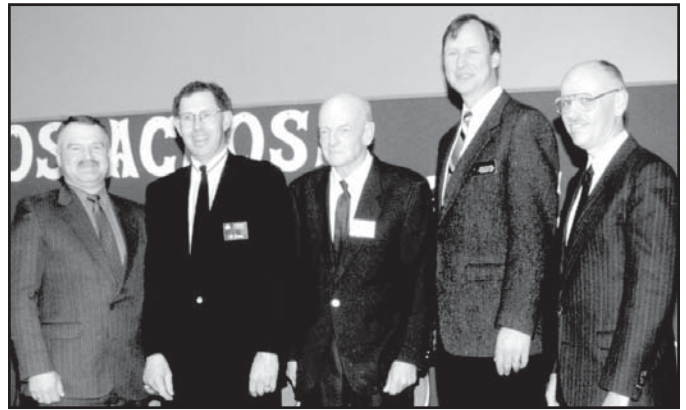
The organization raises money for charities and provides community services. It is also affiliated with the international Shriners, known for its support of children’s hospitals.

(From: *Western Catholic Reporter*, April 22, 1996)

Fiat Lux Lodge Of Research No. 1980

Meeting scheduled for October 5, 1996, 1:00 pm, at Freemasons’ Hall Calgary. Zetland Lodge is to be the host Lodge.

7th Annual “Hands Across The Border” Speaking Competition



Left to right: Bros Andy Kish (AB), Al Jamieson (AB), Gerald Smith (SK), Bob Wilson (SK), Doug Bracken (SK).

On Saturday, April 20, 1996, Alberta and Saskatchewan Masons from Districts along the interprovincial border met at Kindersley to learn from their respective finalists in this annual Masonic speaking contest. Each speaker was given eight minutes to present his theme: Andy Kish of Wainwright, AB — “Rhapsody and Rhetoric”; Al Jamieson of Irma, AB — “Morality of Right and Wrong”; Gerald Smith of Plenty, SK — “Symbolism in North American Natives’ Medicine Lodges”; Bob Wilson of Meadow Lake, SK — “We’re all capable of Honour” and Doug Bracken of Lloydminster, SK — “The Symbolic ‘Working Tools’ of Freemasonry.”

On behalf of the “Hands Across the Border” Committee, MWBros Jack Calvert, SK and Stan Harbin, AB, presented commemorative plaques to each contestant and announced the 1996 winner: Bro Bob Wilson of Northern Lights Lodge in Meadow Lake, SK. Ever gracious in his acceptance, Bro Wilson once again revealed his skill as he commended the other speakers and alluded, without notes, to parts of their addresses.

At the banquet following, the Rev. Ron Sutton, minister of St. Andrew’s United Church in Regina (and member of St. Andrew’s Lodge No. 174, GRS), who is known as a skillful orator, moved the audience throughout his address, eliciting laughter, empathy, sympathy, faith, hope and optimism. Sunday morning, following a buffet breakfast, many of the Masons and their wives met at St. Paul’s United Church to participate in the Worship Service.

The 8th Annual “Hands Across the Border” competition will be held in April, 1997, at Forestburg, AB. Watch for future announcements.

(From a news release by Dan Gerle, PGDofC, SK)

From The Notices

(From the June 1996 summons of Lethbridge Lodge No. 39, GRA:)

“I was fortunate enough to have attended the meeting of York Lodge No. 119...and to hear a talk by MWBro Tony Aspeslet about Masonic Lodges in England... Two things he said stood out in my mind. There is a very high degree of participation by members of the Lodges and there is a very high monetary cost, compared to our demands. It would be great if our meetings were as well attended as theirs are, especially when you consider that they meet three or four

times per month. The cost of dues per year would be about \$250.00 to over \$300.00, which excludes dinners at a cost of \$20.00 to \$30.00 per head...

"Tony asked a question at the end of his talk: 'Why the difference?... Does an English Lodge have more members, more active members, than our Lodges because:

- It is an historically older nation, with more traditions of which Masonry is a part?
- It has a denser population base from which to form so many Lodges?
- It has changed with the times to combine meetings with dinners for couples, regularly?
- It has a strong tradition of "Festive" festive boards which are fun and entertaining?
- It has high cost of membership to help keep it an exclusive club?
- It does charity work in their communities?"

"Many more questions could be asked, based on Tony's speech. His sharing of his experiences is an opportunity for us all to think about what he says, sift through the information and, perhaps, come up with ways to improve on our own organization here in Canada, to make it as strong as it appears to be in England, thus lessening the difference."

Bro Randy Briscoe

Grand Master's Itinerary

October

- 1 Corinthian Lodge, Okotoks
- 2 Britannia Lodge, Ponoka
- 3 Unity Lodge, Edmonton
- 4 A&ASR LOP, Edmonton
- 6-23 Tour of Greece, Egypt, Israel & Turkey
- 25 King George Lodge, Calgary
- 26 Northern Lights District Meeting, Sangudo
- 28 Jasper Lodge, Edmonton
- 31 A&ASR Consistory, Edmonton

November

- 2 Drumheller and Symbol Lodges, Laying of Cornerstone, Especial Communication
- 4 Evergreen Lodge, Edmonton
- 5 Norwood Lodge, Edmonton, including 5 Lodges of Edmonton Area
- 6 Balmoral Lodge, St. Albert
- 7 Westlock Lodge
- 8 Temple Lodge, Edmonton
- 9 Yellowhead District Meeting, Merid-

- ian Lodge Hall, Stony Plain
- 12 Kitchener Lodge, Rimbey
- 13 Avon Glen Lodge, Edmonton
- 14 Al Azhar Shrine, Calgary
- 15 Phoenix District Meeting, King George Lodge, Calgary
- 18 Empire Lodge, Edmonton
- 19 Victoria Lodge, Fort Saskatchewan
- 20 Redwood Lodge, Edmonton
- 21 Board of General Purposes, Red Deer
- 25 Jasper Lodge, Edmonton
- 27 Onoway Lodge

District Meetings

October

- 18 Dinosaur District, Strathmore Masonic Hall
- 19 Athabasca District, Edmonton Freemasons' Hall
- 19 Calgary-Highwood District, King George Hall, Calgary
- 19 Chinookarch District, Carmangay School

The Vacant Chair

A commemorative ceremony, in honour of Veterans of all Wars, will be held by Glenbow Lodge No. 184 on Sunday, November 10, 1996, at 7:30 pm, at Freemasons' Hall, 330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary. This memorial ceremony is open to all Masons, their families and friends. Dispensation to wear Masonic regalia is applied for and veterans are encouraged to wear their medals. Anyone requiring further information, please call Bro Norman Ingram, JW, at 403-280-9342.

The Border Line

The border line between virtue and vice is sometimes very narrow and vague. This is because so many human vices are simply highly desirable virtues which have got out of control. For example, flattery is praise which has become insincere; greed is thrift which has run wild; sentimentalism is love gone soft; and superstition is faith overextended.

It is because our virtues are so prone to these exaggerations and distortions, that Masons are given the compasses as a major symbol and working tool and are told that their chief use is to circumscribe our passions and to keep our desires within reasonable bounds.

In actual practice the Freemason will therefore do as Joseph

Fort Newton suggested when he said, "He will rest one point in the innermost centre of his being, and with the other draw a circle beyond which he will not go."

The Virginia Masonic Herald

- 26 Central District, Red Deer
- 26 Three Rivers District, Claresholm Community Centre
- 26 Northern Lights District, Sangudo Legion Hall
- 26 Beaverhills District, Highlands Masonic Hall, Edmonton
- 29 Alpha District, Bowmont Hall, Calgary

November

- 1 Battle River District, Irma Legion Hall
- 9 Palliser District, Medicine Hat Masonic Hall
- 9 Yellowhead District, Meridian Lodge Hall, Stony Plain
- 15 Phoenix District, King George Hall, Calgary
- 16 Lakeland District, Astra Lodge, Cold Lake

Bursary Presentation

Alpha, Calgary-Highwood and Phoenix Districts held a Bursary Presentation Evening, August 9, 1996 at King George Masonic Hall, RWBro Allan Sinclair acting as Chairman. There were 61 in attendance. Grand Lodge Officers in attendance were, RWBro G. Webber, VWBro J. Dickie, RWBro D. Strachan, and RWBro E. Balleine. RWBro D. McKay spoke briefly on the Bursary Fund and the Masonic Fraternity's commitment to assist those in need to obtain higher education, so necessary today. The awards were presented by the respective District Deputy Grand Masters. VWBro C. McCullagh briefly explained the various titles that had been referred to throughout the evening.



After the presentation, all those in attendance were invited to partake of the festive board, which had been very nicely prepared by the members of Job's Daughters, Bethel No. 12.